

Motion for the Ocean

OCEAN RECOVERY DECLARATION



Dr Pamela Buchan, Emily Cunningham, Nicola Bridge



#Motion4TheOcean

A local government model motion that brings together

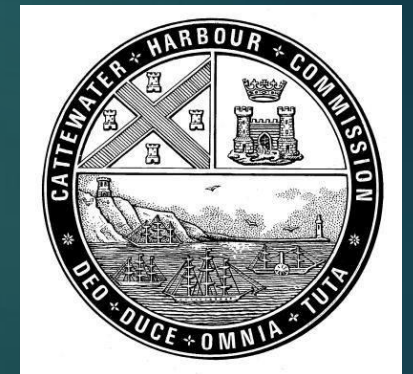
- ▶ Coastal communities
- ▶ Local government leadership
- ▶ Planning and decision-making
- ▶ And grows ocean literacy and marine citizenship.

About me

- ▶ Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Exeter
- ▶ Research Associate, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership
- ▶ Marine social science research consultant
- ▶ PhD in Marine Citizenship, Exeter University
- ▶ Vice Chair, Devon & Severn IFCA
- ▶ Cattewater Harbour Commissioner (duty holder)
- ▶ Plymouth City Councillor 2018-2022
 - ▶ Represented a coastal ward
 - ▶ Coastal partnership TECF
 - ▶ Regional Flood and Coast Committee
 - ▶ National Marine Park



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The model motion co-authors



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Rationale

- ▶ The ocean is integral in climate regulation.
- ▶ But has been missing from climate conversations.
- ▶ The Ocean is a common good and all people are its stakeholders.
- ▶ Local government is as an important actor in marine policy.
- ▶ The ocean can be a gateway for environmental citizenship.
- ▶ Communities and councils can put pressure on national government.

The Ocean Literacy Principles

- ▶ Earth has one Ocean with many features.
- ▶ The Ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of earth.
- ▶ The Ocean is a major influence on weather and climate.
- ▶ The Ocean makes earth habitable.
- ▶ The Ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.
- ▶ The Ocean and humans are inextricably linked.
- ▶ The Ocean is largely unexplored.



Evidence-based



- ▶ 1) Marine citizenship is a political act.
- ▶ 2) Marine citizenship includes a right to participate in the transformation of the human-ocean relationship.
- ▶ 3) Marine citizens view local decision-making processes more positively.
- ▶ 4) Marine citizenship develops from marine place attachment and marine dependency, which come from positive marine experiences.
- ▶ 5) Knowledge is a tool that supports effective marine citizenship (ocean literacy and civic/political literacy).

Marine citizenship is exercising the right to participate in the transformation of the human-ocean relationship.

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1. **Report to Full Council** within [6-12] months of the start of the projects that will begin an ocean recovery in [authority area]. **Accountable**
2. **Embed ocean recovery in all strategic decisions, budgets, procurement and approaches to decisions by the Council** (particularly in planning, regeneration, skills and economic policy), aligning with climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. **Embedded**
3. **Ensure that local planning supports ocean recovery**, working closely with the Marine Management Organisation to embed strong links between the Local Plan and the [area] Marine Plan to support ocean recovery. **Planning**
4. [For English councils:] Ensure that the **Local Nature Recovery Strategy** supports ocean recovery.
5. **Work with partners locally and nationally** to deliver increased sustainability in local marine industries and develop a sustainable and equitable blue economy, supporting local jobs and local prosperity, including the local fishing industry and the vital work of [local] NGOs. **Partnerships**
6. **Grow ocean literacy and marine citizenship** in the [authority area], including given the opportunity to have a **first-hand experience of the ocean** being visited, and striving to include home-schooled children - and promote sustainable and equitable access to the ocean through physical and digital experiences for all residents. **Communities**
7. **Create an online portal** of the Council website, detailing progress, signpost to ocean literacy development opportunities, and [authority area] progress. **Digital**

Evidence-based



UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH

- ▶ Feb 2020 – Plymouth University marine scientists called on government to:
 - ▶ Enable the **repair and renewal of marine habitats** rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.
 - ▶ **Unite conservation policy and fisheries management** as the two are critically dependent on each other rather than competing interests.
 - ▶ Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits from ocean protection in a format that leaves in no doubt **the links between ocean protection and human lives and livelihoods**.
 - ▶ Develop a smarter approach to **managing the health of the entire ocean** that moves beyond MPAs and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.
- ▶ <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/news/scientists-call-on-government-to-increase-uks-ambition-to-save-our-ocean>

8. Write to the Government to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 by

- a) Ensuring **Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities** have the resources they need to effectively research and monitor our growing number of marine protected areas and enforce appropriate fishing levels that support local economies and deliver environmental sustainability.
- b) **Work with coastal communities to co-develop marine policy** to ensure it delivers equitable and sustainable outcomes in local placemaking.
- c) Appoint a dedicated **Minister for Coastal Communities**.
- d) **Stop plastic pollution at source by strengthening the regulations** around single-use plastics and set standards for microfibre-catching filters to ensure that all new domestic and commercial washing machines are fitted with a filter that captures microfibres produced in the wash cycle.
- e) And by listening to marine and social scientific advice to update the Marine Policy Statement and produce a **national Ocean Recovery Strategy** which will:
 - i. Enable the **recovery of marine ecosystems** rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.
 - ii. Consider levelling up, marine conservation, energy, industrial growth, flood management, climate adaptation and fisheries **policy holistically** rather than competing interests.
 - iii. Develop a smarter approach to managing the **health of the entire ocean**, Marine Protected Areas and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.
 - iv. Establish improved processes for understanding the **benefits of ocean recovery**, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods, and wellbeing.

Inshore fisheries

Coastal communities

Plastic pollution

Respond to natural and social science

The first Ocean Recovery Declaration

MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council



Ocean Recovery Declaration – ‘Motion for the Ocean’

Plymouth City Council is leading the way in connecting people to the ocean through the development of the UK's first National Marine Park, in Plymouth Sound, champions of sustainable fishing industry and advocates for good marine management. In 2019 we unanimously declared a climate emergency. This Council recognises the role of the ocean in climate regulation.

2021 is the first year of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The UK has just hosted COP26 in Glasgow and in the summer the G7 came to Cornwall. The UK Government has publicly declared its ambition to be a global leader in marine conservation. All eyes are on the ocean.

There is national and global recognition that the world ocean is in crisis. The impact of the climate crisis on the ocean is profound, including in our local waters. Raised atmospheric carbon dissolves in the seawater and causes ocean acidification, dissolving the shells, reefs and other hard parts of marine animals. The heating of the climate causes ocean heating too, which makes some parts of the ocean intolerable for life and is changing what lives and is caught locally. It also increases the volume of the ocean, causing sea level rise, added to by ice melt at the poles. Thanks to a more turbulent climate, increased storminess and sea level rise is a serious threat to all coastal communities, economies and infrastructure in the world, including Plymouth. Marine microplastics have been found in all marine environments and in the bodies of many species, including humans. Fish stocks collapse from permitted and illegal overfishing. Poor water quality impacts seafood and prevents safe bathing.

And yet the ocean is a place of incredible importance for people, providing food, energy, connections from one nation to another, and regulating the climate system which is so threatened by human activity. We must play our part in securing the sustainability and health of the ocean.

Plymouth Sound is at the heart of our economy, and the health, wellbeing and prosperity of our community. Urgent action is needed to recover the health of our ocean to enable it to deliver the full range of benefits, including capturing and storing carbon through coastal salt marshes and seagrass beds, regulating our climate, supporting a sustainable and equitable blue economy, with equitable access to clean, safe recreation and nature experience for happy, healthy communities. Action is needed at all levels, from national and local government, down to individuals developing their ocean literacy (understanding of the relationship between people and the ocean), and individual and collective marine citizenship (promoting and demanding a relationship with the ocean that is healthy for people and nature).

This Council declares an urgent need for Ocean Recovery.

We recognise that we need ocean recovery to meet our net zero carbon targets, and we need net zero carbon to recover our ocean.

This Council pledges to:

1. The Leader to report to Full Council, in line with the development of the National Marine Park, on the actions and projects that will continue and improve ocean recovery in Plymouth Sound.
2. Consider the impact on ocean recovery in all strategic decisions, budgets, and approaches to decisions by the Council (particularly in planning, regeneration, skills and economic policy), aligning ocean recovery with climate emergency plans.
3. Ensure that the Local Plan supports ocean recovery as part of the National Marine Park planning considerations, and through the existing TECF partnership.



4. Work with partners locally and nationally to deliver increased sustainability in local marine industries, and invest in the development of a sustainable and equitable blue economy, including the local fishing industry and the vital work of Devon & Severn IFCA.
5. Grow ocean literacy and marine citizenship in the city, including ensuring all pupils have a first-hand experience of the ocean before leaving primary school, and promote sustainable and equitable access to the ocean through physical and digital experiences, ensuring these are key outcomes in the development of the NMP.
6. Create an online portal of the Council website to update on ocean recovery progress, signpost to ocean literacy development opportunities, and marine citizenship pledges.
7. The Leader to write to the Prime Minister to call on the Government to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 by:
 - a. Ensuring Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities have the resources they need to effectively research and monitor our growing number of marine protected areas, and to set and enforce appropriate fishing levels that support local economies and deliver environmental sustainability.
 - b. Incorporating social scientific evidence and lived experience to improve community co-production of policy and develop more effective and equitable solutions.
 - c. And by listening to marine scientific advice to update the Marine Policy Statement and produce a national Ocean Recovery Strategy which will:
 - i. Enable the recovery of marine ecosystems rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.
 - ii. Consider levelling up, marine conservation, energy, industrial growth, flood and coastal erosion risk management, climate adaptation and fisheries policy holistically rather than as competing interests.
 - iii. Develop a smarter approach to managing the health of the entire ocean that moves beyond Marine Protected Areas and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.
 - iv. Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits from ocean management, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods and wellbeing.

Proposed by: Councillor Dr Pam Buchan

Signature: Approved by email

Seconded by: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE

Signature: Approved by email

Declarations to date

- ▶ Plymouth City Council – Nov 2021
- ▶ Falmouth Town Council – Jan 2022
- ▶ South Tyneside Council – Jan 2022
- ▶ North Norfolk District Council – Feb 2022
- ▶ North Devon Council – Feb 2022
- ▶ Monmouthshire County Council – Mar 2022
- ▶ Seaton with Slingley Parish Council - March 2022
- ▶ Seaham Town Council – March 2022
- ▶ Torridge District Council – April 2022
- ▶ Portsmouth City Council – May 2022
- ▶ Devon County Council – May 2022
- ▶ Blandford Forum Town Council – Jul 2022
- ▶ Teignbridge District Council – Jul 2022

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- ▶ 1,699,470 people and
 - ▶ 3,317 sq miles of land and coast
 - ▶ represented by councils which have declared

Next steps



- ▶ Continue research into marine citizenship – action research
- ▶ Engage with others – MMO, NE, IFCA, AIFCA, Surfers Against Sewage, Healthcare Ocean, marine sectors
- ▶ Improve website and information for audience (OCT/SIG)
- ▶ Create support pack
- ▶ Community of practice: <https://khub.net/group/motion-for-the-ocean/>
- ▶ Hold councils accountable – support citizens to do this

This Council declares an urgent need for Ocean Recovery.

Will your Council support the Motion for the Ocean?

<https://lgacoastalsig.com/motion-for-the-ocean/>

<https://oceanconservationtrust.org/project/the-motion-for-the-ocean/>

#Motion4TheOcean #OceanRecovery

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