



**STRUCTURES IN THE
MARINE ENVIRONMENT
Conference Programme**

9-10 June 2026 | Newcastle | Copthorne Hotel

SIME 2026

Structures in the Marine Environment Conference

9 – 10 June 2026 | Newcastle

Day 1 – Tuesday, 9 June 2026

TIME	TALK / ITEM	SPEAKER
09:00 – 09:30	Arrival – tea, coffee & pastries	
09:30 – 09:40	Conference opening	Henk van Rein INSITE Programme Director Team
09:40 – 10:15	Keynote address Transition at sea, or transition in thinking?	Karen Alexander Heriot-Watt University

Session 1 · From Legacy to Future: Decommissioning and Expansion in a Nature-Positive Era

Chair: Dave Paterson, Member of the INSITE Scientific Advisory Group / University of St Andrews

10:15 – 10:25	What happens after oil and gas decommissioning? A global systematic review of marine environmental effects	Anaëlle Lemasson University of Plymouth
10:25 – 10:35	Suspension-feeder refiltration promotes coexistence among aquatic primary consumers	Tan Tjui Yeuw Wageningen University & Research
10:35 – 10:45	Back to the future: old production platform predicts trophic structure in offshore wind farms	Leandra Kornau Wageningen University & Research
10:45 – 10:55	From decommissioning to nature positive deployment	Jay Butler WSP
10:55 – 11:15	Panel Q&A (20 min)	

11:15 – 11:45 Coffee, posters & networking

Session 2 · From the Unseen to the Under-Studied: Risks and Opportunities of Lesser-Known Marine Artificial Structures

Chair: Georgina Roberts, INSITE Programme Director Team

11:45 – 11:55	CoRRODE – Coating and Residue Release from Offshore Degraded Equipment	Christoph Gade The University of Aberdeen
11:55 – 12:05	Long-term risks from offshore marine energy infrastructure end-of-life management	Joe Ferris ECAP Consultancy Group
12:05 – 12:15	REMARCO – tracing dumped munitions in the North Sea	Tülin Fidan German Maritime Museum
12:15 – 12:25	Panel Q&A (10 min)	

TIME	TALK / ITEM	SPEAKER
12:25 – 12:35	A unique offshore test case: ecological and acoustic insights from a meteorological mast removal	Tim Wilms Vattenfall
12:35 – 12:45	From under-studied asset protection to accountable nature-inclusive structures: evidence from the Plymouth reef mat study	Samuel Hickling ARC Marine
12:45 – 12:55	MOD wrecks: potentially polluting underwater eutopias	Harriet Rushton Ministry of Defence - Salvage & Marine Operations
12:55 – 13:05	New information on the extent, distribution and character of wrecks and other artificial structures in English marine plan areas	Antony Firth Historic England
13:05 – 13:15 <i>Panel Q&A (10 min)</i>		

13:15 – 14:15 *Lunch & networking*

Session 3 · From Awareness to Shared Understanding: Communication and Consultation in a Just, Nature-Positive Offshore Energy Transition

Chair: Gretchen Bakke, Member of the INSITE Scientific Advisory Group / Humboldt University

14:15 – 14:30	Ocean literacy and MMS (extended talk)	Emma McKinley Cardiff University
14:30 – 14:45	READ-ME – Research to Explore Attitudes and perceptions to Decommissioning in the Marine Environment (extended talk)	Siân Rees University of Plymouth
14:45 – 15:00	Orkney – Seasearch Scotland / Shoogly Holm (extended talk)	Karen Boswarva & Jenny Pope Seasearch Scotland / Shoogly Holm
15:00 – 15:15 <i>Panel Q&A (15 min)</i>		

15:15 – 15:45 *Coffee, posters & networking*

Session 4 · From Evidence to Action: Building Transparent and Defensible Decision-Making Frameworks for the Offshore Energy Transition

Chair: Christine Maggs, Chair of the INSITE Scientific Advisory Group / Queen's University Belfast

15:45 – 16:05	VALMAS – Valuing Marine Artificial Structures (extended talk)	Nicky Beaumont National Oceanography Centre
16:05 – 16:15	3D visualisations of reef-like communities at offshore energy structures and their utilisation for stakeholder engagement	Megan Squire University of Aberdeen / National Decommissioning Centre
16:15 – 16:25	Marine Ecosystem Performance Framework (MEsP) 2.0: quantifying ecosystem impacts for offshore operations	Nathalie van Caster International Marine and Dredging Consultants
16:25 – 16:35	Here be (no?) dragons: the challenge of using cumulative impact assessments in marine spatial planning	Daniel Wood Cefas
16:35 – 16:50 <i>Panel Q&A (15 min)</i>		
16:50 – 17:00	Day close	Henk van Rein INSITE Programme Director Team

Day 2 – Wednesday, 10 June 2026

TIME	TALK / ITEM	SPEAKER
09:00 – 09:30	<i>Arrival – tea, coffee & pastries</i>	
09:30 – 09:40	Conference opening	Henk van Rein INSITE Programme Director Team
09:40 – 10:15	Keynote address Critical environmental evidence needs towards the alignment of climate, nature and energy science to inform future marine policy	Andrew Gill Australian Institute of Marine Science

Session 5 · Aligning Climate, Nature and Energy Security with Offshore Circularity: From Policy Conflict to Next-Life Energy Solutions

Chair: Paul Whomersley, INSITE Programme Director Team

10:15 – 10:25	Offshore renewables decommissioning policy	Lizzie Turabi Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
10:25 – 10:35	Introducing the North Sea Alliance and the integration of nature into end-of-life decisions	Eline Van Onselen North Sea Foundation
10:35 – 10:45	An overview of the OEP and its work on marine issues	Tim Adey Office for Environmental Protection
10:45 – 11:15	<i>Panel Q&A (30 min)</i>	

11:15 – 11:45 *Coffee, posters & networking*

Session 6 · Aligning Climate, Nature and Energy Security with Offshore Circularity (continued)

Chair: Paul Whomersley, INSITE Programme Director Team

11:45 – 12:05	More power from less materials: towards a circular economy in UK wind	Anne Velenturf University of Leeds
12:05 – 12:15	Offshore wind decommissioning: evidence, policy and future choices	Dickon Howell INSITE Programme Director Team
12:15 – 12:25	Strengthening regulatory alignment for offshore wind decommissioning in the UK	Oliver Goldsmith Marine Management Organisation
12:25 – 12:35	The NSTA's role in offshore decommissioning and asset transition management	Claire Hepworth North Sea Transition Authority
12:35 – 13:05	<i>Panel Q&A (30 min)</i>	

13:05 – 13:15	Conference close – events, updates & next steps	Henk van Rein INSITE Programme Director Team
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13:15 – 14:15 *Lunch & networking*

TIME

TALK / ITEM

SPEAKER

Workshop · Shaping the First Public Perception Survey on Marine Artificial Structure Decommissioning



14:15 – 16:15 | All attendees welcome

READ-ME

Join the READ-ME research team for a hands-on 120-minute workshop at SIME 2026. This is a unique opportunity to directly influence the design of our public perception survey on Marine Artificial Structure (MAS) decommissioning - the survey is the first of its kind and will reach 1,600 members of the public. Participants will be guided through the survey block-by-block using a live digital platform.

This piloting exercise will allow participants to provide real-time feedback on each question. No specialist expertise is required - all perspectives are welcome. Your input will directly inform the final survey design.

Please bring a laptop or mobile device. No personal data will be collected.

Posters

<i>Name</i>	<i>Poster title</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Megan Squire	Understanding the role of offshore energy structures in ecosystem service delivery	University of Aberdeen
Gennadi Lessin	Assessing Marine Artificial Structure Impacts Across Scales: The VALMAS Model Ensemble Approach	Plymouth Marine Laboratory
Melanie McDonnell	Integrating Geotechnical and Ecological Considerations in Early-Stage Design of Floating Offshore Wind Anchoring Systems	Reflex Marine Ltd.
Dr Ashleigh Tinlin-Mackenzie	Emerging Oyster Reef Cube Structures for Marine Habitat and Species Recovery: Insights from a 2025 Subtidal Pilot Deployment	Groundwork North East & Cumbria - Wild Oysters Project
Daniel Wood	FLOWERS: A framework for multiple pressures within EIA for floating offshore wind farms.	Cefas
Christoph Gade	Project PILE - Pollutants In Legacy Emissions	University of Aberdeen
Paul Causon	Nature Inclusive Design in Offshore Wind: Opportunities and Challenges in Practice	NIRAS
Lara Band and Emmie Bowlt	MDE Heritage Accelerator: remobilising industry data to speed strategic and project-specific decision-making for offshore energy	Historic England
Stephen Watson	VALMAS: Decision Support Tools for Marine Artificial Structures	Plymouth Marine Laboratory
Tan Tjui Yeuw	Functional differences between aquatic herbivores emerge from bioenergetic processes	Wageningen Marine Research
Alethea Madgett	Feeding ecology of reef fish across artificial (Rigs-to-Reefs) and natural habitats revealed by stable isotope analysis	National Decommissioning Centre
Leah Brown	Offshore Wind Structures: A Tool for Habitat Restoration and Biodiversity Enhancement in Marine Planning?	Natural Power
Becky Smith	Physical disturbance to benthic habitats from offshore wind/renewable energy (BH3c): A pilot assessment methodology	JNCC