



ECSA Newsletter, Summer/Autumn 2026 (No. 50)

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MESSAGES FROM ECSA / ECSA EVENTS

Less than 1 month left to apply to ECSA awards/grants

Two deadlines are approaching (end of October / start of November) to apply for awards/grants given by ECSA to **postgraduate or early career researchers who are also ECSA members**:

1) If you have a research publication that makes a major contribution to knowledge in estuarine science, technology or management, then you might want to **apply for the Peter Jones Memorial Award by 30 October 2026**.

This award is given annually by ECSA in honour of Peter Jones, a noted estuarine scientist and manager who played a major role in the recovery of the Mersey Estuary, had a long-standing association with ECSA and was a prime-mover in mentoring research students. The award consists of a cash prize of £500 and a certificate.

2) If you need financial support for your research activities, then you might want to **apply for a Small Grant from the Charles Boyden fund by 1 November 2026**.

This award is given by ECSA in honour of Charles Boyden, an excellent estuarine chemist who was a founder member of the Association and made great efforts to promote it internationally. Small Grants range from £150 to £500 and the number of awards given will depend on the funds available this year.

For further details on eligibility criteria and how to apply, see [The Peter Jones Memorial Award | ECSA \(Estuarine and Coastal Sciences Association\)](#) and [The Charles Boyden Fund for Small Grants | ECSA \(Estuarine and Coastal Sciences Association\)](#)

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ECSA Focus Meeting: Dublin, May 2027

For its annual Focus meeting in 2027 ECSA will be returning, for the first time in many years, to Ireland. The meeting will be held at **Trinity College Dublin on 17-20 May 2027**

The event will cover a wide range of topics covering the entire coastline and its estuaries. Given the location in Dublin, we are particularly keen on contributions that address the challenge of managing urban coasts while retaining a high degree of geomorphological and ecological integrity and resilience in the coastal system.

As is customary with Focus Meetings we will include contributions from government and regulators, academia, nature conservation bodies, tourism, special interest groups and local conservation bodies.

The programme will include a reception, field trip in and around Dublin Bay, plenty of opportunity for informal discussions, and optional conference dinner.

Planning is still at an early stage, but if you would like to be kept informed, please send an email to awith@noc.ac.uk in the first instance.

If you think you would like to offer a presentation or poster, please let us know at the above address. No obligation at this stage!

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OTHER FEATURES/EVENTS OF INTEREST

Celebrating Heriot-Watt Scientific Divers 60th Anniversary

Following up the presentation at the last ECSA Local Focus meeting at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh (May 2026) and the related article that will be published in the next [ECSA Bulletin](#) (Issue 128, 31 September 2026), further activities have been planned by the Heriot-Watt University Scientific Diving Team to celebrate their 60 years of activities and showcase the important work that has been undertaken.

This will include further presentations at the Orkney International Science Festival in early September 2026 (<https://oisf.org/>) and at an event at the main University Campus in Edinburgh ([Heriot-Watt Scientific Divers 60th Anniversary Celebration Tickets, Friday 25 September • 6 PM - 8:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)).

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UK Seagrass Symposium, October 2027



12–14 October 2027 | Corran Halls, Oban, Scotland

The UK Seagrass Symposium will return in 2027, bringing together scientists, restoration practitioners, policymakers, community leaders, investors and industry representatives in Oban, Scotland. Over three days, the programme will explore cutting-edge science, large-scale restoration, blue carbon markets, policy, innovation, finance, community stewardship and international collaboration. Together, these discussions will strengthen partnerships across the sector and support a lasting, resilient approach to seagrass restoration. The conference will also feature networking opportunities, social events and an exhibition showcasing relevant products, services, research and initiatives.

The theme of the 2027 symposium will be ‘building stronger roots’, with several delegates from international backgrounds showcasing their experiences. This presents an opportunity to learn from global restoration projects, build collaborative partnerships, and establish UK seagrass restoration as a connected, successful movement which reaches far beyond the UK.

The UK Seagrass Symposium is hosted by the [Scottish Association for Marine Science \(SAMS\)](#) and delivered in partnership with the [Ocean Conservation Trust](#) and [Project Seagrass](#).

Abstract submissions and conference registration will open shortly. For further information, please visit the event website: <https://ukseagrasssymposium.org/>

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Other Upcoming Events

BRIDGE Training Course, 21-24 September 2026 | Edgewater, Maryland USA

BRIDGE (Bioinvasion Research Integration across Dynamic Global Ecosystems) is a Marine Bioinvasions Network of Networks, funded by U.S. National Science Foundation AccelNet, hosted by the Smithsonian Institution. It has organised a training course on “**Detecting Invasion Patterns Resolving Marine Invasion Extent at Scale**”, to be held at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC), Edgewater, Maryland USA. The course is addressed to people actively working in marine invasions, including graduate students, post-docs, technicians, and scientists. Preference to members/participants of a BRIDGE collaborating network. Applications are due by **13th March 2026**. For more information and to apply, see [BRIDGE Training: Detecting Invasion Patterns, September 21-24, 2026, Edgewater, MD, USA \(Page 1 of 6\)](#)

BIICL Short Course: Law of the Sea, starts 28 September 2026 | Online

The British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) will once again be convening its flagship short course on the Law of the Sea. This popular course provides a practice-oriented introduction to the international law of the sea and the urgent challenges facing the world’s oceans and seas. Delivered by a mix of academic and practitioner experts, the course offers participants a practice-oriented introduction to the international law of the sea and the urgent challenges facing the world’s oceans and seas. For more information and to register, see [Short Course: Law of the Sea](#)

‘From Silos to Systems’ Conference, 20 October 2026 | London, UK

How do we move from fragmented, siloed working to more collaborative, joined-up, effective marine and coastal management? Sponsored by the Environment Agency, the aim of this conference is to explain relational frameworks in order to demonstrate their power in enabling collaboration and unlocking value to help drive solutions to solve our most pressing issues in the marine environment. The conference is being organised by the co-ordinators of the Relational Framework project. For more information and to register, see [From Silos to Systems — LB Ocean Consulting Ltd](#)

Marine Geo-resources Professional Masterclass, dates from October 2026 to April 2027 | London, UK

A globally unique, expert course and professional Certificate in it’s second year. Addressing geoskills associated with the exploration, assessment, development, extraction and management of marine sand and gravel resources. Our sponsor – The Crown Estate recognises the need for specific training which is primarily targeted at building capability and capacity within the marine dredging sector which is also directly applicable to allied sectors working within the marine environment. The bespoke training has been designed as a 7 day, face-to-face course, for both those in existing marine industry roles, as well as land-based geo- and environmental professionals who wish to broaden their knowledge and capabilities. For more information and to register, contact louise.wood@haskoning.com

Coastal Futures 2027, 27-28 January 2027 | London, UK and Online

Coastal Futures is the largest ocean conference of its kind in the UK and the 2027 edition will provide delegates with wide-ranging coverage of the critical current and future issues. Held at the Royal Geographical Society in London (and online), the conference provides unrivalled knowledge sharing, networking, promotion, and training opportunities. For more information and to apply, see [Coastal Futures 2027, Royal Geographical Society, London & Online — OCF - Ocean & Coastal Futures Ltd](#)

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FELLOWSHIPS/JOB POSITIONS/OPPORTUNITIES

Short contract opportunity: GAP analysis

The Irish Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) is offering a short 4-month post-doctoral (or equivalent experience) contract to conduct a desk-study of management measures needed to achieve GES in Ireland. DCEE intends the work to adopt a GAP analysis method (Bryhn et al., 2026) or further develop/change as appropriate. This method uses expert judgement to assess (1) the potential of each measure to achieve GES for a given Descriptor, and (2) the current effectiveness of each measure in achieving GES. In addition to Descriptor specific experts, collective intelligence will be harnessed to improve understanding of wider impacts, including climate impacts, cumulative effects and understanding of measures (see attached).

The salary is €17 504 for the 4 months and this desk study can be conducted remotely. This work might suit a researcher between contracts, or who might wish to combine with other duties.

If you would like to take up this offer, please contact Fiona Culhane <Fiona.Culhane@Marine.ie> **by Friday the 11th September**. If you require more information please contact Fiona Culhane <Fiona.Culhane@Marine.ie> or Maurice Clarke <Maurice.Clarke@Marine.ie>.

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Job Vacancies



Policy Officer (Bycatch Mitigation and Fisheries Management) | Falkland Islands Government

Location: Government House, Falkland Islands

Closing date for applications: **16 September 2026**

Contract details: Full Time, Fixed term up to 4 years (with possibility of extension)

[Link](#)



Partnership Project Officer – Marine | East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Location: Beverley, UK

Closing date for applications: **21 September 2026**

Contract details: Full Time, Fixed term

[Link](#)



Chief Executive Officer | Eastern IFCA

Location: Primarily King's Lynn, UK + home working and deployment within the district

Closing date for applications: **23 September 2026**

Contract details: Full Time, Permanent

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Website: <https://ecsa.international/>

ECSA is a registered charity (reg. no. 264006)

Compiled by: Anita Franco (anitafrancouk@gmail.com)

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