



## The marine environment after Brexit: the future for science and policy

*A joint British Ecological Society and Marine Biological Association event*

**31 October 2017, 9:30 – 16:30**

**Charles Darwin House, 12 Roger Street, London WC1N 2JU**

The UK's decision to leave the European Union will have a major impact on environmental policy and legislation, as well as consequences for the way scientific research is undertaken: nowhere will this be more acutely felt than in the marine environment, where international co-operation and agreement is crucial.

Over the next few years, the UK Government and devolved administrations will be addressing the issue of incorporating EU environmental law - from the Habitats Directive to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive - into domestic law. Complex issues such as what arrangements will be implemented as an alternative to the EU Common Fisheries Policy and how accountability will be maintained beyond the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) will also need to be addressed.

The UK has a long history of excellence in marine biological research and it is this that provides the evidence base for marine environmental decision making. The impacts of leaving the European Union on marine research are still unclear and a community voice on this issue is vital. How will support for international collaborative research – vital for understanding marine ecosystems – be maintained and enhanced after Brexit? How will the UK strengthen its position as a world leader in marine science?

This interactive one-day event will bring together leading scientists and other stakeholders to consider the future of marine environmental policy and marine biological research in the UK. The event will aim to:

- Identify the key challenges and opportunities for marine environmental policy in the UK after Brexit;
- Highlight the role of marine biological and ecological science in addressing these challenges, including existing knowledge and future research needs;
- Identify the priorities for enhancing the UK's status as a world leader in marine science and maintain effective international collaboration.

The outputs of the event will inform the development of a joint British Ecological Society and Marine Biological Association policy brief.

## **Programme**

**9:30 – 10:00:** Arrival and coffee

**10:00 – 10:15:** Welcome and aims of the day

*Dr Matthew Frost (Deputy Director, Marine Biological Association)*

*Ben Connor (Policy Manager, British Ecological Society)*

**10:15 – 10:45:** Setting the scene: the marine environment after Brexit

*Jill Barrett, Visiting Reader in Law, Queen Mary London University; Associate Member, 6 Pump Court Chambers; International Law Consultant*

**10:45 – 11:00:** Brexit and the marine environment – key priorities

*Dr Abigail McQuatters-Gollop, Lecturer in Marine Conservation, Plymouth University*

**11:00 – 11:15:** Plenary questions and discussion

**11:15 – 11:40:** Coffee break

**11:40 – 13:00** Breakout discussions: the marine environment

*What are the greatest risks that Brexit poses in terms of legislation and implications for the marine environment?*

*What would success look like? What new institutions and frameworks are required to replace existing EU arrangements? What legislation will remain in place?*

**13:00 – 13:45** Lunch

**13:45 – 14:00** Brexit and marine science – key priorities

*Dr Matthew Frost, Deputy Director, Marine Biological Association*

**14:00 – 15:20** Breakout discussions: marine science

*Where are the evidence gaps? What are the research and monitoring requirements for addressing the challenges raised in the morning session?*

*What would success look like? What future mechanisms are required to replace current arrangements – thinking beyond funding to collaboration, infrastructure and people.*

**15:20 – 15:50** Coffee break

**15:50 – 16:30** Plenary discussion and next steps

## ***Speaker biographies***

### **Jill Barrett**

Jill Barrett is Visiting Reader in the School of Law at Queen Mary University of London, and an Associate Member of Six Pump Court Chambers. She was called to the Bar in 1989 and is a member of Gray's Inn. Jill also works as an independent consultant in public international law, specialising in the law and practice of treaties, the polar regions, international environmental law and law of the sea. Jill was previously Legal Counsellor at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. During her 20-year FCO career she advised on legal aspects of UK foreign policy, and represented the UK at the United Nations and a variety of international conferences including Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings, CCAMLR, London Convention, International Whaling Commission, and the UN Commission on Environment and Development.

### **Dr Abigail McQuatters-Gollop**

Abigail McQuatters-Gollop is Lecturer in Marine Conservation in the School of Biological and Marine Sciences at Plymouth University. She is a marine conservation ecologist whose research focuses on the generation of national and international impact through the integration of scientific results into the policy process. Through a NERC Knowledge Exchange Fellowship she is leading the UK's and OSPAR's implementations of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive for pelagic habitats, which includes the coordination, development and management towards operationalisation of pelagic indicators and environmental targets. Abigail is a member of the British Ecological Society's Brexit Policy Working Group

### **Dr Matthew Frost**

Matthew Frost is Marine Biological Association Deputy Director for policy and knowledge exchange, with particular responsibility for the Association as a membership organisation. He also has overall responsibility for the Science and Society programmes and works on MBA strategic development. Matt is a marine benthic ecologist by training, since focusing more on marine policy.

## ***British Ecological Society***

The British Ecological Society was established in 1913 and we have been fostering the science of ecology ever since. We have 6,000 members around the world and bring people together across regional, national and global scales to advance ecological science. Membership is open to anyone, anywhere. Our vision is for a world inspired, informed and influenced by ecology. As an independent, authoritative learned society, and the voice of the UK's ecological community, we promote an evidence-informed approach to finding solutions to ecological problems.

[www.britishecologicalsociety.org](http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org)

## ***Marine Biological Association***

The Marine Biological Association (MBA) is one of the world's longest-running societies dedicated to promoting research into our oceans and the life they support. Since 1884 we have been providing a unified, clear, independent voice on behalf of the marine biological community and currently have a growing membership in over 40 countries. We also run a leading marine biological research laboratory where many eminent scientists - including 7 Nobel prize winners - have carried out their research. [www.mba.ac.uk](http://www.mba.ac.uk)