



**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	CoRoDE – 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 Research Institute for Sustainability / German Maritime Museum
12:15 – 12:25	Panel Q&A (10 min)	

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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&amp;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&amp;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&amp;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 &amp; pastries</i>	
09:30 – 09:40	<b>Conference opening</b>	Henk van Rein INSITE Programme Director Team
09:40 – 10:15	<b>Keynote address</b> 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&amp;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&amp;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>
<b>Megan Squire</b>	Understanding the role of offshore energy structures in ecosystem service delivery	University of Aberdeen
<b>Gennadi Lessin</b>	Assessing Marine Artificial Structure Impacts Across Scales: The VALMAS Model Ensemble Approach	Plymouth Marine Laboratory
<b>Melanie McDonnell</b>	Integrating Geotechnical and Ecological Considerations in Early-Stage Design of Floating Offshore Wind Anchoring Systems	Reflex Marine Ltd.
<b>Dr Ashleigh Tinlin-Mackenzie</b>	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
<b>Daniel Wood</b>	FLOWERS: A framework for multiple pressures within EIA for floating offshore wind farms.	Cefas
<b>Christoph Gade</b>	Project PILE - Pollutants In Legacy Emissions	University of Aberdeen
<b>Paul Causon</b>	Nature Inclusive Design in Offshore Wind: Opportunities and Challenges in Practice	NIRAS
<b>Lara Band and Emmie Bowlt</b>	MDE Heritage Accelerator: remobilising industry data to speed strategic and project-specific decision-making for offshore energy	Historic England
<b>Stephen Watson</b>	VALMAS: Decision Support Tools for Marine Artificial Structures	Plymouth Marine Laboratory
<b>Tan Tjui Yeuw</b>	Functional differences between aquatic herbivores emerge from bioenergetic processes	Wageningen Marine Research
<b>Alethea Madgett</b>	Feeding ecology of reef fish across artificial (Rigs-to-Reefs) and natural habitats revealed by stable isotope analysis	National Decommissioning Centre
<b>Leah Brown</b>	Offshore Wind Structures: A Tool for Habitat Restoration and Biodiversity Enhancement in Marine Planning?	Natural Power
<b>Becky Smith</b>	Physical disturbance to benthic habitats from offshore wind/renewable energy (BH3c): A pilot assessment methodology	JNCC