



BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION

Blue Marine Foundation

2018 REVIEW



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Galapagos shark chasing triggerfish off Ascension's Long Beach. Photo by Polly Burns.
Cover photo: Pipefish (*Corythoichthys intestinalis*) by Viv Evans.

2018

A breakthrough year for BLUE

Dear Friends,

What a breakthrough year for BLUE!

The oceans have finally become the focus of attention, in part due to the huge success of Blue Planet II - in the wake of which our team drove record-breaking engagement and conservation action.

Our donors and corporate partners have been unbelievably supportive and engaged, resulting in a new high-water year for BLUE. We have had incredible worldwide conservation wins and developed new innovations in fisheries management spreading across Europe and further afield. Our visionary media unit will deliver these conservation success stories to the world.

BLUE will continue getting bigger, better and faster as we race to meet our target of protecting 30 per cent of the world's oceans by 2030.

BLUE is laser focused and the time for effective, actual marine conservation is now. We must do everything we can to ensure we have healthy oceans to protect life on Earth.

Our growing and brilliant team have made ocean magic happen this year and we are proud of all of them. Please continue to support us on our critical mission.

GEORGE DUFFIELD & CHRIS GORELL BARNES
CO-FOUNDERS



Reflections on 2018

There are parts of the world where time is moving faster than at home. I was thinking this the other day in the Maldives, a country totally reliant on its marine assets - its coral reefs and mangrove ecosystems. These assets are under increasing pressure from 135 new resorts, new airports, overfishing, warming sea temperatures, pollution and waste. There are lights on the horizon at night where there were none five years ago.

I was there to celebrate the election of a more democratic government with a strong environmental manifesto, but that government will have to move fast, and we, BLUE, will have to assist them if this country's marine assets are not to decline further. I heard people saying that in many places the quality of the diving, which has made the Maldives such a destination for tourists, continues to go down. What will it be like with even more resorts?

Earlier this summer, we were struck when Lewis Pugh, UN Patron of the Oceans, remarked how little wildlife he actually saw on his Long Swim up the English Channel. But it is not a state of affairs that we should, or need to, put up with. For nature has extraordinary powers of regeneration and has demonstrated them in some of our projects on the South Coast such as Lyme Bay and the Solent.

BLUE's strategy is to focus on places that have a chance and make them better. The British Overseas Territories are a broad canvas and BLUE remains engaged in the creation of reserves around St Helena and Ascension, where we hope to achieve a marine reserve in 100 per cent of the island's waters. BLUE has been working hard around the Mediterranean and this year we managed to secure the first-ever marine protected area in the Caspian Sea.

Bringing new money into conservation was one of the things BLUE was set up to do and this year we had our best-ever London to Monaco sponsored cycle ride with over a hundred cyclists setting off from South London.

This was a year when we celebrated some notable policy achievements in the UK, including the first-ever conference on marine parks organised with Plymouth City Council after which the idea of a marine park in Plymouth Sound received an affirmative nod from Michael Gove, the Environment Secretary. I am pleased to note that Gove's announcement of working towards protection of 30 per cent of the world's oceans has also been BLUE's aspiration for some time.

It was a tough campaigning year at times, with a setback for ocean conservation in the South Sandwich Islands, where the Foreign Secretary has not yet offered the full protection for which the Great British Oceans coalition and 285 MPs have been campaigning. Our campaign against electric pulse fishing, hugely helped by our new media unit, secured a ban on this damaging method in British waters after Brexit. And we were involved in discussions about how to improve the Fisheries Bill, arguing for it to make clear that Britain's marine life is a public asset and should be managed on behalf of everyone. On all fronts, we continue to drive towards our goal of a healthy ocean.

CHARLES CLOVER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BLUE's vision

Our oceans are in crisis. Marine life is under threat from climate change, acidification, agricultural pollution and plastic. But arguably the greatest threat of all is overfishing because if we strip the oceans of all their life, they will have little resilience to the other threats. It is the marine life in oceans that enables them to absorb half the world's CO₂ and produce half our oxygen. Overfishing therefore threatens the future of humanity.

BLUE's vision is a healthy ocean forever, for everyone. BLUE's aim is to see 10 per cent of ocean under protection by 2020 and 30 per cent of ocean under protection by 2030.

BLUE's strategy

Overfishing is one of the most solvable of all the world's major environmental problems.

BLUE's strategy is to:

- Create marine protected areas – areas of ocean free from industrial fishing – so that fish stocks can rapidly recover.
- Materially contribute towards securing an international agreement on the need to protect 30 per cent of the world's ocean by 2030, including the high seas.
- Develop models of sustainable fishing, proving that fishing can be managed responsibly so that stocks recover while benefiting local fishermen and coastal communities.
- Restore marine habitats, in order to protect vulnerable and threatened species.
- Raise awareness about the need to address overfishing.

Maldivian school girl snorkels for the first time as part of BLUE's project on Laamu Atoll. Photo by Andy Ball.

BLUE's focus

Our ocean is being simultaneously assaulted on multiple fronts. We recognise that, as a small yet ambitious charity, we must focus on the most serious threats which we can solve. The most macro of all ocean challenges, ocean warming and acidification, are related to climate change and will require a continued concerted global effort to be effectively addressed.

Plastic pollution is an issue that has captured the public imagination – perhaps because images of plastic in the sea embody our collective guilt about the damage we humans are inflicting on nature. But plastics are a land-based problem that ultimately must be addressed at source. The fight against plastics has become a reassuringly crowded space. The fight against overfishing remains relatively under-resourced.

BLUE will continue to focus on combatting overfishing and habitat destruction – two of the ocean's greatest challenges which, if solved, will deliver massive environmental returns. We will address plastic pollution in local strategic interventions where we can move the dial – for example, ghost net removal in the Aeolians, microplastic identification in oysters and models of island waste disposal in the UKOTs.

But our main focus will be on protecting the marine life that ensures oceans are this planet's life-support system.

BLUE's Key Achievements 2010-2018

2010

In 2010, BLUE brokered a deal to enable the creation of what was then the largest marine protected area (MPA) in the world around Chagos in the Indian Ocean.

2012

In 2012, BLUE partnered with the government of Belize and the Bertarelli Foundation to protect the Turneffe Atoll in Belize, an area rich in biodiversity and CO₂ absorbing mangroves.

2015

In 2015, the Great British Oceans coalition, of which BLUE is part, secured a UK government commitment to create the world's largest marine reserve around Pitcairn in the Pacific.

2015

In 2015, BLUE and the Great British Oceans coalition secured a government manifesto commitment to create a "Blue Belt" around all 14 UK overseas territories, hailed as "the greatest conservation commitment by any government ever".

2016

In 2016, BLUE secured the creation of a no-take zone nearly the size of the UK around Ascension Island.

2017

In 2017, BLUE, as part of the Great British Oceans coalition, secured an even stronger manifesto commitment from the UK Government ahead of the June 2017 election to protect over four million square kilometres of ocean around the UK overseas territories.

2017

In the summer of 2017, broodstock oysters in BLUE's Solent Oyster Restoration Project spawned, releasing millions of larvae into the Solent.

2017-2018

BLUE's Lyme Bay model of sustainable fishing is being rolled out in other sites in the UK and in the Mediterranean.

2017-2018

BLUE spearheaded a social media campaign to encourage the public to tweet and email their MPs, resulting in 285 MPs from eight political parties signing up to the Blue Belt Charter by the end of 2018.

2018

The UK government announced a target of 30 per cent of ocean protected by 2030, aligning with BLUE's long-term strategy.

2018

Azerbaijan declared the first MPA in the Caspian Sea, the largest inland body of water on the planet. The new MPA will seek to protect six significant marine species on the brink of extinction.

2018

After a long campaign by BLUE's media unit and others, the UK Government has pledged to ban electric fishing in British waters.



JANUARY – On 16 January, the European Parliament voted to ban electric pulse fishing. However, pulse fishing continued, including in some of the UK's most sensitive MPAs.



FEBRUARY – Charles Clover and Beth Taylor visited St Helena where Beth started her role as project manager to secure St Helena's MPA.



MARCH – the Great British Oceans coalition, of which BLUE is a member, hosted the Blue Belt parliamentary reception which was attended by MPs including Michael Gove.



MARCH – BLUE hosted a reception at 11 Downing Street. The Chancellor Philip Hammond welcomed guests and gave a speech about our work.



APRIL – Fishermen in the Aeolian Islands committed to fishing sustainably by signing up to BLUE's voluntary Code of Conduct.



APRIL – New fisheries and conservation partnership projects in North Devon, Jersey, west of Scotland and Berwickshire began.



APRIL – BLUE hosted a Fishing in Transition Seminar at Fishmongers' Hall for fishermen to hear from a range of experts what to expect after Brexit.



APRIL – BLUE team attended the Ditchley Foundation ocean conference to make recommendations for the G7 in June.



MAY – BLUE became a member of the High Seas Alliance, a coalition of 37 NGOs dedicated to protecting 45 per cent of the earth's surface.



MAY – BLUE arranged a letter to the Prime Minister from 42 Conservative MPs calling for the designation of the South Sandwich Islands at the G7.



MAY – The third annual Ocean Awards were held with partner BOAT International. Winners included the campaign for the Ross Sea MPA.



JUNE – In collaboration with Plymouth City Council, BLUE invited 150 delegates to a UK Marine Parks Conference held at the National Marine Aquarium.



JUNE – At the NEX Giving Day, with help from ambassador Simon Le Bon, BLUE won a substantial grant to research the breeding habits of St Helena's whale sharks.



JULY – Lewis Pugh set off to swim the length of the English Channel to raise awareness of the need for greater marine protection. Lewis stopped at BLUE's projects in Plymouth, Lyme Bay and the Solent.



AUGUST – Lewis Pugh completed "The Long Swim" and was greeted on Shakespeare Beach in Dover by Michael Gove and the BLUE team.



SEPTEMBER – Zara and Mike Tindall launched London to Monaco 2018 and joined day one of the ride.



SEPTEMBER The UK Government announced a target of 30 per cent of ocean protected by 2030 as the London to Monaco riders arrived in Monaco.



OCTOBER – BLUE announced an ambitious partnership with DP World and the Fleming Foundation to protect the high seas.



OCTOBER – The next phase of the Solent Oyster Restoration Project began, with 30,000 oysters being relayed.



OCTOBER – Rory and Gavin Ziemann went to a responsible fisheries event in the Aeolian Islands where fishermen from five different European MPAs came to discuss best practice.



OCTOBER – Charles Clover presented evidence to the Environmental Audit Committee where he drew attention to ways in which the Blue Belt could be better managed in the UKOTS.



NOVEMBER – The number of MPs who have signed the #BackTheBlueBelt Charter climbed to 285.



NOVEMBER – Tom Appleby presented BLUE's complaint about pulse fishing in North Sea marine protected areas to the European Commission in Brussels.



NOVEMBER – Charles Clover, Viv Evans and Shaha Hashim met newly elected environment and fisheries ministers in the Maldives with progress made.



NOVEMBER – Chris Gorell Barnes with John Kerry. Chris hosted a high-level Our Ocean side event at Six Senses Uluwatu to discuss small-scale fisheries.



NOVEMBER – Azerbaijan announced the first MPA in the Caspian Sea, the largest inland body of water on the planet. The new MPA will protect six species on the brink of extinction.



DECEMBER – The UK government pledged to ban electric fishing in British waters.



DECEMBER – BLUE submitted evidence to the DEFRA consultation on the future of national parks, recommending that National Marine Parks are a central part of the review.



DECEMBER – BLUE was heavily engaged in constructive commentary on the Fisheries Bill and gave evidence to two parliamentary committees.



DECEMBER – In the Maldives, the Laamu Atoll Council committed to create five new protected areas, including two important grouper spawning sites and the largest green turtle nesting site in the country.

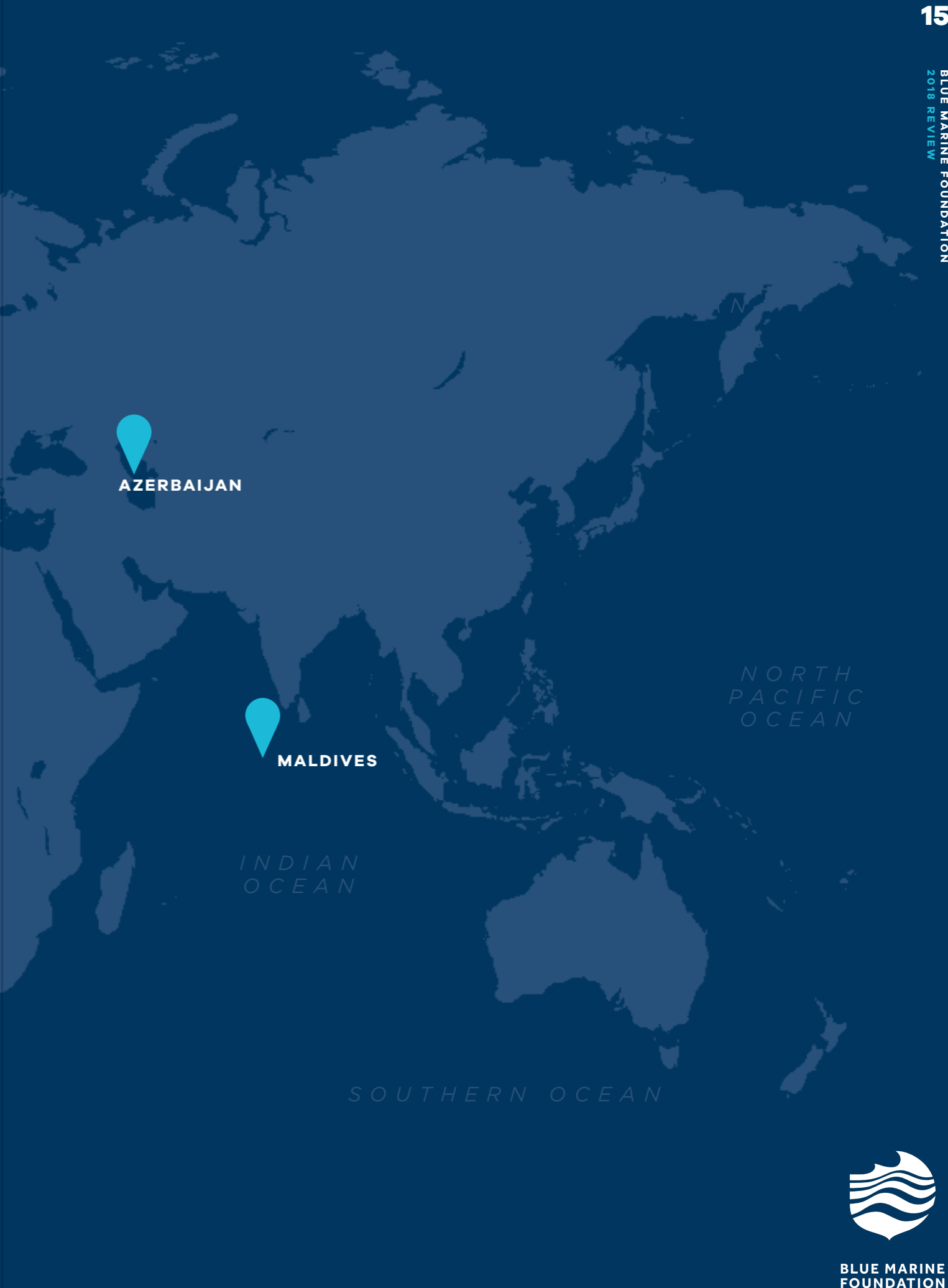


OUR PROJECTS

Children from Wiccor Primary School examine a tiny porcelain crab at BLUE's Solent Oyster Restoration Project.



Current Projects



14 UK Overseas Territories

Britain is responsible for 6.8 million square kilometres of ocean – the fifth largest marine estate in the world – the vast majority of which is around the UK's 16 Overseas Territories.

Spread across the world's oceans, the Overseas Territories harbour a remarkable 94 per cent of the UK's unique biodiversity. BLUE's strategic priority is to ensure that the waters of as many of these territories as possible are protected from overfishing.

The UN Patron of the Oceans, Lewis Pugh, supported our coalition's #BackTheBlueBelt campaign with his unprecedented feat of swimming 330 miles from Land's End to Dover in 50 days, The Long Swim. Sky TV's coverage of his progress and the places where Pugh stopped on the way, many of them BLUE projects,

enabled us to keep the issue of marine conservation in the public eye and to keep up the pressure on government to resolve some of the knottier issues we have been campaigning for, such as marine parks at home and better implementation of MPAs in the UK Overseas Territories.

The sticking point for the UK government has been actually making the South Sandwich Islands a fully protected reserve. This issue slowed the implementation of the rest of the Blue Belt Charter, for which we have the support of 285 MPs. Michael Gove, the Environment Secretary, proved supportive - despite Foreign Office pushback on the South Sandwich Islands - and, shortly after Lewis Pugh finished his swim, announced the commitment that Britain would seek the protection of 30 per cent of the world's oceans by 2030.

Ascension Island

The peak of a giant, undersea volcano forming part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, Ascension Island is an isolated and exceptional British overseas territory. The upwellings and sea mounts in its waters are highly productive, harbouring huge and rare fish. Ascension hosts the second largest green turtle nesting site in the Atlantic and is home to extraordinary seabirds.

Until 2013, Ascension's 440,000 square kilometre exclusive economic zone was being plundered by a long-line tuna fleet which was associated with human rights abuses, shark finning and high levels of by-catch.

In January 2016, BLUE helped secure the closure of 52.6 per cent of Ascension's waters to fishing. The northern 47.4 per cent is open to long-line fishing on purchase of a licence on condition that vessels adhere to best-practice guidelines. But only four licences have been sold since January 2016. By contrast, the conservation team has raised over £2m for the island.

Life on Ascension has become very difficult since April 2017 when the runway (owned and operated by the American airforce) was closed for repairs. A once-a-month flight to St Helena is insufficient to keep tourism alive and means that the islanders struggle to obtain supplies.

BLUE has written a 'vision for the future of Ascension' which stresses the need for the islanders to be supported in their role as custodians of some of Britain's most exceptional biodiversity. BLUE believes that Ascension would be best served if 100 per cent of its waters was declared a marine protected area. This would, we believe, unlock significant philanthropic donations as well as opening up eco-tourism and scientific funding opportunities. But we also believe that the UK Government should support Ascension by funding the cost of enforcing its marine protected area.

Cycling for Ascension

BLUE has continued to support Ascension as much as it can through our London to Monaco cycle ride. Now in its third year, the ride has raised funds and brought a range of benefits to the island, including:

- 32 iPads for school children
- A new science lab for Two Boats School
- The new Green Mountain boardwalk
- New information boards and signage throughout the reserve
- Turtle interns to monitor turtle breeding on Long Beach
- Shark tags to track shark activity around the island
- Lab equipment to ensure that Ascension's rare and endemic plants can be propagated

2018's ride raised £100,000 for Ascension Island and BLUE is keen that this funding provides further support for the island community, including the renovation of the Turtle Ponds, a mini kiln for community pottery classes and an innovative laser cutter to teach pupils design and technology.

Ascension fielded its own cycle team in 2017 and 2018 with riders braving strong winds and tropical heat, to raise awareness for marine conservation on the island.



Ascension Island cycle team. Pupils from Two Boats School with BLUE-funded iPads.

The future of marine protection in Ascension

Diane Baum, Head of Conservation on Ascension, put together an Evidence and Options Paper for the Ascension Island Councillors to explore the costs and benefits of a 50 per cent marine protected area versus a 100 per cent marine protected area in Ascension's waters. BLUE submitted its response to this paper ahead of the Council reaching its final decision in February 2019. In particular, BLUE outlined the potential benefits of a 100 per cent marine protected area.

Working on Ascension

The only way to get to Ascension at the moment is via St Helena, and then you have to stay either a night or a month! But BLUE managed to send two people to Ascension in the last year:

Polly Burns spent two and a half months on Ascension and Saint Helena in 2017 where she interviewed 139 Ascension residents as part of her 'Old Man and the Sea' thesis. In 2018 she published her thesis which is a comprehensive study of Ascension's marine environment from the date of discovery in 1503 to the present day.



Below: Leigh Morris, Black triggerfish.

Leigh Morris, BLUE's 'man on St Helena' spent a month on Ascension in the summer of 2018, supporting the roll out of new waste management and recycling strategies for the island. Leigh has written detailed reports on the waste management and horticulture on Ascension Island to identify potential next steps and the opportunity for more collaboration between the UK overseas territories.



£100,000 RAISED BY LONDON TO MONACO TO SUPPORT THE ISLAND COMMUNITY

32 IPADS FOR PUPILS

100% POTENTIAL MPA

St Helena

St Helena's waters were designated an IUCN Category VI marine protected area in 2016. BLUE is working alongside the community to ensure that the area – all 444,916 square kilometres – is indeed protected and that the local islanders benefit from their exceptional natural resource.

BLUE's St Helena team, Beth Taylor and Leigh Morris, began work with the St Helena National Trust early in 2018. They have recruited a team of local 'Saints' and together have achieved a huge amount in their first year.

A key focus has been on outreach and education to raise enthusiasm about the island's exceptional sea life. The marine team held screenings of the BBC's Blue Planet II which were attended by over 500 people, some of whom gave presentations on their work and love for the oceans. Beth has been working to develop a new Marine Centre on the waterfront to showcase the island's marine reserve. The Team on St Helena has been engaging with the island schools and are developing a marine education programme.

St Helena is believed to be one of the few places in the world where whale sharks may breed. BLUE (with the help of Simon Le Bon) secured a grant from NEX for £150,000 which will be used to record previously unseen breeding behaviour of whale sharks.

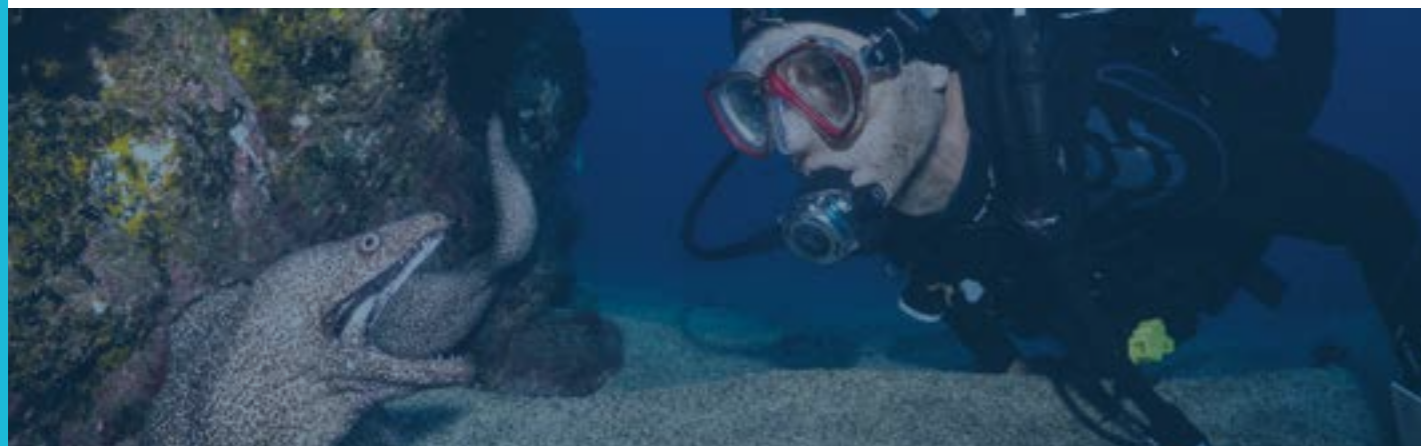
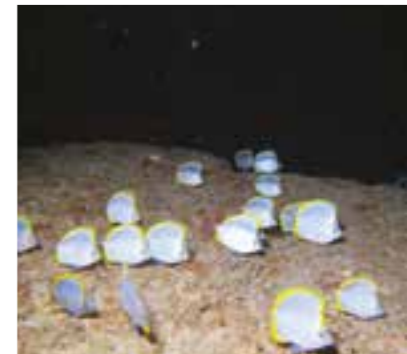
BLUE also understands that St Helena has a local fishery which needs to be protected against outside long-lining interests. We are working closely with local one-by-one pole and line fishermen to try to get better prices for their tuna. Beth has been elected onto the committee of both the St Helena Nature Conservation Group and the St Helena Commercial Fishermen's Association.

Even though it is so remote, St Helena sees plastic waste washed up on its shores. The marine team cleans-up plastic and collects data from the island's two main beaches every week. It has secured a £72,000 grant with the Government's Marine Section to develop an innovative plastics recycling programme on the island. Plastic pellets discovered on Sandy Bay beach were revealed to be part of a major spill in Durban South Africa a few months earlier. This became a major news story on the island, raising a lot of interest on plastic pollution within the Saint community. But in the spirit of transforming waste to a good purpose, BLUE is working with a local jeweller to develop beautiful sea glass jewellery using glass collected on beach cleans.



This photo: Beth Taylor with whale shark. Below; bearded Fireworm, St Helena Sharpnose Pufferfish, Cunningfish, lobster by Leigh Morris, the St Helena team on the ground.

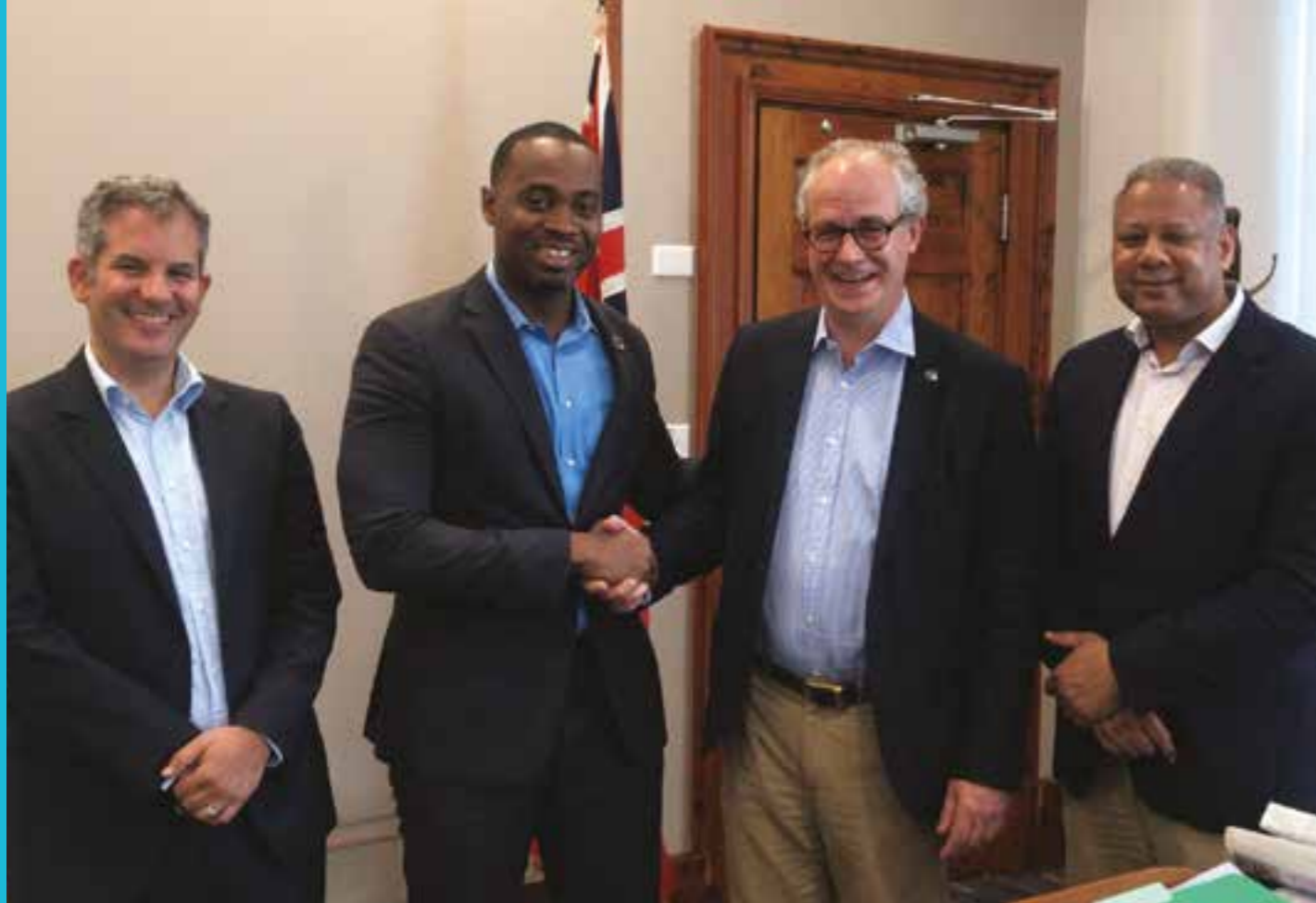
Facing page: Diver comes face to face with a spotted moray eel.



444,916 SQ KM POTENTIAL MPA

150 ISLANDERS
INVOLVED IN BEACH CLEANS

14,200 PIECES
OF LITTER
COLLECTED



Adam Sweidan of Aurum, David Burt, Premier of Bermuda, Charles Clover, BLUE, and Walton Brown, Minister of Home Affairs in the Cabinet Office, Bermuda.

Bermuda

Bermuda is one of seven seamounts that sit amid the Sargasso Sea. Its coral reefs, the most northerly in the world, are in excellent condition by global standards but the island has had its ups and downs with fisheries management and control of illegal fishing. Bermuda is key to the conservation of the Sargasso Sea, the huge area of high seas between the Azores and Florida.

Bermuda is a British Overseas Territory though its government is highly independent and does not wholeheartedly embrace the British government's commitment to create a "Blue Belt" of marine reserves and good fishing practice around its territories. Bermuda is a therefore a unique conundrum, with a high level of consciousness about marine conservation on the island and a distinguished history of marine conservation that dates back to protecting turtles in the 1600s.

BLUE's view has been that Bermuda could reconcile its domestic conservation laws with international best practice with relative ease, thereby unlocking funding for conservation and monitoring of the island's remaining habitats, terrestrial and marine, including its relatively unfished offshore waters. BLUE advanced this case with officials under the previous government and visited again in May when Charles Clover had an apparently successful meeting with David Burt, the dynamic Premier. All went quiet until the autumn when the Governor, John Rankin, made his annual Throne Speech (on behalf of the Queen) in which he referred back to the conference organised by XL Catlin as one of the highlights of the year. "Organisations like the Blue Marine Foundation participated in the Ocean Risk conference hosted in Bermuda in May, and their goal of increasing the protection for the world's oceans is one Bermuda should share." We will be returning to discover if Bermuda's elected government agrees with him in 2019.



From top left: Early image of marine life on Ascension Island. Polly on her research mission to Ascension and St Helena, with local fishermen.

Ascension's Global Importance

BLUE funded MSc researcher Polly Burns to reconstruct the environmental history of Ascension's marine fauna, from discovery in 1503 to the present day. Polly spent four weeks on Ascension and two weeks on St Helena studying archives and interviewing 139 residents about their experiences of marine life over the last fifty years.

Her study of historical archives has unearthed depictions of abundant fish and seabirds in early images of the islands. These are unusual features of early engravings, leading one to conclude that Ascension marine life was considered exceptional centuries ago.

But whereas in other parts of the world, similar studies show biodiversity loss to have been pervasive and steep, in Ascension the abundant marine life has remained remarkably intact.

This makes Ascension highly unusual in a fast-changing world in which overexploitation and species declines are commonplace. It shows that Ascension has extraordinarily high conservation significance, and warrants the highest possible level of protection.

In early 2019, Polly returned to Ascension with BLUE's director of policy, Adrian Gahan to present her findings to the islanders and show them – according to their own testimony – just how special Ascension is.



Solent and Blackwater

Oyster beds filter the water column, removing nitrogen, sequestering carbon and providing habitats for hundreds of species. Tragically, they have disappeared around the UK's coastline, and these critical services lost from the environment. BLUE is creating a model for restoration of this key habitat by relaying millions of oysters into the Solent – once Europe's largest self-sustaining native oyster fishery.

2018 has been an eventful year for the Solent Oyster Restoration Project. The number of sites housing the innovative broodstock oyster cages has increased from six to ten.

Increasing the number of sites has helped to distribute further the larvae produced by the adult oysters that live within the cages. In the summer of 2018, the broodstock oysters spawned – these oysters can release up to one million larvae each!

BLUE worked with the fishing industry and the National Grid to ensure the effective translocation of oysters that may otherwise have been destroyed during infrastructure works. Hard work and cooperation from all

parties meant that these oysters were spared and now form part of the restoration process.

The cages continue to be a great way to get young people engaged in marine conservation. A strong and growing volunteer network has developed over 2018, with over 200 volunteers involved in the project.

Throughout October and November this year, BLUE conducted its first seabed relaying trials. A total of 20,000 juvenile native oysters were re-seeded into the River Hamble. These oysters will be monitored over the next six months. The results of this trial will help to inform the scaling up of relaying to one million oysters in 2019.



This page (from top): BLUE team laying oysters. Senior Project Manager, Morven Robertson, discusses oysters with Lewis Pugh.

Facing page (from top left): A goby found in a broodstock cage, students from Orchard House School learn about oysters, Charles Clover and Lewis Pugh speak to Sky News about the collapse of the Solent oyster population.

BLUE is committed to overcoming some of the major barriers to restoration not only in the Solent, but throughout Europe. BLUE is working with researchers from Cefas and the Roslin Institute to investigate the basis for genetic resistance to Bonamia in oysters. Bonamia causes mass mortalities in oysters – up to 90 per cent in severe cases. It represents one of the major barriers to restoration and this project could be potentially ground-breaking.

Blackwater

BLUE has also been supporting the restoration of native oysters in Essex. The Essex Native Oyster Restoration Initiative (ENORI) is working to restore native oysters and the beds they form in the 284km² Blackwater, Crouch, Colne and Roach marine conservation zone (MCZ). BLUE has supported the project by hiring a coordinator, Matt Utley, to drive the restoration programme.

BLUE is also working with windfarm operator, Ørsted, to place broodstock oysters around the bases of the Gunfleet Sands wind turbines. This innovative project will be a UK first and provide an additional source of larvae for the MCZ.



40,000
NATIVE OYSTERS RESTORED
TO THE SOLENT

11 OYSTER
RESTORATION SITES

200 VOLUNTEERS
HELPED THE PROJECT

Lyme Bay

BLUE's flagship project in Lyme Bay continues to show that marine protected areas, when managed properly, can restore ecosystems and give a voice to the communities that live and depend on them.

Over the last seven years, BLUE has developed a collaborative model with fishermen, scientists, marine regulators, conservationists and recreational interests to effectively manage the Lyme Bay Reserve and facilitate an open forum to discuss relevant developments in the sector.

Sensitive management of the reserve has led to a flourishing of marine life. When Lyme Bay was first surveyed by Plymouth University in 2008, the year that the area was first closed to bottom-towed gear, the seabed was heavily degraded and fish stocks were in decline. Take a dive today and you are met with a seabed bursting with marine life and vibrant colour. Even areas that were once sand are slowly being colonised by reef. Pelagic fish species are also thriving, with a record number of rays

observed by commercial and recreational fishermen.

But well-conserved marine life does not come at a price to local fishermen – quite the reverse. Local fishermen enthuse about the evident recovery in fish populations. One scallop diver said, 'I could have lived down there for a year and not caught anything like I'm catching now in a single dive'.

Not only are the fish more plentiful, but fishermen are better off. By signing up to BLUE's code of conduct and agreeing to fish sustainably, fishermen can earn more for their catch thanks to improvements in port infrastructure and new routes to market under BLUE's growing Reserve Seafood brand.



Facing page: Lyme Bay fisherman by Saeed Rashid. This page from top: Scallops by Saeed Rashid. Brothers Charlie and Gavin Ziemann. A delicate ross coral on the seafloor of the Reserve.

In 2018, BLUE made further advances in port infrastructure with a regular van now taking fish to market in Plymouth. BLUE has also issued new mobile phones to all the fishermen on the scheme to house an app called GAP Guardian. This user-friendly app uses satellite technology to deliver accurate positioning data and guarantees the traceability of each catch.

Results from Lyme Bay prove that banning trawling and dredging facilitates the recovery of the marine environment. It has also shown that fishermen can fish sustainably and be rewarded economically. However, Lyme Bay remains one of the only UK marine protected areas that is entirely protected from damaging gear types. Trawling and dredging are still allowed in some 92 per cent of England's supposed protected areas. More shocking still, some even allow electric pulse fishing. (See page 32.)



7 TIMES MORE PINK SEA FANS IN THE LYME BAY RESERVE

84% INCREASE IN SPECIES

4.5 TIMES MORE LOBSTERS IN THE RESERVE



UK Sustainable Fisheries

BLUE's work in Lyme Bay has shown that it is possible to deliver conservation gains which benefit small-scale fishermen and their communities. In 2018 BLUE set about rolling out this model to four further sites around the UK coast. At the heart of our model is collaboration: we work with local fishermen, conservationists, scientists, recreational interests and regulators to develop a plan which will best serve the marine environment and coastal communities. BLUE's long-term vision is to see the UK's inshore waters once again teeming with life where sustainable, local fishing communities thrive.

North Devon

The North Devon UNESCO Biosphere is home to extraordinary biodiversity. Sandy gravels provide essential spawning grounds for sharks and rays and are interspersed with rocky reef nurseries for shellfish including rare spiny lobsters. At its heart lies Lundy Island and one of only three no-take zones in the UK.

For centuries, fishermen have worked with the strong, unpredictable tides to fish a diverse and abundant catch. In the 19th century, over 100 boats were based out of Clovelly alone in pursuit of their 'silver darlings' (herring). Today, only three herring fishermen remain, and the disappearing fishery is a reflection of the struggles of inshore fishermen around the UK.

BLUE is working with local fishermen, regulators and scientists to map North Devon's marine habitats to ensure they are protected and improve fisheries monitoring and reporting. This will allow North Devon's small-scale fishing communities to achieve a higher market value for their catch and secure the future of this sustainable, artisanal fishery.

Isle of Arran

South Arran is the largest marine protected area in Scotland protecting some of the country's most important and productive seabed habitats. It contains the Clyde's largest seagrass bed, a patchwork of recovering maerl beds and nursery grounds for scallops and finfish such as cod, haddock and whiting.

Within the MPA lies Lamlash Bay no-take zone, the first and only fully-protected marine reserve in Scotland. BLUE is supporting the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) and Glasgow and York Universities to continue monitoring recovery inside these protected areas. Their research provides evidence of changes in populations of important marine life and fish stocks which demonstrates the value of large marine reserves.

BLUE will use this evidence to build the case for more core reserves around the UK.



Berwickshire

The Berwickshire coastline is home to soft corals, sea caves, rocky reefs and kelp forests. Converging tidal currents from the warm Gulf Stream and the much colder Arctic Stream mean cold-water species live alongside exotic warm-water species. Within these waters lies the St Abbs and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve – a paradise for divers and one of the only places in the UK where the elusive wolffish can be found.

BLUE is supporting the marine reserve to establish essential monitoring of habitats and fish stocks to address knowledge gaps about the pressures the area may be under including fishing and climate change. This work will determine both the impacts and sustainable limits of all marine users inside the marine reserve, advocating for best practice and management where possible.

BLUE hopes to demonstrate the value of community-led marine protected area management in the UK by measuring its impact ecologically, economically and socially on local coastal communities. Part of this work involves fostering a partnership approach to management based on Lyme Bay including science fisher research collaborations to underpin a suitable long-term bottom up management strategy.

Jersey

Jersey's territorial waters with its seagrass, kelp forests and maerl beds showcase some of the best shallow marine habitats in the British Isles. The government of Jersey is keen to protect its waters, and in 2017, two extensive marine protected areas (MPAs) were designated to protect large offshore reefs – one of which is three times the size of Jersey itself.

Samantha Blampied, BLUE's local PhD student, is helping build a case for further marine protection by monitoring species recovery within the newly established MPAs. Her assessment of commercial fish and shellfish stock recovery will help demonstrate the economic value of Jersey's MPAs to the local fishing fleet.

Excitingly, just one year since designation, marine life is making a swift comeback. Juvenile scallops have appeared across the maerl beds that provide the perfect nursery ground. Such evidence of recovery underpins the case for protecting and extending Jersey's marine ecosystems, ensuring fragile and important habitats are safeguarded and fishing levels are sustainable. If proven successful, additional areas that could benefit from MPAs will be put forward to government.



1000 KM² IN THE NORTH DEVON UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE

224 CRABS TAGGED IN BERWICKSHIRE

350 HERRING SAMPLED IN NORTH DEVON

Facing page from left: Clovelly herring festival 2018. BLUE PhD Sam Blampied and States of Jersey Fisheries Officer Francis Binney measure a spider crab and lobster as part of study to assess levels of potting within Jersey's MPAs.

This page: A brown crab (cancer pagurus) is measured and tagged. Sam Blampied takes a look at the seabed of Les Ecrehos MPA thanks to a drop down video camera.

Marine Parks

Marine parks could be the best way to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and maritime heritage of our coastal waters. Marine parks allow the story of the ocean (and why we should protect it) to be told simply and effectively.

The conference concluded that marine parks could better protect coastal waters as public assets. They could bring shared prosperity, public engagement and even regeneration to deprived coastal communities. Furthermore, a marine park could be established in Plymouth Sound using existing legislation and this could form a blueprint for others in the UK. In support of the conference and the nascent marine park, Plymouth landmark Smeaton's Tower was lit up in blue.

Next year is the 70th anniversary of the National Parks Act, it is high time for national parks for our seas that work for the environment and people. BLUE's strategy is two-fold; to push for marine parks to become part of the national agenda and to support the development and implementation of the UK's first marine park in Plymouth.

Why do we need marine parks on top of everything else? The current network of protection suffers, as BLUE trustee Professor Callum Roberts says, from "a tragic lack of ambition." At this point, as Julian Glover writes Michael Gove's National Park Review, marine parks remain undefined in this country. We have a chance to make them extraordinary in their conservation ambition. We should be leading the world on this, we are not.

In June, BLUE and Plymouth City Council invited 130 delegates to the National Marine Aquarium to discuss whether marine parks could improve the conservation of natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage in UK coastal waters and provide opportunities for people to understand and enjoy the country's marine landscapes.



Charles Clover calls on the audience to vote. There was unified approval for creating a marine park in Plymouth.



Plymouth Sound, the potential site of the first National Marine Park in the UK.



A panel of marine parks experts answer questions from the audience.

Plymouth sits within one of the biggest and most beautiful natural harbours in the UK, its surrounding waters are some of the highest designated in the country. Despite rich maritime heritage, parts of Plymouth remain disconnected from the sea – there are children who have never visited a beach. Plymouth, the UK's Ocean City, will be the first marine park in the country.

Nationally, we are on the threshold of a great opportunity. Marine parks could be the vehicle to conserve and enhance the precious coastlines that fringe our island, but they require cross-party political support fired by public interest. During 2019, this is what BLUE will seek to encourage.



Smeaton's Tower on Plymouth Hoe is turned blue by Plymouth City Council in honour of the proposed National Marine Park in Plymouth Sound.

Electric Fishing

Around the world many countries have tried pulse fishing but concluded that it was too effective, that the collateral damage was too high and had it stopped.

Electric fishing is one of the most controversial weapons in the fisheries arsenal. Nets bristling with electrodes are dragged along the seabed, zapping everything in their path and leaving behind a trail of destruction. Pulse fishing causes fish to spasm and spring up into nets, but tests show that it also kills 25 per cent of young cod outright and can break the spines of big fish. It is only now being fully tested on organisms living on the seabed, to which it is believed to be lethal.

Pulse fishing has been banned in countries around the world, including China and the US. The EU banned it in 1998, but in 2006 allowed members to use electric fishing to fulfil their fishing quota in the North Sea in the name of "research." Little or no science has been

undertaken and this is in reality an out-and-out commercial fishery.

After receiving reports from fishermen that some of the UK's richest MPAs in the North Sea were being turned into "graveyards" by a fleet of (mostly Dutch) pulse trawlers, BLUE partnered with French NGO Bloom to campaign against this flagrant disregard of EU policy.

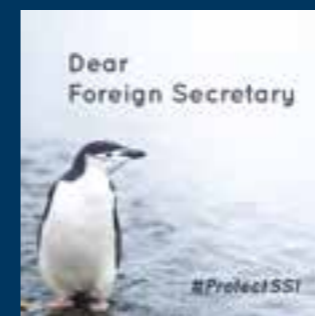
BLUE lodged a complaint with the European Commission and widely publicised the issue, getting the story published in the Times newspaper. In December 2018, the UK government announced that pulse fishing would be banned in UK waters post-Brexit. The fight to get pulse fishing banned in the rest of the EU will continue in 2019.



Facing page: Images from BLUE's #StopElectricFishing social media campaign. Images: Bloom. Top: An electric pulse trawler.

The Media Unit

On the back of the huge success of Blue Planet II, BLUE has launched a groundbreaking and innovative media unit to continue and accelerate campaigning and action for the oceans. The media unit will focus on quality content and social media to drive awareness and progress on the issues BLUE and our partners are addressing.



The Fisheries Bill

This is the first entirely new Fisheries Bill for the UK in over 100 years.

BLUE knew that a new Fisheries Bill would come with Brexit. Our task was to ensure that industry, fellow environmentalists, DEFRA and the devolved administrations approached this Bill with the common aim of trying to achieve best practice in fisheries management. BLUE organised a conference in 2017 to explain the various best-practice models globally - the US, Australia, Norway and New Zealand - and another conference on transition to an independent coastal state, in April 2018. With the publication of the Fisheries Bill in the autumn we realised we would need to improvise rapidly to improve the wording of a hurriedly-drafted Bill. This we did. Our experts gave evidence to MPs and government officials and sat, until 11 o'clock at night, in committees, trying to ensure that a less-than-perfect Bill delivers conservation. Among our objectives: to give devolved administrations a duty to co-operate properly and to ensure that UK fisheries are responsibly managed as a public asset.

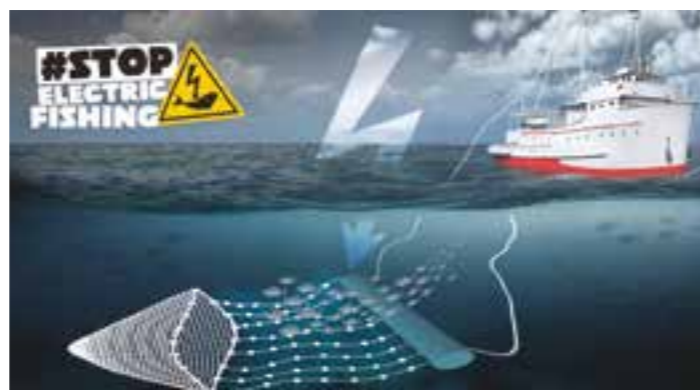


BLUE Head of Legal Affairs, Tom Appleby, gives evidence.

80 ELECTRIC FISHING PULSE FISHING VESSELS IN THE NORTH SEA

25% YOUNG COD KILLED OUTRIGHT

5 UK MPAS ELECTRIC FISHED



Aeolian Islands

Artisanal Aeolian fishermen are steadily running out of fish. The once bountiful seas around the Sicilian archipelago have been overfished by large, technologically advanced fishing boats with quota for pelagic fish like swordfish and bluefin tuna.

Local, small-scale fishermen are forced to fish closer to shore, catching lower-value fish on reefs and seagrass beds. Nets are often lost on the rocky seabed and are left to entangle sea life for years. The fishermen have co-existed with the sea for millennia; this dynamic is now changing. With that change, history, culture and community values are lost.

BLUE's mission in the Aeolians is to reverse this change through the establishment of an effective marine protected area and a low-impact, sustainable local fishery. BLUE works closely with the Aeolian Island Preservation Fund, a local NGO, to achieve this. The Italian government has committed to creating the largest marine reserve in the country and research is underway to support the designation.

The success and efficacy of the Aeolian MPA is dependent on the buy-in from the Aeolian fishermen and island communities. With this in mind, BLUE is developing the Lyme Bay fisheries-conservation model to ensure the Aeolian MPA supports the fishermen and the fishermen support the MPA – marine conservation at its most efficient.

The fishermen of Stromboli and Salina Islands have signed up to responsible fishing 'codes of conduct', voluntarily reducing their gear and fishing pressure. BLUE is providing these fishermen with insulated fish boxes and ice machines to improve the quality and value of their catch. The ultimate goal is for

fishermen to be fishing less and making more money. Scientific studies on fish landings and seagrass beds compliment the project, providing baseline knowledge on the Aeolian marine environment, which will influence designation of the MPA and allow BLUE to document improvements in ocean health over time.

The future of Aeolian seas is in the hands of the people who know and rely on these waters the most: fishermen. With support from NGOs, scientists and the Italian government, the dynamic may revert to one where the ocean provides for those who care for it most.

Fisheries exchanges

The voluntary endeavour taken by Aeolian fishermen to fish more sustainably is setting a fine example, both locally and internationally. A BLUE small-scale fisheries exchange programme brought fishermen from three existing MPAs in Italy and from Lyme Bay in the UK to the Aeolians. Aeolian fishermen convinced the audience that adopting fishing 'codes of conduct' was essential to restore life in the sea. Their visiting Italian counterparts spoke of the remarkable recovery of fish stocks within well-managed MPAs in Italy. The argument was cemented by reports from Lyme Bay of long-term increases in fish populations and prices for traceable, sustainable seafood. The exchange of knowledge, experience and opinion resulted a small-scale fishing revolution, with visiting and Aeolian fishermen all asking to be part of the scheme.

5000 REUSABLE BLUE BAGS DISTRIBUTED AROUND THE ISLANDS

4000KG GHOST NET REMOVED

68 FISH BOXES TO IMPROVE CATCH QUALITY



BLUE's Ambitions in the Mediterranean Sea

A strong and growing volunteer network has been growing developing with over 200 volunteers having been involved in the project. Small-scale fisheries – with their low impact gear and strong community ties – dominate the Mediterranean landscape with over 80 per cent of the fishing fleet, yet accounting for only 24 per cent of fish caught. BLUE seeks to strengthen artisanal fishers by adapting the principles of the Lyme Bay model to Mediterranean circumstances.

We are scouring the Mediterranean for sites where artisanal fishers will benefit from co-managing marine protected areas and implementing the Lyme principles: reducing pressure, engaging local communities, supporting better marine management, coordinating knowledge sharing, and spreading stories of success. We have identified several such sites – such as in Greece, Cyprus and Turkey – and are establishing work relationships with like-minded organisations and individuals.

Our long term plan is to implement a locally-adapted model in each of these sites, resulting in a substantial cohort of each fishing community leading the way in sustainability and actively engaged in marine management; moreover, these local groups form a strong network of knowledge sharing and collaborative support across the Mediterranean.

Menorca

The Balearic Island of Menorca was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1993. The Biosphere is finally extending into the marine realm and BLUE is on the ground to ensure that it protects Menorca's diverse marine environment. Increasing pressure from unregulated fishing and tourism risk making existing and proposed marine protection ineffective; habitats such as seagrass beds, which are vital as juvenile fish nurseries – and trap 35 times more carbon than rainforests – are especially vulnerable.

BLUE teamed up with local NGO, the Menorca Preservation Fund and Sunseeker International, on a project to improve marine protection, restore vulnerable seagrass beds by establishing a network of 'eco-moorings', removing ghost fishing nets, monitoring illegal fishing and reducing pollution. BLUE has replaced all fish packaging on the island with biodegradable alternatives and ongoing work with local small-scale fishermen is reducing pressure on coastal fish stocks.

Facing page: 4000kg ghost net removed from the sea floor.

From top: Fishermen in Stromboli use insulated fish boxes to add value to sustainably caught fish. Woman-led fishing community in Turkey. Octopus dry in the Santorini sun but Greek waters are overfished and lack protection. BLUE teams up with Sunseeker and the Menorca Preservation Fund to protect Menorca's marine environment.

Maldives

Coral reefs are the most threatened ecosystem on this planet. The Maldives owes its entire existence to them, yet less than 0.1 per cent of the country's waters is protected.

The Maldives Resilient Reefs Project

After working in the Maldives for over two years with the national government and local communities, we have a strong appreciation of what is at stake.

BLUE wants to rebuild and protect climate resilient reefs teeming with fish. We aim to prove that marine protection can benefit nature, tourism and the Maldivian people.

Working from the top down...

In July, BLUE met with the Maldivian government to agree on new work activities. However, our plans changed when in November, unexpectedly, another party won the national election.

Quick off the mark, that same month, Charles, Viv and Shaha travelled to the capital to meet the newly elected Ministers and the previous President of the Maldives to discuss how BLUE could assist the new government to meet its international commitments.

Our meetings were a huge success and BLUE is supporting the Ministry of Environment to develop and implement their national strategy on marine protected areas, and working with the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture to manage the commercial grouper fishery.

And from the bottom up...

BLUE's work continues to thrive at the local level in Laamu Atoll where we are working with local fishermen, government, communities, schools and Six Senses Laamu to ensure we have their support for a fully protected marine reserve.



From top left: A Maldivian girl looks up after having seen a coral reef underwater for the very first time, BLUE supports the national educational programme 'Farukoe' to show every child in the Maldives a coral reef, a young Maldivian boy observing marine life amongst a healthy patch of seagrass, school girls holding the marine ID guides BLUE donated to schools in Laamu Atoll, Sha, Viv and Charles meet the Minister of Environment and Energy. Charles explains the crisis of overfishing to guests at Six Senses Laamu.



Education

In 2018, BLUE donated marine species identification books to all the schools in the Atoll, providing easy access to information to 2,400 students. Under a partnership with Ministry of Education's Farukoe (reef child) programme, we took 200 students snorkelling - a first for many.

What next?

The end of this year has been a great success for BLUE. The Laamu Atoll Council declared five new marine protected areas in the atoll. Two of these are the grouper spawning aggregation sites that BLUE identified last year and one of them is the largest green turtle nesting site in the country. BLUE will work to develop management plans for these areas in 2019.

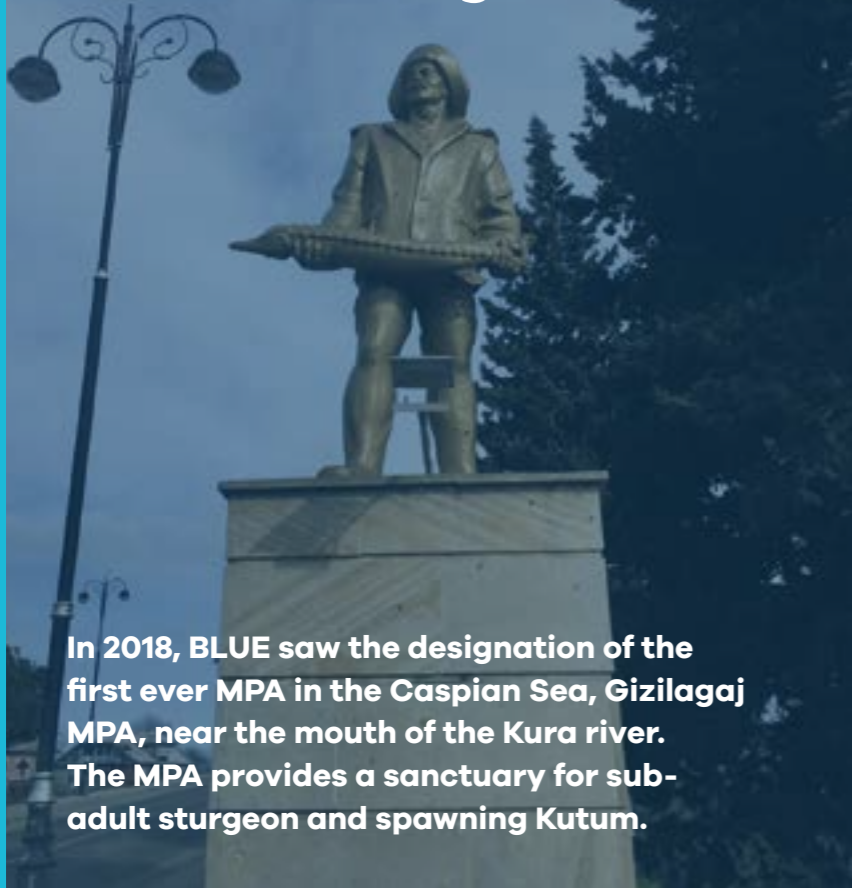


200 STUDENTS TAKEN SNORKELLING FOR THE FIRST TIME

5 NEW MPAS CREATED

12 SCHOOLS GIVEN GUIDES

Azerbaijan



In 2018, BLUE saw the designation of the first ever MPA in the Caspian Sea, Gizilagaj MPA, near the mouth of the Kura river. The MPA provides a sanctuary for sub-adult sturgeon and spawning Kutum.

From top left: Statue of an artisanal sturgeon fisherman at the gate of the first MPA in the Caspian Sea. Spawning grounds of Caspian kutum (whitefish) will be protected by the Gizilagaj MPA. Fingerling sturgeon. Rory Moore chairs a working group of marine conservationists in Baku, Azerbaijan.



1948: A conservationist stood at the banks of the Kura river and watched in awe as great schools of anadromous fish made their annual migration to spawning grounds in the oxygen rich, fast flowing mountain rivers of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. Giant Caspian salmon, lamprey and six species of endemic sturgeon instinctively followed the fresh snow-melt for hundreds of miles so that they could lay their eggs. We will never know if the conservationist foresaw that these were the last marches of the sturgeon and that their survival was in the balance with the onset of industrialisation in the Caspian basin.

Today, these fish are all critically endangered in the wild and will become extinct if conservation measures do not succeed. Hydroelectric dams

block migration, systematic poaching reduces stocks further, climate change alters river flow and pollution has disrupted the food chain.

BLUE is working with local NGO, IDEA, to tackle these problems by building a partnership between government, charities and local communities. BLUE is using innovative environmental DNA sampling to identify areas still frequented by endangered marine species.

A countrywide ban of gillnets has reduced poaching and accidental bycatch of migratory fish. As protection increases and habitats are restored, the balance may be tipping in favour of these prehistoric, nomadic fish.

85% STURGEON SPECIES CLASSIFIED AS CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

370 KM² MPA, THE FIRST IN THE CASPIAN SEA

47 SPECIES OF FISH IN THE MPA

Patagonia

BLUE is gathering evidence to justify the designation of a vast marine protected area in the Gulf of Peñas in Patagonia, one of the last great coastal refuges in the world and a feeding ground for some of the rarest baleen whales in the Pacific Ocean.

A mass mortality event of over 200 Sei whales in Patagonia in 2016 first drew our attention to the area. Research suggests that this was caused by toxic blooms of red algae, and may well be exacerbated by the threat of intensive, poorly-regulated salmon farming, which floods the fjords with antibiotics and algae-promoting fish waste. Then in December 2018, BLUE researchers observed a juvenile Blue whale in the gulf, confirming suspicions that the area is home to the largest animal on the planet. Acoustic hydrophone recordings also point to the presence of Southern right and Humpback whales.

BLUE believes that the whales and the threats they are facing strengthen the case for protection of the area, but what is needed is co-ordination of local and international NGOs to form a Patagonian MPA working group. The proposed group will press for a number of strategic MPAs along the Pacific Chilean coast, the Gulf of Peñas being the largest.

A vast MPA in the Gulf of Peñas would not only protect the great whales and their habitat but ensure that coastal fishing communities thrive, and destructive, unsustainable salmon farming is regulated.



Clockwise from top: Research vessel 'Saoirse' searches for whales in a glacial fjord. A 22 metre subadult Blue whale surfaces for air. The BLUE project team prepares for DNA sampling. The Gulf is one of the last great remote coastal refuges for feeding whales. Researchers document a giant Sei whale skeleton - one of 200 discovered in the gulf. All photos and back page by Will Darwin.



950 GRAMS OF ANTIBIOTICS USED TO RAISE ONE TON OF FARMED CHILEAN SALMON

BAN ON JAPAN SELLING SEI WHALE MEAT

200 SEI WHALES BEACHED IN 2016

Protecting the High Seas

BLUE's mission is to see 30 per cent of the world's ocean under protection by 2030 and the high seas, which make up 64 per cent of the ocean, are vital to achieving this goal.

The high seas, those parts of the ocean beyond national jurisdiction, make up nearly two thirds of the world's ocean. Yet less than one per cent of the high seas is properly protected. A patchwork of 21 separate organisations currently regulates different species, spaces and activities on the high seas, with varying degrees of effectiveness.

This regulatory patchwork requires underpinning by a legal instrument specifically designed to protect biodiversity, and independently assess the scientific need for protection.

The first stage of a two-year United Nations process to secure an international agreement to protect Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) began in September 2018 in New York.

It is BLUE's ambition to raise the political and public profile of these UN talks over the next two years. We will develop a coalition of leading businesses from the food, retail and maritime sectors to join us in urging the UK government to take a global leadership role in ocean diplomacy to push for an ambitious high seas deal.

Dan Crockett and Adrian Gahan from BLUE attended the UN conference as members of the High Seas Alliance, an international coalition of NGOs campaigning to secure a comprehensive UN agreement.

BLUE believes that this UN high seas process can create a rare opportunity for Britain to position itself as a leading player in global ocean conservation.

The UK government was the first G7 country to commit, in September 2018, to protecting 30 per cent of its waters by 2030. BLUE intends to work with the UK government, private sector and our civil society partners to embed this ambition across UK government and use it as a catalyst for leadership in the UN high seas process.

BLUE has embarked on a two-year campaign to articulate a vision, raise awareness and ultimately encourage leadership in high seas conservation. As members of the High Seas Alliance we are seeking a global, legally-binding treaty to protect high seas biodiversity.

45% OF EARTH'S SURFACE

90% OF HUMAN-CREATED
HEAT ABSORBED

26% OF CO₂
ABSORBED²

Education

BLUE's goal is to inspire and educate young people about marine conservation locally and internationally, equipping them with knowledge to tackle the problems facing our oceans.

In 2018, BLUE maintained its education outreach programmes, formed new school partnerships and developed initiatives and educational materials for the UK Overseas Territories and the Maldives.

School partnerships

BLUE was chosen by Orchard House School as its charity of the year in Chiswick, London. The children worked hard to raise over £10,000 through activities and events. In the summer, these students visited our Solent Oyster Restoration Project in the River Hamble.

BLUE was also selected as the annual Charity by Garden House School in Chelsea, London, where we enjoyed explaining our work at school assemblies. These young conservationists are brilliantly knowledgeable about the issues facing our oceans and BLUE staff left feeling buoyed up by their enthusiasm.

Lyme Bay outreach

In Lyme Bay, fishermen deliver interactive presentations to local students, sharing their own experiences and explaining why sustainable fishing works. The children love having talks from real fishermen and being introduced to Larry the Lobster.

BLUE makerzine

In partnership with Planetari, founded by BLUE Ambassador Cindy Forde, BLUE has created an educational 'makerzine'. With pop-up sections and lots of interaction, the makerzine is a fun way of exploring the ocean – the creatures, the geography, the science and the threats. By using illustrated examples from BLUE's project sites, we enable children to visualise ocean conservation from anywhere in the world. Copies of the makerzine will be distributed to our partnering schools in London, Ascension Island, St. Helena and the Maldives.

Snorkelling initiative, Maldives

In 2018, BLUE staff taught over 200 Maldivian children how to snorkel and identify species they saw along the way. For many children, this was their first time looking underwater. They were amazed by what they saw and much more receptive to learning about plastic pollution and coral bleaching.



Top from left: Gavin Ziemann displaying an example of marine litter to a classroom. Jacob Kean Hammerson teaches pupils about oyster restoration. Pupils from Two Boats School learning about the coastline of Ascension Island.



HOW WE DO IT

We are a small, focused team with huge ambitions. We are pragmatic conservationists. We do not take no for an answer. We engage with UK and international governments and organisations. We work with local communities to establish conservation projects. We build partnerships, often with unlikely allies, to achieve improbable outcomes.



**£1 MILLION
RAISED FOR
OCEAN CONSERVATION
OVER THREE YEARS**



**10,000 M
ELEVATION**

**270 RIDERS
FROM 13 COUNTRIES
OVER THREE YEARS**

(UK, IRELAND, MONACO, ITALY, SPAIN, GERMANY, RUSSIA,
HOLLAND, FRANCE, ITALY, NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA AND US)



**£460,000
RAISED**



LONDON 2 MONACO



**53 PUNCTURES
1800 CUPS OF COFFEE
3 X 200 KM DAYS**

"Oceans are more than ever at the heart of our common future. The London to Monaco cycle ride is a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness on the necessity to protect our fragile oceans."

H.S.H. PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO



**120 RIDERS
7 DAYS
8 COUNTRIES**



Riding the waves

BLUE launched the third London to Monaco cycle ride this September raising an impressive £260,000 exceeding its target again of £250,000. A Blue Marine Yacht Club member made an additional generous donation of £200,000 to go towards the projects London to Monaco 2018 supported.

In three years, a total of 270 passionate, determined and steadfast ocean cycling warriors and event sponsors have helped raise nearly £1 million for marine conservation projects around the world resulting in huge conservation gains in areas BLUE is working.

This year's funds will support four of BLUE's projects: Ascension, St Helena, Mediterranean roll-out and Lyme Bay.

The BLUE team took to the pedals again in 2018 including: Dan Crockett, Vivienne Evans, Adrian Gahan, Jacob Kean Hammerson, Lynne Medlock, Morven Robertson, SJ Skinner and Catherine Whitley.

THE 2018 RIDE



- Day 1:** London – Dover (134km / 84 miles)
- Day 2:** Dunkirk – Roubaix (120km / 75 miles)
- Day 3:** Mondorf – Strasbourg (189km / 118 miles)
- Day 4:** Strasbourg – Basel (139km / 86 miles)
- Day 5:** Martigny – Ivrea (170km / 106 Miles)
- Day 6:** Ivrea – Albenga (185km / 115 miles)
- Day 7:** Albenga – Monaco (96km / 60 miles)

“Artemis is delighted to support the Blue Marine Foundation and L2M. We all know the issues we face in our oceans. We are inspired and encouraged by the action that BLUE takes to help arrest or reverse the damage that’s been done and applaud the part they are playing in protecting our oceans and seas.”

CAROLINE O'DONNELL, ARTEMIS INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

“I’ve already signed up to do the L2M ride (for the 4th year in a row!) because the money we raise helps BLUE in highly practical and effective ways. But there’s more to it than that. I’m committed to be part of the L2M’s ongoing success because I want to show my young son how anything is possible when we take action and pull together to tackle big challenges.”

BILL SPRINGER JOURNALIST
(FORBES, OCEAN HOME AND YACHTING MAGAZINES)



London to Monaco 2018 Sponsors and Partners
A special thank you to L2M’s founding partner:

WINCH DESIGN

“Icon Connect are proud to have supported Blue Marine since the beginning of this epic journey and applaud the tangible results of their many marine conservation projects. We can’t wait to hear the plans for 2019 and remain committed to supporting L2M”

GLYN HUTCHINSON, ICON CONNECT

“We are proud to support Blue Marine Foundation again this year on their challenging London to Monaco cycling tour and especially their efforts in protecting the ocean.”

TIMO HOLTHOFF, MANAGING DIRECTOR, TAI PING



Special mention for their support:

- Automobile Club De Monaco
- Damien Crean and Terry Torrison, COCC
- Rawlinson & Hunter
- Looping Events
- X Race adventure
- UB-Cool
- exSite Communications
- Billy Springer

Plans for 2019 are already well underway including a new route, more incredible mountains to climb and additional exciting perks for our riders and sponsors. Watch this space!

www.london-monaco.cc

Blue Marine Yacht Club

THE OCEAN'S FAVOURITE CLUB



It is through strong institutional partnerships, such as the one between my foundation and the Blue Marine Foundation that we can fight against climate change and manage our natural resources responsibly."

H.S.H. PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO,
BMYC FOUNDING PATRON



Above: Prince Albert II of Monaco welcomes the riders to the Palace. Below left: Peter Lürssen.

On board

On the final eve of our third London to Monaco cycle ride, BLUE hosted its bi-annual Blue Marine Yacht Club member's event at the Monaco Yacht Club. The event was kindly sponsored by BLUE's long-standing partner and BMYC member, Lürssen and the Club's founding patron, Prince Albert. The event took place on the pool deck of the Monaco Yacht Club providing a beautiful setting for members and guests to relax while learning how their support has benefited BLUE's projects and contributed to ocean protection on a global scale.

The Club

Launched in 2012 by H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, BLUE set up the charitable initiative, the BMYC, to unite the world's yachting communities in a clear mission to protect our ocean.

Yacht owners, shipyards, brokers, marinas and other members from within the superyacht industry are joining the BMYC at the client and corporate level to express their concern and desire to protect the ocean.

Members have supported the creation of some of the world's largest marine protected areas in the world.

BLUE takes a strategic and incisive approach to solving the crisis which allows its BMYC members to see tangible results from their donations. Members are offered the unique opportunity to visit BLUE's projects around the world and see first-hand the conservation benefits in areas their money has helped protect.

Throughout the year members receive a number of benefits and privileges including invitations to private dinners and BLUE's annual events, access to scientists, marine conservationists and leaders from both government and business and various special offers from BLUE's partners tailored specifically to BMYC members.

Members are able to showcase their commitment to ocean conservation by flying the exclusive BMYC burgee designed by Ralph Lauren and adhering to the BMYC Club Charter.



"My family's livelihood has been built around the oceans for generations. I can't think of anything more important than keeping them alive and beautiful for generations to come. I support BLUE because they are an effective, hardworking organisation who get the job done. The BMYC allows people with power and influence to use this collectively to reverse the ocean's crisis. I love being a member because it's the only yacht club that enables you to turn the tide!"

PETER LÜRSEN, CEO OF LÜRSEN YACHTS, 2 STAR BMYC MEMBER

"It makes complete sense to me to protect the things you love and enjoy. BLUE is making a real difference to the health of our oceans and life within it so it gives me great pleasure to be a long-standing member of the BMYC."

SIR CHARLES DUNSTONE, 1 STAR BMYC MEMBER

"I have been passionate about the sea since I was a child and that passion has never diminished. I am therefore delighted to be a long-term supporter of BLUE in their commendable endeavours to protect the world's oceans. We will continue to work with BLUE for many years to come as this is something which will impact us all if nothing is done."

ANDREW WINCH, FOUNDER AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR, WINCH DESIGN, 1 STAR BMYC MEMBER

"Benetti are delighted to continue and grow their commitment to the Blue Marine Foundation by being a member of the BMYC. The work BLUE does is essential to the preservation of the marine world, which we all depend upon for business and life. Benetti looks forward to introducing new ideas to help support their efforts ongoing"

TOBY WALKER, HEAD OF SALES, BENETTI, 1 STAR BMYC MEMBER

**Now is the time to join.
Help us turn the tide.**

For further information about membership please contact BLUE's Head of Partnerships, Sara-Jane Skinner:

**sarajane@bluemarinefoundation.com
or +44 (0) 207 845 5850**

Members

LÜRSEN

Benetti
ITALIAN EXCELLENCE SINCE 1873

BOAT
International Media

PRINCE ALBERT II
OF MONACO
FOUNDATION

WINCH DESIGN

fb fondation
bertarelli

Corporate partners

At the 2018 Our Ocean conference in Bali, BLUE co-founder Chris Gorell Barnes was encouraged to see and hear from so many major businesses tackling the crisis in our ocean. As John Kerry said to open the conference: "We have 12 years to save the world. We don't need more science; we have to act now and fast to save the ocean. It always looks impossible until it's done, let's get it done." BLUE's corporate partners have been instrumental in "getting it done" during 2018. The power of corporates to make a difference to the future of the ocean has never been more important or pressing. Of particular note in 2018 were:



Long-term supporter of BLUE and BMYC member, Lürssen, exceeded every expectation this year. As well as Lürssen paying for BLUE's marketing and communications as they have done for years, Peter Lürssen made a substantial personal donation to support BLUE's London to Monaco projects. All of the team at BLUE would like to thank Lürssen for their generous and visionary support.



New corporate partner DP World has supported BLUE's high seas work for the next two years. BLUE aims to put 30 per cent of ocean under protection by 2030 and the high seas are vital to achieving this long-term goal. BLUE is delighted to be working with DP World on a major campaign to encourage a successful result in the BBNJ (biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction) treaty negotiations. Mohammad Al Hashimy, Deputy Group General Counsel & Company Secretary at DP World, said: "We are really excited to support Blue Marine Foundation in their campaign to protect the high seas. DP World is committed to a sustainable ocean and recognises the importance of this vast common resource for a healthy planet."



Sunseeker International joined BLUE as a major corporate partner to work together on Project Menorca. This major project aims to support BLUE's vision for a healthy Mediterranean with a number of initiatives, including removal of ghost nets, a new patrol boat for MPA enforcement, protection of seagrass beds and the installation of eco moorings. Sunseeker also created an extraordinary exhibition to illustrate the partnership at Southampton Boat Show.

Below from left: Dan Crockett with Julian Dunkerton, Steve Edge, Charles Clover sporting a Reef Knots tie. Facing page: BLUE team at NEX Giving Day and BLUE ambassador Simon Le Bon.



BLUE took part in the NEX giving day, represented by our wonderful ambassador Simon Le Bon. A deserving group of charities presented competitively to win a grand prize for their respective causes. Beth Taylor took to the stage with Simon Le Bon and spoke about the importance of St Helena's marine environment. At the end of the evening, NEX CEO and BLUE supporter Michael Spencer revealed the winner as... everyone. This meant all charities received £150,000. The incredibly generous prize will support a range of initiatives on St Helena.

BLUE would like to welcome Imperial Yachts and Bluegame as new corporate partners. BLUE would also like to thank James Hopkins of Hopkins Homes for his donation to London to Monaco.

Two long-standing corporate partners continue to improve our sartorial elegance and raise donations: Frangipani released another shirt and Reef Knots another tie in support of BLUE. Donations in kind continue to be of huge assistance to BLUE. For instance, MDL Marinas continue to provide the infrastructure from which BLUE can

restore oysters to the Solent, BOAT International provide invaluable media support and Climpson & Sons provide incredibly generous support to London to Monaco. Ascension Island's walkways have been transformed thanks to Accsys Wood.

BLUE would like to thank trustee Sofia Blount and ambassador James Blunt for hosting our 2018 corporate partners dinner at their wonderful pub, The Fox and Pheasant. Team members Viv and Morven presented about their respective projects, much fine wine was consumed and corporate partners old and new gathered to discuss BLUE's momentum.

Last but not least, BLUE would like to thank each of our pro-bono partners for their enduring and vital support. BLUE's work is helped enormously by the pro-bono commitment of Latham & Watkins, White & Case, Rawlinson & Hunter, Steve Edge Design and Freuds.

BLUE is actively seeking new corporate partners, please contact BLUE's Head of Development, Dan Crockett, dan@bluemarinefoundation.com or +44 781 235 4122.



Blue team and trustees

Charles Clover, Executive Director
Clare Brook, CEO
Tim Glover, UK Projects Director
Adrian Gahan, Director of Policy
Dan Crockett, Head of Development
Sara-Jane Skinner, Head of Partnerships
Lynne Medlock, Financial Controller
Poppy Wetherill, Head of Operations
Jess Rattle, Comms and Marketing Manager
Ian Hendy, Head of Conservation
Rory Moore, Senior Projects Manager, International
Morven Robertson, Senior Projects Manager, UK
Viv Evans, Projects Manager, Maldives
Jacob Kean Hammerson, Solent Project Coordinator
Catherine Whitley, UK Researcher

Project Coordinators/Consultants

Giulia Bernardi
Shaha Hashim
Ran Levy
Sophie Locke
Leigh Morris
Sarah Russell
Beth Taylor
Matt Uttley
Mandy Wolfe
Andrew Woods

"It's impossible to imagine a more brilliant, dedicated, hard-working bunch than the BLUE team. So much of BLUE's success is down to these ocean-loving workaholics. Luckily they seem to enjoy what they do because they never stop!"

CLARE BROOK, CEO

"It's my dream job, combining finance experience with passion for the oceans and the life it supports. To witness the dedication, inspiration, energy and passion that every team member gives to help BLUE achieve big impacts is really special."

LYNNE MEDLOCK, FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Board of Trustees

Dr Tom Appleby
Sofia Blount
Dr Arlo Brady
Craig Davies
Lord Deben
George Duffield, co-founder
Chris Gorell Barnes, co-founder
Professor Callum Roberts
Mark Rose

"No two days at BLUE are the same. One day I'll be discussing marine parks at Westminster and the next I'll be dressed as a penguin, interviewing Simon Le Bon about whale sharks. I'm amazed by how much the team is able to achieve, and I'm proud to be a part of it!"

JESS RATTLE, HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS

"I absolutely love being a Trustee of BLUE. The team work so hard and achieve so much, all with a smile on their faces. Most importantly though, we are working to protect our children's futures and that makes me even prouder of the impact BLUE has made to date."

SOFIA BLOUNT, TRUSTEE

"The ocean has always been a magical and captivating part of my life, so to make a significant difference is extremely fulfilling for me. Particularly when achieving marine conservation success when working for BLUE."

IAN HENDY, HEAD OF CONSERVATION

"There was a lot to be proud of this year: our wonderful team, our growing influence, our work with great partners and solid conservation successes nobody can take away from us, at home and abroad."

CHARLES CLOVER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BLUE would like to thank every single one of our supporters, no matter how big or small. Your support makes our vital mission possible. Thank you to every individual donor, trust, foundation, corporate partner, BMYC member, Join BLUE member, ambassador, pro bono supporter and volunteer.

Special thanks goes to: Peter Lürssen for his trail-blazing support, Julian Dunkerton for helping BLUE transform the future of UK fishing, Rolly and Françoise Van Rappard for helping BLUE protect Ascension and St Helena and for their visionary establishment of BLUE's media unit, Michael Spencer for his generosity and Merrill Eliza Fitzgibbons. We are so grateful to Zara and Mike Tindall for launching London to Monaco and to Prince Albert of Monaco for welcoming the ride at his palace for the third time. Huge thanks to Simon Le Bon for donating so much of his time to BLUE throughout the year. Special mention must also be made to corporate partners DP World and NEX for their commitment to major BLUE projects. Thanks also to Tudor Evans, OBE, for supporting BLUE's marine parks conference.

THANK YOU

TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS

Adessium Foundation
Artemis Foundation
Brook Foundation
Don Quixote Foundation
Dulverton Trust
Fishmongers' Company
Garfield Weston
Golden Bottle Trust
Hoare Trust
Ian Fleming Foundation
John Ellerman Foundation
Lloyds Register Foundation
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Ruth Smart Foundation
Sackler Trust
Switzerland for the Ocean
Utley Foundation
Whitley Animal Protection Trust

MAJOR DONORS

Julian Dunkerton
Peter Lürssen
Françoise and Rolly Van Rappard
Michael Spencer

BMYC MEMBERS

Prince Albert II of Monaco
Benetti
Bertarelli Foundation
Sir Charles Dunstone
Peter Lürssen
Andrew and Jane Winch
Merrill Eliza Fitzgibbons
Simon and Yasmin Le Bon
Matthew Freud

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Gary Wright

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Roger Ames
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Rob Button
Alex Crombie
Studio Delta
Benjamin Dives
Dame Vivien Duffield
Roaming Expert
Regina George
Mike Hall
Peter Hall
SF Marina
Mike Sharp
Peter Whale

SCHOOLS

Garden House School
Orchard House School

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Accsys
Amels
Bloomberg
Bluegame
Boat International
DP World
Frangipani
Imperial Yachts
Kenzo
Lürssen
Marks & Spencer
MDL Marinas
NEX
Reef Knots
Six Senses
Sunseeker
Winch Design

AMBASSADORS

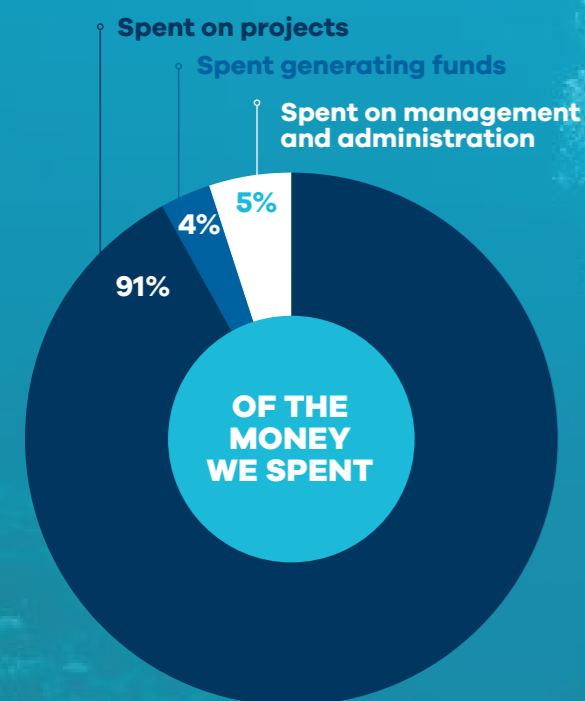
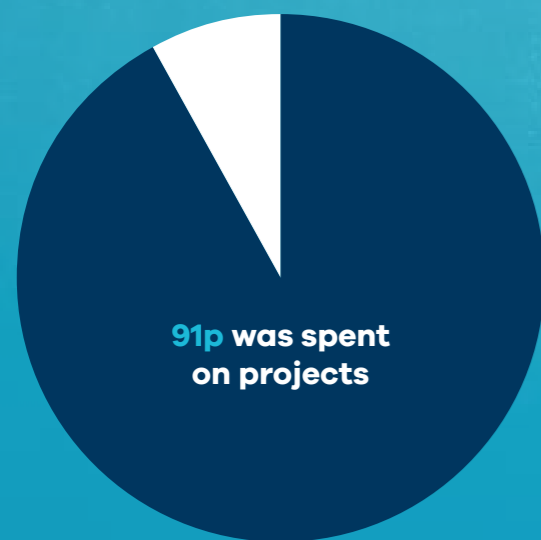
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Rupert Murray
Amber Nuttall
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Jonathon Porritt
Sir Stuart Rose
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Damian Crean
Freuds
Steve Edge Design
Shaun Roster
Terry Torrison
Vanessa Turco
Latham & Watkins
White & Case
Andrew Woods

Financial Overview*

Of every pound BLUE spent...



'Free' reserves as at 31 March 2018



Funds distributed

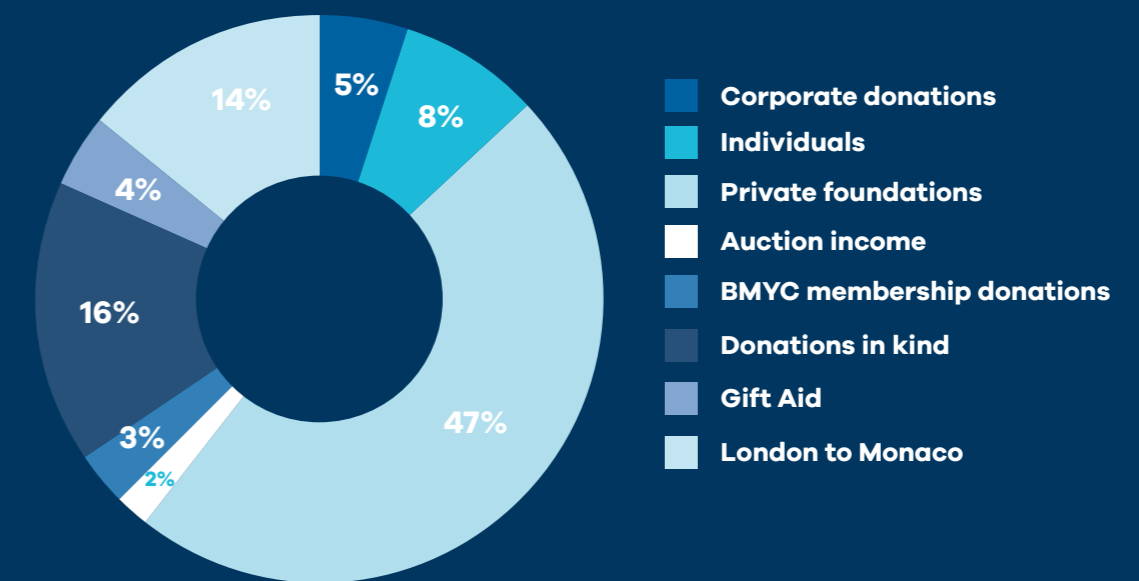


*All figures based on audited accounts to year-end 31 March 2018.

For every £1 BLUE spent generating funds, we secured £25 of funding



Sources of income



BLUE size

Total square feet of office:

673

Total number of team members:

16

Total square kilometres of ocean that BLUE has helped to protect:

4 million

HOW WE PRINTED THIS

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**BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION**



Communications kindly sponsored by

LÜRSEN

For more information please contact: info@bluemarinefoundation.com
Registered Office: **South Building, Somerset House, Strand, London, WC2R 1LR**

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