



Marine
Biological
Association

annual report

2023-2024



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DATA & INFORMATION


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overview

INSPIRING, ENGAGING & VISIONARY

 **65**
PAPERS
PUBLISHED

 **124,183**
CPR NAUTICAL MILES

59 RESEARCH
EVENTS
ATTENDED
& HOSTED

164 
FIELDTRIPS

 **1,465**
MENTIONS BY
INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

 **46**
MEMBERSHIP
COUNTRIES

 **8**
AWARDS

 **52** NEWS UPDATES
COVERING MBA
ACTIVITIES

14.7%
SOCIAL MEDIA
GROWTH ACROSS
ALL PLATFORMS

 **£31.7k**
IN DONATIONS

GRANT
SUCCESS RATE
BY NUMBER **51%**

TOTAL INCOME
£5,274,579



welcome



Welcome to our Annual Report 2023 – 2024. It is always a pleasure to see the highlights from the year past.

Here at the MBA, we are governed by our Members through a group of leading scientists and public figures – our Board of Trustees. It was my great pleasure to see two of our Trustees – Professor Mark Bailey OBE being recognised for his services to microbial ecology and environmental leadership in The King’s first Birthday Honours; and Professor Stuart Rogers OBE recognised for his services to marine fisheries and environmental science.

In 2023, we saw the opening of the Marine Microbiome Centre of Excellence. It was inspiring to see this new, state of the art laboratory facility which will focus on the vast and varied microscopic world in our ocean, helping us to understand its health and the impacts of climate change using world-class technology.

From microscopic organisms to marine mammals, our research has clearly shown demonstrable impact on our ocean. Research scientists from the MBA and University of Southampton warned that coordinated action is needed to protect our ocean giants from lethal ship strikes. Research on global whale shark hotspots overlapping with busy shipping routes led to recommendations being formally accepted by Member States at COP14. This resulted in a Resolution urging Parties to adopt mitigation measures to reduce the risk of vessel strikes in shark aggregation areas. Sadly, since April 2023, the global average temperature of water on the surface of the sea has been unusually high and rising. These unusual periods of warmer water lasting weeks, months or even years have been seen across the Northern

and Southern hemispheres. Our research scientists have urged decision makers to set out a strategy to reduce the risk before, during and after the event of a “Marine Heatwave”.

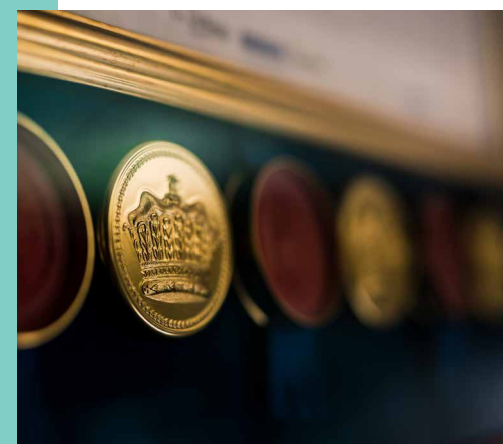
Now more than ever, we must continue to work towards a better understanding of our marine environment and reach out to our decision-makers to help secure our future. It is encouraging to see this happening consistently at the MBA and throughout our marine biological community. Thank you to all at the MBA for all their diligent and passionate work detailed in this report and those behind the scenes who help facilitate all that we do. It is incredibly encouraging to see such positive progress.



Dr Gill Rider CB,
President



about us



Since 1884, the Marine Biological Association has conducted globally significant research into our ocean and the life it supports. As one of the world’s longest running Learned Societies, we are dedicated to promoting our research to drive change.

Our Royal Charter, granted in 2013, is evidence of our commitment to maintaining professional standards and establishing our status as the representative body for the discipline of marine biology.

OUR VALUES

We value **integrity** and provide expert academic knowledge and evidence that is credible, honest and true.

From access to our world-leading facilities to sharing our expertise, we want to **inspire** everyone by giving them the power to learn about marine biology.

We are **visionary** and look to the future, using our discoveries to support and invest in the global marine biological community.

OUR MISSION

Focused on marine biology, our mission is to understand and disseminate the causes and consequences of environmental change in the ocean through research and discovery.

OUR VISION

To be **the** voice of marine biology.

membership

✉ membership@mba.ac.uk

Our international Membership supports one of the world's longest-running societies dedicated to promoting research into the ocean. From individuals on their journey from Young Marine Biologists to Students through to Fellows, our Members have access to a range of benefits every step of the way.

46 Membership countries

1,783 Members; 24% increase since April 2023

10 MBA Student travel bursaries awarded



MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Pablo Alfonso Fuenzalida Miralles was awarded an MBA Student Bursary to attend and present his research at the 11th Indo-Pacific Fish Conference and Annual Conference of the Australian Society for Fish Biology in Auckland, New Zealand.

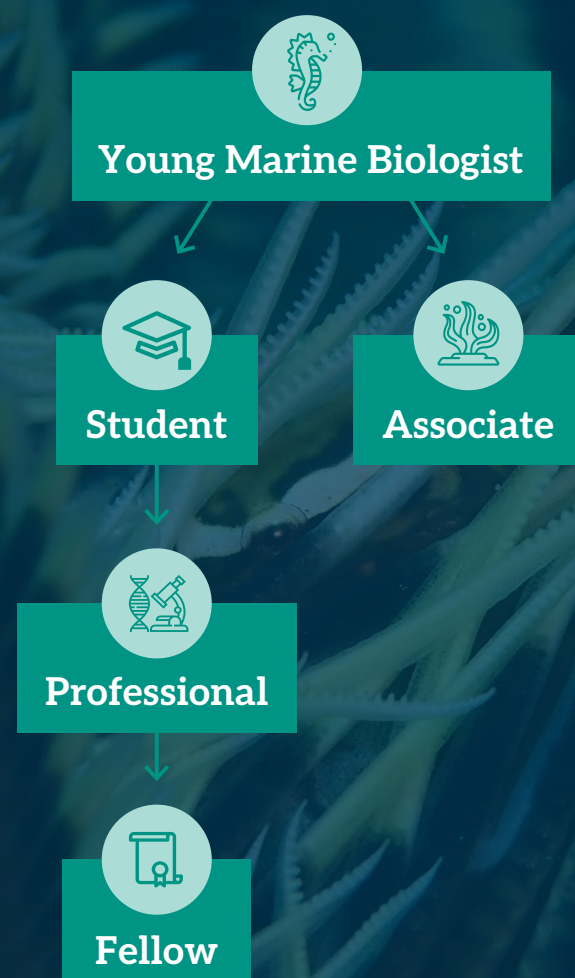
I mingled with leading experts across multiple ecological disciplines, sparked new friendships with students and heard from research labs across the Indo-Pacific. I am immensely grateful to the MBA for this opportunity, which represents a significant step in my academic and professional journey.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

and it gave me the boost I needed to enter the next steps of my career in marine biology with confidence."

MBA Trustees Professor Mark Bailey and Professor Stuart Rogers were awarded OBEs in The King's first Birthday Honours, for "services to microbial ecology and environmental leadership" and "marine fisheries and environmental science" and MBA Fellow Dr Shubha Sathyendranath MBE FMBA for "services to oceanography".

MEMBERSHIP JOURNEY



NEW MBA FELLOWS

Awarded in recognition of distinguished and long-term contributions to marine biology at the highest level, we were pleased to welcome two new MBA Fellows, Professor Mark Tupper and Dr Ian Lancaster.



Professor Mark Tupper



Dr Ian Lancaster

The MBA Prize is awarded annually to recognise outstanding contributions to the field of Marine Biology. University of Plymouth student Constance Little, demonstrated remarkable dedication and excellence in her research. **"I was apprehensive starting my Masters**



Constance Little



Professor Mark Bailey OBE



Professor Stuart Rogers OBE



Dr Shubha Sathyendranath MBE

CREATING CONNECTIONS

MyMBA community platform was launched in 2023, offering Members a place to connect and network, join Special Interest Groups and take part in competitions such as our monthly photo competition.



learn with us

✉ events@mba.ac.uk

From ocean enthusiasts to professional marine biologists, we engage, inspire and increase skills with our wide range of courses and events.

PROFESSIONAL COURSES

With our wealth of expertise and world-class facilities, we delivered an extensive range of professional courses. From plankton identification to scientific illustration, with several courses approved by the Royal Society of Biology.

An excellent course covering lab-based ID skills and in the field survey methods. Would recommend to anyone wanting to further develop their knowledge of local species / boat skills.

Phoebe Chadwick, RS Aqua, Marine Fish ID Skills

TECHNICAL TRAINING

Researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences visited us for an intensive two-week training course on the Continuous Plankton Recorder (CPR) Survey. They were trained in all aspects of setting up and running a CPR Survey, helping them prepare for their first CPR deployment from a research vessel in 2024.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

We've invested over £500K supporting 38 PhD students through the last round of Doctoral Training Partnerships and Centres for Doctoral Training, with students registered at 11 UK and European universities. We've taught over 120 MRes students, with MBA Fellows supporting 25 students with their research projects as part of the Advanced Marine Biology joint MRes programme with the University of Plymouth.

44

Postgraduate
conference attendees

530

Young Marine Biologist
Summit attendees

16

Virtual
events

11

Professional
courses






YOUNG MARINE BIOLOGIST SUMMIT

DRIVING CHANGE

Saturday 4 November 2023



DR HELEN SCALES

#YMBSUMMIT23



DRIVING INNOVATION

We've supported 19 businesses from a wide range of sectors including education, filmmakers and manufacturers as part of our involvement with the Marine Business Technology Centre project. Involving almost every department of the MBA, we helped develop and test new marine technologies, supporting long-term innovation and growth in the marine sector.

YOUNG MARINE BIOLOGIST SUMMIT

In partnership with Save our Seas Foundation we welcomed over 500 Young Marine Biologists to our Summit this year, with the theme "Driving Change". This annual event offers young people an opportunity to meet professional marine scientists and science communicators for inspiration and ideas and share their own research and marine science activities.

ANNUAL SCIENCE TALK

Taking place every autumn, the MBA Annual Science Talk is given by a prestigious marine biologist making significant contributions in their field. In 2023 we invited biological oceanographer Professor Geraint Tarling from the British Antarctic Survey, who presented a fascinating talk on the "Biology and management of Antarctic krill".

During his career, Geraint has tackled a number of issues considering how influences on marine organisms at small scales have major impacts on large-scale processes. His most recent focus has been on the role of polar marine organisms in the operation of the Earth system, and why species such as Antarctic krill play such a critical role.

Incredibly, there are 130,000 Antarctic krill for every human on Earth, forming swarms bigger than the area of central London. Krill exist in rapidly changing and fragile environments, such as the Southern Ocean. Geraint persuaded the audience during his talk that krill are one of the most fascinating animals on the planet and have a significant impact on global climate.

the marine biologist

✉ editor@mba.ac.uk

Over its 10-year history, The Marine Biologist has published 376 original feature articles in 28 editions and been viewed over 71,000 times online. In 2023, it was shortlisted for Best Magazine Launch or Relaunch in the prestigious Memcom Excellence Awards.

Exclusively produced for our Members, The Marine Biologist magazine covers the latest news in marine biology research, policy, and education.



HIGHLIGHTS

Cocaine, crustaceans and cadavers



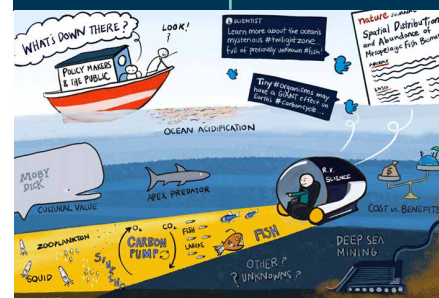
Craig Pinder unravels the mysteries of objects lost at sea with the help of goose barnacles and professional marine biologists.

First to the feast

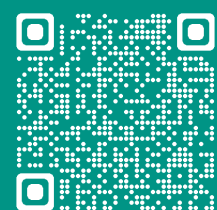


A shoal of sardines comes under attack from all sides as some of the ocean's most spectacular predators converge to take their fill.
Alicia Burns, Mexico.

Democratizing the deep sea



Can scientists help bring deep sea governance out of the shadows?
Amanda Schadeberg



DIVE DEEPER

Hear from world-leading experts on The Marine Biologist Podcast

The Marine Biologist



podcast



Available
on Spotify

JMBA

journal of the marine biological association

The Journal of the Marine Biological Association UK (JMBA) is an international journal, publishing original research and reviews on all aspects of marine biology, to support the aims of the MBA.

103
Articles

Authors from
53
countries

Articles
downloaded
184,861
times

Readers from
180
countries

JMBA COVERS

- Marine ecology, behaviour and fisheries
- Biodiversity and population studies of marine ecosystems
- Physiology, biochemistry, genetics and molecular biology of marine organisms
- Taxonomic syntheses
- Morphology, life history and developmental biology of marine organisms
- Chemical and physical oceanography
- Marine environmental health



OUR TOP PAPERS

Multiple datasets confirm range extension of the sicklefin devil ray *Mobula tarapacana* in the western North Atlantic Ocean off the eastern USA.



Image credit:
Jessica Pate



Photographic evidence from a recreational angler of the northernmost record of the bull shark *Carcharhinus leucas* (Elasmobranchii: Carcharhinidae) in the western Pacific Ocean



Westward range expansion of the eastern rock lobster *Sagmariasus verreauxi* in Australia



Image credit:
South Australian
Research and
Development
Institute



research highlights

✉ micnli@mba.ac.uk

6

Awards

60

Peer-reviewed papers

59

Conferences, workshops and invited talks

“

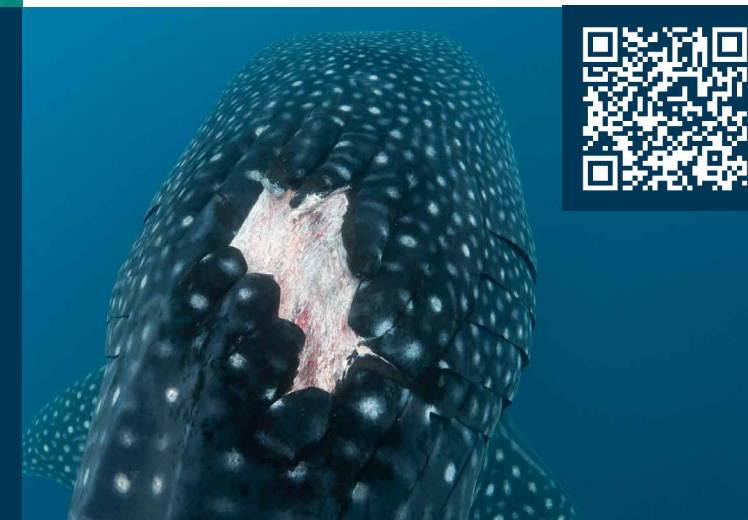
“From the seashore to the seafloor, from the microbiome to the megafauna; and from Plymouth Sound to the Pacific, researchers at the Marine Biological Association are on a voyage to discover more about our ocean and all aspects of marine life.”

Professor Willie Wilson
FMBA, Chief Executive

RESEARCH PAPERS

Four steps to curb ‘ocean roadkill’ | *Nature*

There is increasing evidence that ship strikes are a major cause of mortality for whales, sharks and other ocean giants. With the global fleet growing, some simple actions can turn things around.



59
INTERNATIONAL
EVENTS

WORLDWIDE REPRESENTATION
Our scientists have been taking their research to every corner of our blue planet at 59 international events.

EXPANDING OUR EXPERTISE

We welcomed 3 new MBA Research Fellows, each bringing with them new areas of science and discovery.



Dr Lilian Lieber's research focuses on fine-scale predator foraging distributions and movements in relation to biophysical dynamics that enhance prey density or availability.



Dr Bryce Stewart focuses on increasing understanding of marine species and ecosystems to help balance the provision of ecosystem services with conservation.



Dr Angela Stevenson specialises in the ecology of deep-water biodiversity, with a focus on echinoderms.

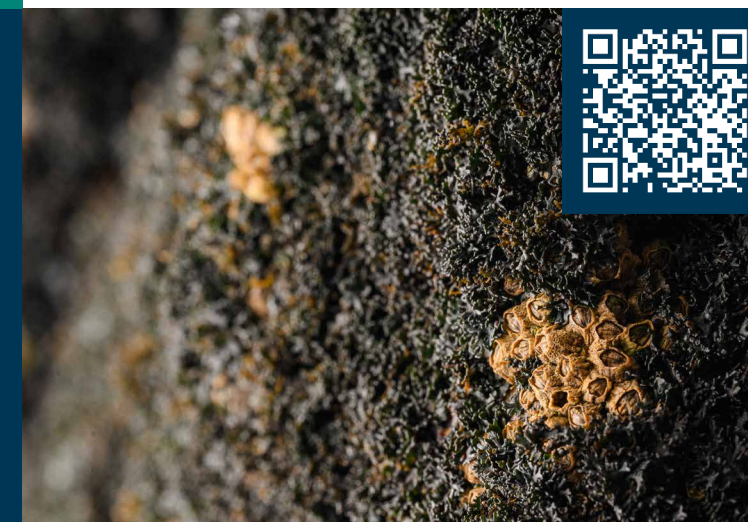
Marine heatwave duration and intensity interact to reduce physiological tipping points of kelp species with contrasting thermal affinities | *Annals of Botany*

Duration and intensity of marine heatwaves are important characteristics in shaping the impacts felt by foundation kelp species. Projected marine heatwaves are likely to have consequences for entire communities and ecosystems.



Metatranscriptomics reveals diversity of symbiotic interaction and mechanisms of carbon exchange in the marine cyanolichen *Lichina pygmaea* | *New Phytologist*

Lichens are symbiotic organisms composed of a fungal partner (mycobiont) with one or more photosynthetic partners (photobiont). Environmental adaptation in the photobiont may be fundamental to the overall functioning of the symbiosis.



research impact

We provide a clear, independent voice to UK, European and international decision-makers on behalf of the marine biological community. By engaging with key committees and organisations, and providing clear evidence-based data and information, we help support responsible and effective management of our shared ocean.

✉ wilwil@mba.ac.uk

POLICY DRIVER	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
 Food Security	Ensuring we can feed the nation	We have researched and written commissioned evidence reviews for National Resources Wales and Natural England on both hand harvesting and mechanical harvesting/aquaculture of seaweed. These aid decision making and policy focussed on food security.
 Climate Change	Understanding & mitigating the effects of human-induced climate change	Our research on marine heatwaves has been widely adopted by both the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the International Union for Conservation of Nature to guide international policy frameworks.
 Marine Conservation	Protecting our seas for future generations	We co-authored a report on the long-term effects of the South Arran Marine Protected Area and Lamlash Bay No Take Zone for the Marine Directorate (Scotland), which highlighted enhanced reproductive potential and abundance of commercial species such as scallops and lobsters.

 Marine Biodiversity	Monitoring and maintaining a biologically diverse ecosystem to ensure a productive ocean	Our experts actively contribute to the Healthy and Biologically Diverse Seas Evidence Group, which works to implement monitoring and observation programmes to support the UK Marine Strategy.
 Natural Capital	Recognising the value of nature and human well-being	We provide valuable plankton data to Defra's Natural Capital Ecosystem Assessment Programme, which was set up to provide insights on the pressures our ecosystems face. This programme will ensure investment is provided for environmental reforms that achieve maximum economic benefit.
 Technology Development	Exploiting and developing technology to monitor and observe the global ocean	We are co-founders of the UN Decade endorsed Programme, Ocean Biomolecular Observing Network (OBON), currently championing autonomous technology solutions for global eDNA sampling.
 UK Marine Strategy	Providing advice for political manifestos for ocean sustainability and supporting UK legislation with latest marine research for the benefit of the nation	We have played a key role in developing policy relevant indicators over the last decade. Working with the wider UK plankton community, we co-developed the online Plankton Lifeform Extraction Tool (hosted by DASSH) to deal with plankton datasets from different sources.
 Inter-governmental Policy & Strategy	Working with global partners for ocean sustainability	Our research on global whale shark hotspots overlapping with busy shipping routes led to recommendations being formally accepted by Member States at COP14. This resulted in a Resolution urging Parties to adopt mitigation measures to reduce risk of vessel strikes in shark aggregation areas.

marine microbiome

17

Peer-reviewed papers

12

Conferences, workshops and invited talks

Marine microbes are essential for life above and below the waves. They form and sustain important biogeochemical cycles, underpin food webs and provide nutrients for other organisms in the food web to grow and survive. Our diverse research programme explores the biology and ecology of different microbial groups including viruses, bacteria, phytoplankton and fungi.

RESEARCH THEMES

- Microbiology and Molecular Ecology
- Algal Signalling and Stress Physiology
- Algal Microbiome and Ecophysiology
- Algal Cell Biology
- Evolution of Early Branching metazoans

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Mesoscale oceanographic meanders influence protist community function and structure in the southern Indian Ocean
Environmental Microbiology



Gene Regulatory Network that Shaped the Evolution of Larval Apical Organ in Cnidaria
Molecular Biology and Evolution



Cryptic bacterial pathogens of diatoms peak during senescence of a winter diatom bloom
New Phytologist



HIGHLIGHTS

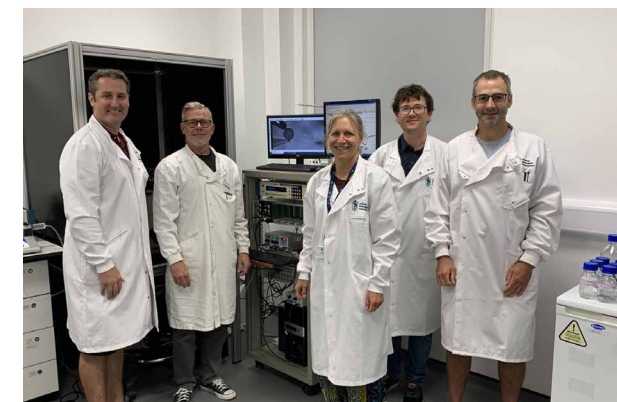
Sunflowers of the sea: Anemones are first known animals to track the sun

Snakelocks anemones (*Anemonia viridis*) are heliotropic – their tentacles point towards the sun, tracking its movements like plants do.



International partnerships

Scientists from 3 USA universities visited the MBA as part of a new collaborative project to study the cellular mechanisms controlling dynamic sinking behaviour in diatoms.



Celebrating success

Congratulations to Dr Cordelia Roberts who received the Molecular Microbial Ecology Group prize for best talk at the International Society for Microbial Ecology conference.



Combining research and photography

Our photograph of the marine lichen *Lichina pygmaea* made the front cover of the New Phytologist in March, along with our research paper on symbiotic carbon exchange.



coastal ecology

Coastal marine ecosystems are highly diverse, productive environments, providing natural resources to billions of people worldwide. Climate change and human activities impact coastal habitats, sometimes changing entire ecosystems. Our research supports management and conservation of these vital ecosystems.

24 Peer-reviewed papers

18 Conferences, workshops and invited talks



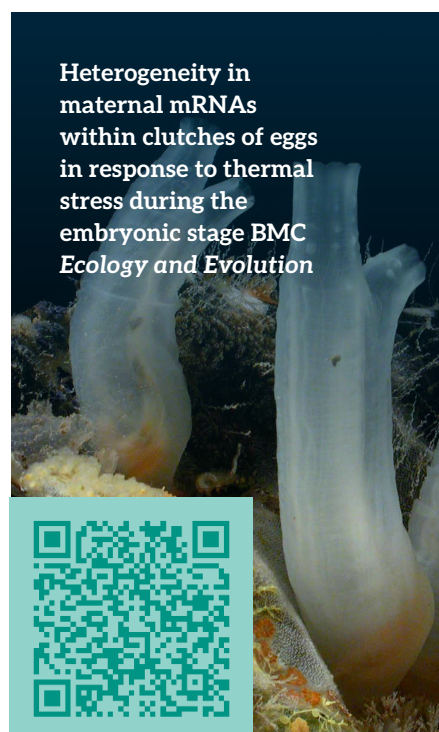
RESEARCH THEMES

- Benthic Ecosystems and Environmental Change
- Marine Biodiversity and Climate Change
- Biology and Invasions of Sessile Animals
- Benthic Ecology and Crinoid Biology

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Home sweet home: Comparison of epibiont assemblages associated with cultivated and wild sugar kelp *Saccharina latissima*, co-cultivated blue mussels *Mytilus edulis* and farm infrastructure
Journal of Applied Phycology



Heterogeneity in maternal mRNAs within clutches of eggs in response to thermal stress during the embryonic stage BMC
Ecology and Evolution



Multiscale Spatial Variability and Stability in the Structure and Diversity of Bacterial Communities Associated with the Kelp *Eisenia cokeri* in Peru
Microbial Ecology



BUILDING A LIBRARY OF LIFE

The Darwin Tree of Life project aims to sequence the genome of 70,000 plants, animals and fungi across the UK and Ireland. This will help support conservation efforts and provide new tools for medicine and biotechnology. We are leading on the marine species, successfully collecting 1000 species.



FUTURE-PROOFING UK KELP FORESTS

Scientists at the MBA and Newcastle University have embarked on a groundbreaking project to protect native kelp populations in the UK. 'Green Gravel' is a pioneering restoration tool involving rearing kelp in the lab before planting them out into the field.

MARINE HEATWAVES

2023 saw record-high ocean temperatures around the world. MBA researchers co-authored a Nature article, urging decision makers to devise strategies to reduce risks to wildlife and economies.



AWARDS

Congratulations to MBA PhD students, Maxine Canvin and Sophie Corrigan, for winning the Manton Prize for Best Student Presentation and runner up at the British Phycological Society conference.

ocean biology

From tracking ocean predators, to monitoring plankton, our Ocean Biology researchers explore how climate change and human activity impact marine life, supporting effective management of the ocean.

OUR TOP PAPERS

Direct measurement of cruising and burst swimming speeds of the shortfin mako shark *Isurus paucus* with estimates of field metabolic rate
Journal of Fish Biology



Ocean climate and hydrodynamics drive decadal shifts in Northeast Atlantic dinoflagellates
Global Change Biology



Context-dependent changes in maritime traffic activity during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic
Global Environmental Change



RESEARCH THEMES

- Movement ecology and conservation of ocean predators
- Biophysics of a changing ocean: from plankton to predators
- Balancing the needs of fisheries and marine conservation
- Continuous Plankton Recorder (CPR) Survey

29 Peer-reviewed papers

29 Conferences, workshops and invited talks

124,183
CPR nautical miles

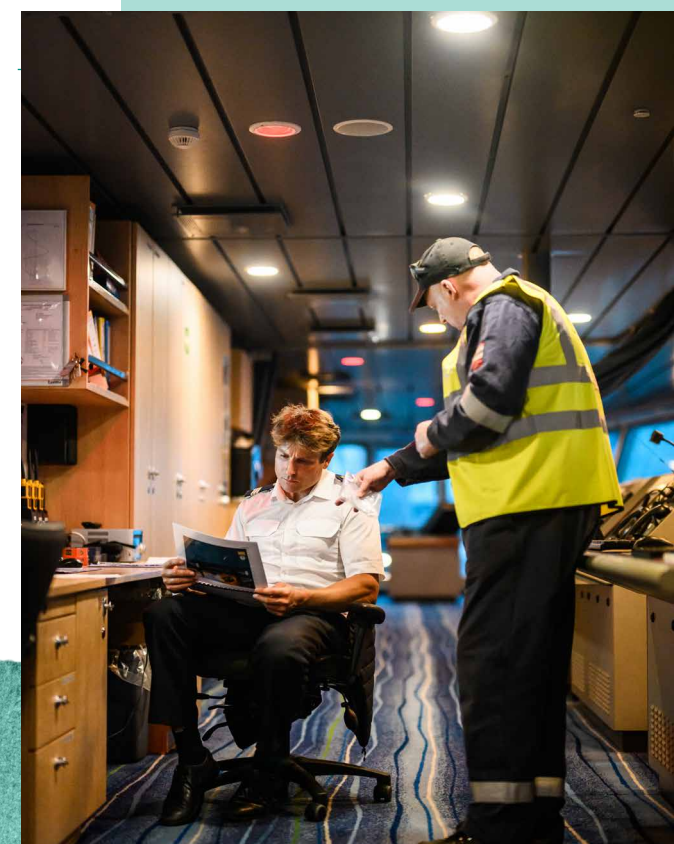
CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The Continuous Plankton Recorder Survey relies on the goodwill of the international shipping community. Last year, over 93% of all planned tows were successful, demonstrating the dedication and professionalism of our volunteers around the world.

Professor David Sims was presented with the Zoological Society of London's Marsh Award for Marine Conservation for his work identifying essential habitat for sharks and for his contributions to understanding climate change impacts on fish populations.



In making this award ZSL have helped highlight the threats facing sharks and the research that is still needed to protect populations



COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

Now in its 93rd year, the CPR Survey continues to play a critical role in providing the big picture on global ocean change. AtlantIS is a new 5-year National Capability collaborative project funded by NERC, aiming to address key knowledge gaps in our understanding of ocean variability, climate regulation and ocean services, and to assess how the ocean will evolve as a result of climate change and intensified human exploitation.

facilities

✉ info@mba.ac.uk

Situated within Plymouth Sound National Marine Park, the MBA's research laboratory at Citadel Hill boasts world-class facilities and access to a multitude of marine habitats.

RESEARCH FACILITIES

Research Vessel MBA Sepia

The MBA has operated research vessels since 1895, supporting our science at sea. Today our research vessel, RV MBA Sepia, supports our Research Fellows, conducts regular sampling as part of our long-term monitoring programmes, and is chartered by external groups including universities and media companies.

Research Aquarium

Our Research Aquarium supports the work of both external users and MBA researchers across multiple disciplines to enhance our understanding of ocean biology, coastal ecology and marine microbiology. Capable of housing anything from small invertebrates to sharks and rays, our facilities are regularly home to native cuttlefish, often reared on-site from eggs.

Laboratories

The Marine Microbiome Centre of Excellence and Ecology laboratory, our new state of the art laboratories, were officially opened this year. These world-class facilities and spacious workstations, along with our Mary Parke Bioimaging Centre, support our research into the vast diversity of life in our ocean. Thanks to a generous grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation, our Continuous Plankton Recorder plankton taxonomy laboratory is also preparing to move to a brand-new space in the main building.

national marine biological library

✉ nmbi@mba.ac.uk

Established almost 140 years ago, the National Marine Biological Library is one of the largest marine reference libraries in the world, housing over 16,000 books on marine natural history, climate change and ocean exploration for Members and visitors to explore.

The Library also facilitates access to thousands of online journal titles and other databases, as well as other important aspects for the modern researcher, such as Open Access publishing.



ACCESSIBLE ARCHIVES

For the first time, the MBA archive catalogue is available to view online, via The National Archives Discovery pages. Containing thousands of individual items, the archive highlights the study of marine science and the history of the MBA, including the scientific work and personal correspondences of a number of well-known marine scientists.

PRESERVING HISTORY

Dating from 1554, our collection of over 2,000 rare books features first editions and signed copies of historically significant texts, among them expedition reports of HMS Beagle and HMS Challenger. This year we commissioned external consultants to advise on the future of these historical collections, alongside the efforts of a dedicated team of trained volunteers working to preserve this important collection as part of our rare books conservation project.



data & information

✉ dassh.enquiries@mba.ac.uk

From participating in global knowledge exchanges to supporting national, international and global policy, the MBA has long been a pioneer in gathering and managing environmental data and information.

DATA MILESTONES

Over six million marine species and habitats have been processed by the DASSH team and are now freely accessible online. The first eDNA dataset has also been processed which included over 1 million records from a single survey. The data have been shared globally via the United Nations Ocean Decade endorsed OBIS infrastructure, and shared over 1,500 times in the last 6 months.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

The MBA is co-leading the data work stream for the European MARCO-BOLO project. Working alongside 28 international organisations, the MBA Data Team is improving the integration and adoption of standards and infrastructures underpinning the UN Decade for Ocean Science, to enable greater understanding and effective management of our ocean.

SUPPORTING DECISION-MAKING

The MarLIN website continues to expand to meet the needs of the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies and Government agencies. It hosts reviews of 424 Marine Habitat Classification for Britain and Ireland. In 2023 we updated the evidence on invasive non-native species. MarLIN hosts the Joint Nature Conservation Committee’s universal Assets Service Matrix to support the application of ecosystem services in marine management.

ACHIEVING ACCREDITATION

The UK Archive for Marine Species and Habitats Data (DASSH) hosted by the MBA, achieved CoreTrustSeal accreditation, solidifying our commitment to data integrity. This recognises and reinforces our dedication to maintaining high standards in managing, archiving, and providing access to marine biodiversity data.



10

Conferences
& Events

38

Datasets
Published

567,598

MarLIN Page Views

37,039

DASSH Downloads

DATA IMPACT

Understanding how our ocean is changing helps shape the tools needed to manage marine resources and biodiversity under a changing climate. Open and accessible data means everyone can make informed, transparent decisions to help with the effective and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems.

POLICY DRIVER	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
 UK Marine Strategy	Supporting UK legislation with latest marine research for the benefit of the nation	We provide data to ensure transparent evidence underpins the UK Marine Strategy, via the UK Healthy and Biologically Diverse Seas Evidence Group.
 Marine Biodiversity	Monitoring and maintaining a biologically diverse ecosystem to ensure a productive ocean	We are the UK Node for the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS), providing data for global policy activities, including the UN World Ocean Assessment and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
 Inter-governmental Policy & Strategy	Working with global partners for ocean sustainability	We co-developed and host the Plankton Lifeform Extraction Tool, providing information on plankton and food web indicators for the UK’s Marine Strategy, the EU Marine Strategy Framework and for the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) biodiversity assessments.

finance

Operating as a non-profit organisation, the MBA's income for the financial year 2023/2024 was £5,274,579.

Primarily invested into our research, this helped us to expand our world-class knowledge and expertise within the marine biological community.

The MBA would like to acknowledge all of our funders, donors and all those who have supported us.

TOTAL INCOME

£5,274,579

DONATIONS

£31,686

STUDENT BURSARIES AWARDED

10

GRANT SUCCESS RATE

51%

MAKE A DONATION

There are many ways to support the work of the MBA, including by donation.

Whatever you choose, your donation makes a difference.



looking ahead

“

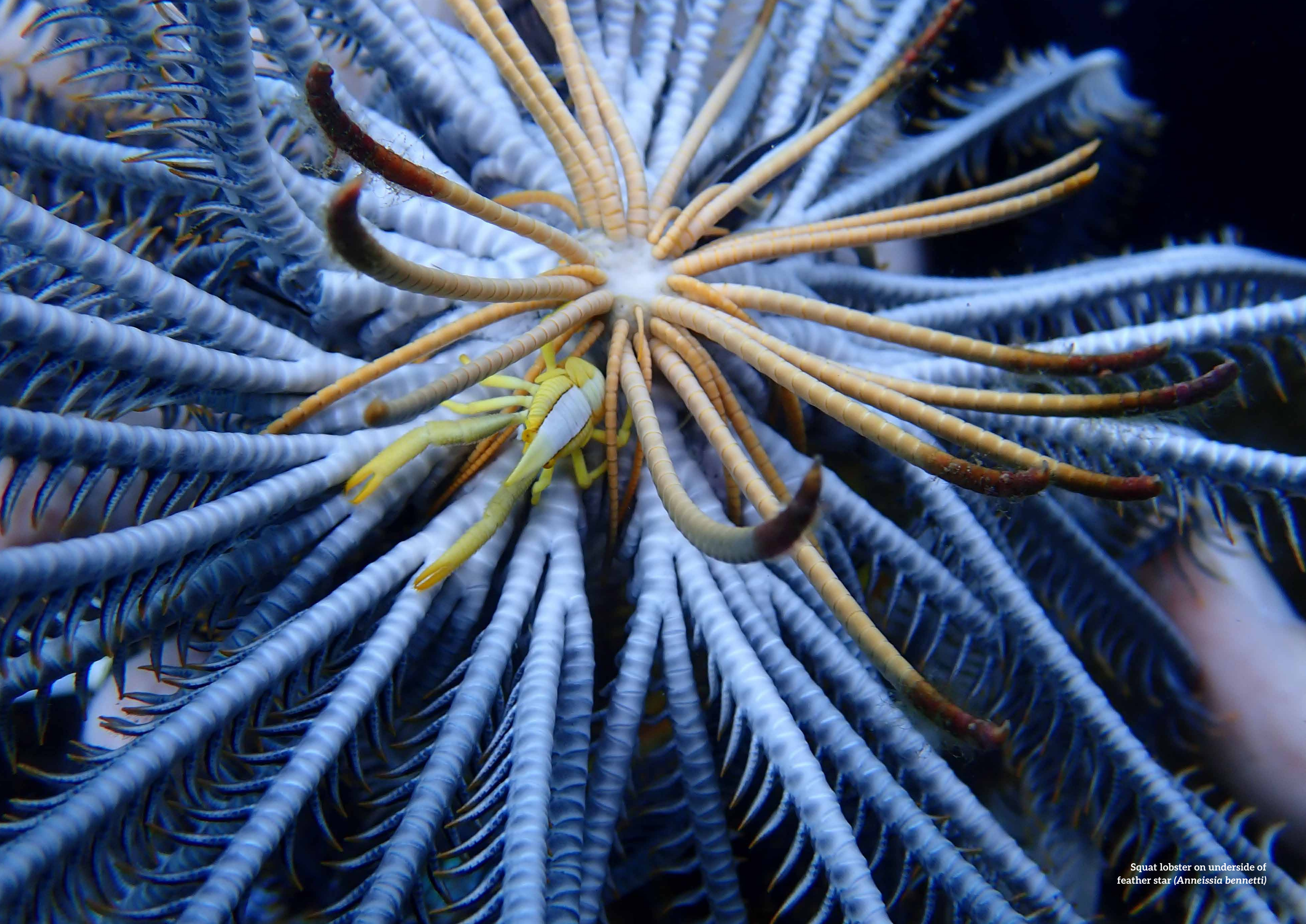
As we enter our 140th year since establishment, I am reminded of the importance of our mission. In the 1880s there was considerable concern about the mechanisation of the fishing industry, the MBA was set up to understand the impacts of this threat and provide evidence-based advice to the government of the day.

That is still our mission, the threats have evolved (as Dr Gill Rider highlighted in her welcome statement), and the government rely on our Members and scientists for expert advice. Our capacity to achieve this will be bolstered by our three new Research Fellows who are already making advances in the use of advanced tracking technologies to understand animal behaviour; fisheries policy and MPAs; invertebrate ecology and their application in human tissue regeneration.

We will also open our new cutting-edge CPR Survey laboratories, funded by a generous donation from the Garfield Weston Foundation. We have built an incredible foundation of research capacity; this will help ensure informed decisions can be made about the future sustainability of our ocean.



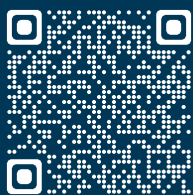
Professor Willie Wilson FMBA,
Chief Executive



Squat lobster on underside of
feather star (*Anneissia bennetti*)

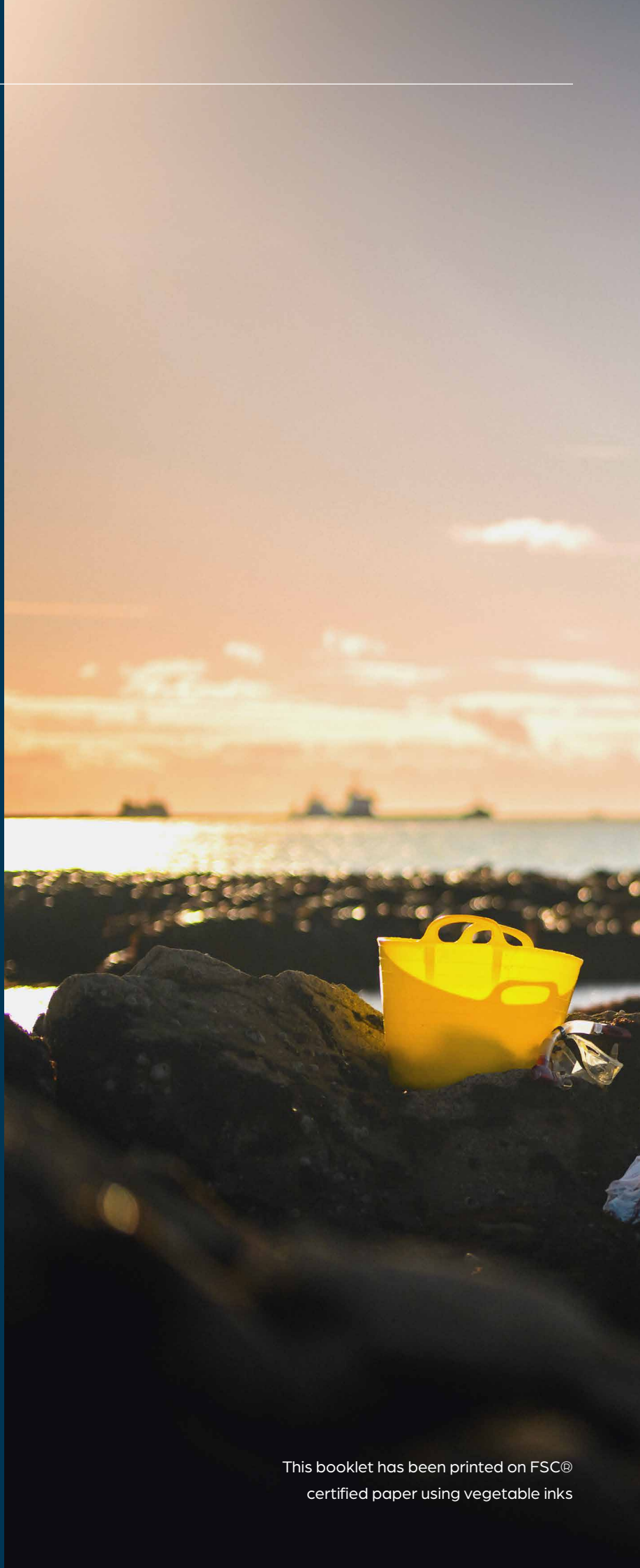
join the Marine Biological Association today.

As a Member, you'll join a
dynamic global community
of marine biologists.



The Marine Biological Association
The Laboratory,
Citadel Hill,
Plymouth, Devon
PL1 2PB, UK

+44 (0) 1752 426493
info@mba.ac.uk
mba.ac.uk



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