Marine Science Co-ordination Committee (MSCC)

UK Marine Science for Sustainable and Productive Seas: the road map summary

Road map overview

“Clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas” – The UK Marine Vision

Background

The Marine Science Co-ordination Committee (MSCC) is a governmental committee that was created in 2008 to deliver the UK Marine Science Strategy. However, over the last 10 years there has been a shift in societal, political and economic needs. This, along with recent marine strategies and reports (e.g. UK Industrial Strategy (2017), UK Research and Innovation’s Strategic Prospectus (2018), ‘Future of the Seas’ (2018), Maritime 2050 Strategy (2019) and the forthcoming International Ocean Strategy), has prompted the MSCC to refresh their direction and create nine high level priorities to achieve the UK Marine Vision.

Working Groups and Partnership Initiatives

The MSCC is represented by government departments, research organisations and industry who all have an interest in marine science. Some individuals are also MSCC subgroup Chairs, leading their groups to achieve the nine high level priorities:

Partnership Initiatives:

- Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN) – Priority 5
- Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP) – Priority 3
- UK Integrated Marine Observing Network (UK-IMON) – Priorities 5, 8
- Underwater Sound Forum – Priorities 2, 7

Working Groups:

- Communications Working Group – Priority 9
- International Working Group – Priority 4
- Marine Industries Group – Priorities 5, 6, 8
- Marine Assessment and Reporting Group – Priorities 1, 2, 7, 8
- Research Vessel Working Group – Priority 8
- Social Science Task Group – Priority 6

The MSCC ultimately has responsibility to deliver on these priorities. However, it is only through the continual dedication of these subgroups that these goals can be achieved.

High level priorities

1. Better understand the capacity of the marine ecosystem to supply ecosystem services, natural resources and societal and economic benefits now and into the future.
2. Better understand the structure, function, resilience and variability of marine ecosystems.
3. Better understand the impacts of climate change, including its multiple stressors and feedbacks, and the ocean's resistance and resilience to a changing climate.
4. Promote and represent UK marine science at international fora, strengthening existing and building new relationships with international partners including research organisations and infrastructure.
5. Better enable the efficient capture, storage, use and security of marine scientific data.
6. Better understand society's relationship with our oceans and seas.
7. Better understand cumulative and in-combination impacts on the capacity of marine systems to supply food, energy and mineral resources as well as mitigate against the risk and effects of natural hazards.
8. Support the long-term monitoring, observing and mapping of the marine environment and ocean systems.
9. Facilitate and communication of high quality, up-to-date marine science and evidence.

Contact – MSCC secretariat

For any information regarding the MSCC or the subgroups, in the first instance please contact the MSCC Secretariat, Abigail Marshall:

- Email abigail.marshall@noc.ac.uk
- More information on the MSCC webpage

Contact – subgroup webpages

- International Working Group: https://projects.noc.ac.uk/iwg
- MCCIP: http://www.mccip.org.uk
- MEDIN: https://www.medin.org.uk
- Underwater Sound Forum: https://projects.noc.ac.uk/usf
- UK-IMON: http://www.uk-imon.info