

Devon Maritime Forum August e-News



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The DMF team has been busy working *behind the scenes*, but we are very glad to be back officially and continue in our role bringing together diverse stakeholders and facilitating conversation and debate to raise the profile of marine and maritime concerns in Devon and more widely the South West.

The team currently consists of the DMF Coordinator, Steph Harper-Chung, and Coastal Support Officer, Zuzanna Dusza. Both of us can be contacted through the DMF inbox: [**dmf@devon.gov.uk**](mailto:dmf@devon.gov.uk). If you have any news or events that you would like included in the next edition of the DMF news, please contact Zuzanna Dusza on the above email address.

To follow the links below please click on the **[emboldened underlined blue](#)** text. Please also note the links are selected from a range of primary sources and secondary media sources and do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Devon Maritime Forum.

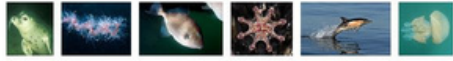
Please also follow our new Twitter account:  [**@DevonMarForm**](https://twitter.com/DevonMarForm)

Just in time for **National Marine Week**, the new **2022 State of the South West Seas Report** has been published. For this report, the DMF acted as a lead author for the **Water Quality** chapter. More information about this in the main body of this newsletter!

DMF News

- [The South West Marine Ecosystem \(SWME\) 'State of the South West Seas Report for 2022' was published on the 1st August.](#)

South West
Marine Ecosystems
SWME Conferences in Plymouth



The State of the South West Seas in 2022 Report has been prepared by a group of specialists working within the umbrella of the South-West Marine Ecosystems (SWME) programme. The SWME programme brings the marine and coastal community together annually to consider the changes that are taking place in our local seas. This report is the ninth report in this series. It includes detailed chapters on oceanography and storms, plankton, the seashore and seabed, fish and turtles, coastal birds, seals, whales, dolphins and porpoises. Management chapters include fisheries, marine planning, marine protected areas, water pollution and plastics pollution. [Webinars on these topics for 2022 can be viewed on this YouTube channel](#)

The report reflects the work of both hundreds of volunteer **citizen scientists** and **professionals** working in the **south-west**. For this report, the **DMF** acted as a **lead author** for the **Water Quality** chapter, a summary of this section can be seen below:

*It remains crucial to adopt a 'wholescape' approach when considering water quality; that is to include river catchments and land-based sources of pollution. The **ecological** and **chemical** status of water quality in the South West remained poor in 2022, similar to the previous year. There have, however, been slight **improvements** in **Bathing Water Classifications**. There has been a notable increase in **citizen science** and **public engagement**, and, consequently, **sewage storm overflow monitoring devices** have **increased from 89% to 91% coverage** from 2021 to 2022. Contact: Zuzana Dusza Zuzanna.Dusza@devon.gov.uk*

For information on SWME contact Bob Earll – bob@bobearll.co.uk or Keith Hiscock khis@mba.ac.uk

This material can be used from **August 1st**

Other Events

- [Devon Wildlife Trust leads on celebrations for National Marine Week](#)

DWT is leading this year's **National Marine Week** which runs from the 22nd July till the 6th August through a series of very special events, including:

- A rockpool safari
- A snorkel safari
- Live marine theatre



This year, the theme is putting a spotlight on **magical and mysterious marine wildlife** in and around Devon. It's time to celebrate everything from our **honeycomb corals** to **solar powered sea slugs!**

Coral Smith, Devon Wildlife Trust's Marine Engagement Officer, says:

"From sun stars to seagrass meadows, Devon's seas are home to fascinating creatures, habitats, and plants. This year's National Marine Week reminds us of the great diversity around our shores and why it is so important we look after our seas for people, wildlife and climate."

For more information and to book events, please visit the [Wembury Marine Center's webpage](#).

- [Blue meadows sea grass restoration project launched](#)

The Ocean Conservation Trust has launched the [Blue Meadows Project](#), the biggest and most ambitious seagrass project yet. To tackle the issue of **seagrass habitat loss and destruction**, the OCT have engineered a 400 square metre purpose-built facility for **plant aquaculture**. The new facility is said to be the **largest seagrass nursery site in the UK**, with its location on the banks of the **River Dart in Torbay** allowing the **seawater** to be **pumped directly** into the facility.



Local/Regional News

- [Most, but not all Southwest beaches rated safe for swimming](#)

Information from the EA shows that the majority of designated bathing waters across Devon and Cornwall have a good or excellent rating for water quality. However, the EA's [Swimfo bathing water website](#) advises against bathing at several locations.



- [How to fix the UK's sewage overflow problem](#)

Preventing excessive sewage discharges requires long-term decision-making, according to a new [ICE insight paper](#). It includes three key insights:

1. **Engineering solutions should be combined with wider environmental interventions**
2. **Eliminating storm overflows altogether is neither economically nor environmentally viable**
3. **Quick fixes could cause greater environmental damage**

- [Surfer's Against Sewage: We're Swimming in Plastic](#)

At the end of July, SAS held a 'Swimming in Plastic' community-led event to mark the launch of the 2023 [Brand Audit](#) and raise awareness of the **UK's plastic pollution crisis**. The event took the form of an epic stunt located at the iconic **Penzance Jubilee Pool** which was filled with plastic bottles (already intended for waste and collected).

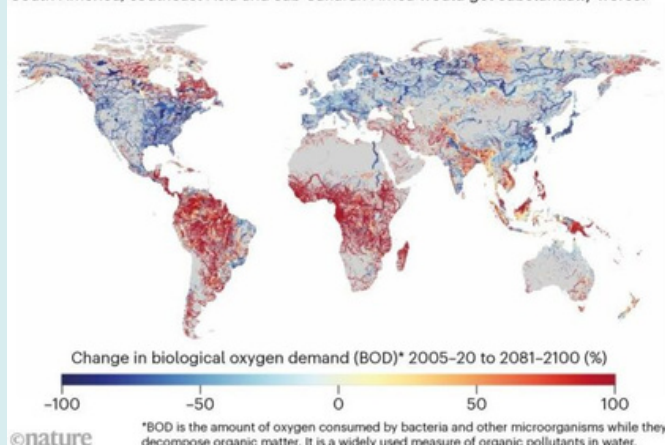
The event highlighted the evidence collected during the Brand Audit and showcased how communities such as [Plastic Free Penzance](#) are fighting back.

National/International News

- [House of Lords report on achieving the '30 by 30' target on protection of land and sea](#)
- [Could Law of the Sea be used to protect small island states from climate change?](#)
- [Latest study on ocean currents suggests tipping point could be as soon as 2025](#)
- [Cost-benefit analysis of trawling ban in offshore MPAs](#)
- [Marine Natural Capital and ecosystem assessment programme](#)
- [Impact of future climate change on UK fish stocks](#)
- [Water pollution 'timebomb' threatens global health](#)

POLLUTION PREDICTIONS

Modelling shows that under the SSP3-RCP7.0 scenario — which describes poor economic growth, severe climate change and population expansion — water quality in South America, southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa would get substantially worse.



Consultations

- [Proposals to close fishing for sandeel in all Scottish waters-DEADLINE 13 OCTOBER 2023](#)

Research

- University of Exeter/Exeter Marine - [Using citizen science to understand floating plastic debris distribution and abundance: A case study from the North Cornish coast \(United Kingdom\)](#)