

## Conference Abstracts & Biographies

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### 4B – Marine Social Sciences Network WORKSHOP

**Emma McKinley, Marine Social Sciences Network**

**Abstract:**

Following the launch of the Marine Social Sciences Network at the GMC Society and the Sea 2018 conference, this session provides an opportunity for those interested in contributing to the Network to feed into these discussions. The Marine Social Sciences Network will facilitate interdisciplinary knowledge exchange between diverse stakeholders and establish an active community of researchers, policy makers and practitioners from across the marine and coastal sector with a view to increasing awareness and understanding of the integral role that social sciences can have in management and decision making for our global seas and coastline. The Network will be a multidisciplinary community, facilitating collaboration and dialogue between both marine social and natural science, the arts and humanities. This session will be an opportunity to learn more about the Network, to express an interest in being part of the community and feed into discussions about how the Network can support marine and coastal efforts in the coming years. The session will have an open format, seeking to understand where we currently are with marine social sciences in the UK, calling for examples of where marine social sciences has been successfully used to drive positive change in public behaviour and/ or marine and coastal management. At this early stage of its development, this is a very real opportunity to have an influence on the future direction of the Network, identifying prospective collaboration and cooperation opportunities across the marine sciences community. Through this session, we will examine a series of themes, expected to include: - How can we ensure the Marine Social Sciences Network is a mechanism through which more effective marine and coastal policy, governance and management is developed? - What are the challenges and opportunities of better integration between the natural and social sciences in a marine and coastal context? - What should an international Marine Social Sciences Network look like? o What activities could we participate in? o Who should be involved? o Where are the gaps/ opportunities? Finally, the session will be an opportunity to discuss the ongoing establishment of the newly launched Network for Marine Social Sciences, identifying practical steps for improving the inclusion of this growing field of research within policy and management.

**Biography:**

Dr Emma McKinley is a Sêr Cymru Research Fellow at Cardiff University. Emma has an initial grounding in natural sciences (BSc Marine Biology, University of Stirling, MSc Marine Environmental Protection, University of Wales, Bangor) followed by a PhD examining the role of marine citizenship in contemporary UK marine and coastal management and policy development (University of Bournemouth). Emma is an experienced mixed-methods researcher and her research interests include marine spatial planning as a marine and coastal management tool, ecosystem management and valuation of ecosystem services, the Blue Growth agenda, coastal community resilience and sustainability.

She is the Vice Chair of the Royal Geographic Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) Coastal and Marine Research Group, and sits on the committee of the Society of Conservation Biology's Conservation Marketing and Engagement group. Emma is the Chair of the new Marine Social Science Network which will form the focus of her keynote delivery and workshop at the conference