



INSITE

SIME
2025

Conference Programme

23rd – 24th June 2025 || Edinburgh and Online

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Day 1 – Morning

Join us on Day 1 (23rd June) to hear about research from a variety of subject areas centred around the Value of Marine Artificial Structures (MAS).

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| 9:00 – 9:30 | Arrival & Registration |
| 9:30 – 9:40 | Conference Opening by Dickon Howell
(Howell Marine Consulting / INSITE Programme Director) |
| 9:40 – 10:10 | Plenary talk by Katherine Crosman
(Social Scientist Researcher, SINTEF, Norway) |
| 10:10 – 11:00 | Talk Session 1: Social Attitudes to Marine Artificial Structures . Session Chair: Katherine Crosman (SINTEF) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Antony Firth (Historic England), <i>The Significance and Value of Historic Structures in the Marine Environment</i>.• Richard Stark (StarkCoast 3D, UK), <i>Why man-made structures on the UKCS are not reefs and how to change this</i>.• Frances Simmons (Atlantic58, Universities of Highlands and Islands, Outer Hebrides, UK), <i>EIA methodology for social attitudes and impacts in islands and rural coastal communities</i>.• Panel Q&A and Discussion |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Coffee, Networking & Posters |
| 11:30 – 12:15 | Talk Session 2 (special edition): Value of Marine Artificial Structures (ValMAS) and INSITE .
Session Chair: INSITE Science Advisory Group TBC <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nicola Beaumont (online) and Stephen Watson (Q&A) (Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK), <i>Introduction to the Value of Marine Artificial Structures (ValMAS) project</i>.• Henk van Rein (Howell Marine Consulting; INSITE Programme Impact Manager) <i>Insights into INSITE's Phase 3</i>.• Panel Q&A and Discussion |
| 12:15 – 13:15 | Lunch & Networking |

Day 1 – Afternoon

13:15–14:00

Talk Session 3: **Long-term effects of contaminants and breakdown materials from Marine Artificial Structures.** Session Chair: **INSITE Science Advisory Group (TBC)**

- **Sarah Gall** (University of Plymouth, UK) *INSITE Phase 2 – Plastics project Legacy subsea plastics from the oil and gas industry – Environmental risks of decommissioning in situ.*
- **Christoph Gade** (National Decommissioning Centre, Aberdeen, UK) *Cuttings Piles as Dynamic Geochemical Interfaces: Rethinking the Legacy of Offshore Drilling in the North Sea.*
- **Darren Koppel** (Australian Institute for Marine Science) and Tom Cresswell (Australia's Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation) in collaboration with the National Decommissioning Research Initiative (NDRI) *Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) and Mercury Risk Framework.*
- **Panel Q&A & Discussion**

14:00–15:00

Talk Session 4: **Estimating biomass associated with structures.** Session Chair: **INSITE Science Advisory Group (TBC)**

- **Debbie Russell** (Sea Mammal Research Unit, University of St Andrews, UK), *INSITE's Phase 2 – EcoSTAR project updates.*
- **Iratxe Menchaca** (AZTI, Spain) *Characterisation of biofouling on antifouling coatings in the marine environment.*
- **Joseph Marlow** (Scottish Association for Marine Science) *INSITE's Phase 2 – NS3D project updates.*
- **Joop Coolen** (Wageningen Marine Research, Netherlands) *Marine growth sampling tool evaluation.*
- **Panel Q&A and Discussion**

15:00 – 15:30

Coffee, Posters & Networking

15:30 – 16:45

Talk Session 5: **Monitoring, Evidence and Innovation surrounding Marine Artificial Structures and Decommissioning.** Session Chair: **Murray Roberts (University of Edinburgh, UK)**

- **Murray Roberts** (University of Edinburgh, UK) *A role for North Sea rigs in cold-water coral ecosystem resilience and restoration.*
- **Mariya Summerfield** (WSP, UK) *Biodiversity Monitoring of Marine Structures Using Real-Time AI: Innovation, Evidence and Engagement in Action.*
- **Kate Day** (GoBe Consultants, UK) *Partial removal of marine artificial structures: an ecological success or invasive species disaster?*
- **Silvana Birchenough** (ERM Ltd, UK) *New challenges ahead for sedimentary environments: considering the decommissioning of man-made structures.*
- **Jay Butler** (WSP, UK) *Empowering Communities, increasing biodiversity and growing the economy.*
- **Panel Q&A and Discussion**

16:35 – 16:45

Close by Dickon Howell

POLICY IMPACT

Day 2 – Morning

9:00 – 9:30	Arrival
9:30 – 9:40	Day 2 welcome by Dickon Howell, (Howell Marine Consulting; INSITE Programme Director)
9:40 – 10:00	Plenary talk from Steven Degraer (Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium)
10:10 – 11:15	<p>Talk Session 6: How can the ecological value of MAS be considered for biodiversity conservation?</p> <p>Session Chair: Georgina Roberts (Howell Marine Consulting, INSITE Programme team)</p> <p>This session explores how offshore structures can not only support but also enhance biodiversity. It considers the implications of biodiversity conservation for both industry and regulators, highlights innovative ways in which conservation efforts intersect with existing legislation, and examines emerging opportunities to manage Marine Artificial Structures (MAS) with biodiversity as a central focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stephen Duncombe-Smith (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, UK) <i>Offshore Nature Conservation in the UK</i>• Dickon Howell (Howell Marine Consulting, INSITE Programme Director) <i>Delivering nature positive operations offshore</i>• Eline van Onselen (The Rich North Sea, Netherlands) <i>Nature Inclusive Design applications</i>• Lea-Anne Henry (University of Edinburgh, UK) <i>Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)</i>• Panel Q&A and Discussion, including Jasmin Manning (Nature Scot)
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee, Posters & Networking

Day 2 – Afternoon

11:45 – 12:45 Talk Session 7: **How to Decommission MAS?**

Session Chair: **Henk van Rein** (Howell Marine Consulting; INSITE Programme Impact Manager)

This session delves into the decommissioning of marine artificial structures, drawing on international case examples to showcase diverse approaches and policy frameworks to decommissioning. Focusing on cost-effectiveness, environmental impact, and the regulatory system, it will explore lessons from decades of oil and gas decommissioning, offering valuable insights to inform future offshore wind decommissioning and support more sustainable ocean development.

- **Joe Leask** (BP), *Approaches to decommissioning*
- **Alastair Bisset** (North Sea Transition Authority, UK), *Cost-effective decommissioning*
- **Anne-Mette Jørgensen** (Independent consultant, Eco-Effective Strategies, Netherlands), *Offshore Wind Decommissioning*
- **Panel Q&A and Discussion**

12:45 – 13:00 Conference close by Dickon Howell (Howell Marine Consulting; INSITE Programme Director)

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch & Final Networking

14:00 – 16:00 Workshop (see next page)



DAY 2 - WORKSHOP

Desired Decommissioning Outcomes in the North Sea

Aim: Identify decommissioning outcomes for Marine Artificial Structures that are desirable for the environment, economy and society.

Approach:

1. Introduction and assign attendees a sector (govt, industry, academia, NGO)
2. Self-organise into three groups with equal representation across sectors: one for environment, economy and society.
3. Discuss and document decommissioning outcomes for each theme.
4. Summarise outcomes of each group for all involved.

Output: a list of preferred outcomes for decommissioning for environment, economy and society across 4 sectors (12 sets of outcomes). To be shared with attendees.