

Manx Marine Environmental Assessment

Marine Education and Awareness Raising



Looking at plankton at the Isle of Man Queenie Festival.
Photo: H. Keogh, Manx Wildlife Trust.

MMEA Chapter 7.2

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Marine Education and Awareness Raising

Introduction

This chapter serves as a brief introduction to marine education and awareness raising in the Isle of Man, including marine industry training opportunities. The Isle of Man has a long history of public marine education, particularly linked to Port Erin Marine Laboratory and the Island's long maritime heritage. In recent years a number of different organisations have provided marine education and training.

The Port Erin Marine Laboratory

The Isle of Man has a long history of the provision of marine education through the Port Erin Marine Laboratory, which was in operation for 114 years.

The presence of a Marine Laboratory started in 1897 when the Liverpool Marine Biological Committee moved their laboratory from Puffin Island, in the Menai Strait, Wales, to a small laboratory north of Port Erin Beach (variously known as Mortuary Beach, Aquarium Beach and *Poyll Faarkee*). In 1901 the Isle of Man Government assisted in funding the construction of a much larger new building, which was completed in 1902. The Liverpool Marine Biological Committee actively used the laboratory for 17 years and the annual report provides a detailed record of research results from the Committee's work. They also produced detailed memoirs on species and groups that still provide a valuable insight and are available online through the Internet Archive online library: <http://www.archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Liverpool+Marine+Biology+Committee%22>

In 1919, Liverpool University took on the laboratory and it became the first place in the Britain to offer a degree in Marine Biology. Degrees and PhDs in Marine Biology – and teaching for students or other biological students at Liverpool University – were offered right through to the closure of the laboratory in 2006.

At various times throughout its history, Port Erin Marine Laboratory offered training courses for members of the public as well as university students.

An overview of Port Erin Marine Laboratory's work up into the early 1990s is given in Brand and Hawkins 1992.

The Department of Education and Children

Many schools in the Isle of Man incorporate marine education formally, or informally, into their teaching. Many Manx schools are involved in the Eco-schools programme, an international schools programme supporting sustainability. The programme has nine main topics: Energy, Water, Biodiversity, School Grounds, Healthy Living, Transport, Litter, Waste and Global Citizenship.

Marine education elements are often incorporated into special environmental activities such as Green Weeks, Ecodays etc. Examples of special activities include a Marine Conference organised by Castle Rushen High School and a Green Awareness Day organised for Year 7 students at Ramsey Grammar School. Secondary schools have teamed up with the One World Centre and Agenda 21 to hold Green Days to highlight a variety of environmental issues.

From 2006 to 2009 the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Marine Conservation Society and local schools co-funded the visit of the Cool Seas Roadshow to most of the primary schools in the Isle of Man. The roadshow introduced pupils to some of the protected marine species in Manx waters, including basking sharks, turtles and Risso's dolphins and their conservation importance.

There is an Isle of Man Government Strategic Aim: 'Identity, Culture and Heritage – to foster an economic and social climate which supports the protection, promotion and participation in our unique cultural heritage.' (Isle of Man Government 2008). One of the Department of Education and Children's actions within this is: 'Develop a skill-based curriculum for art, history and geography that enables greater focus on Manx identity, culture, heritage and the environment.' DEC (2011).

More information about Manx schools and the Manx curriculum can be found at:

<https://www.sch.im/>

Also, in conjunction with the Department of Infrastructure, the 'EcoMann' site is organised into the nine topics areas of the Eco Schools programme, including marine-related components, to support the teaching of environmental issues within schools.

For more about EcoMann, visit: <https://sites.google.com/a/online.sch.im/ecomann/>

Manx National Heritage

Manx National Heritage (MNH) plays an important role in informing and educating members of the public about the Island's natural heritage. The new Natural History Gallery of the Manx Museum, in Douglas, opened in 2005 and a large part of the gallery is dedicated to marine and coastal life. The museum has also hosted workshops and training opportunities for local natural history enthusiasts and has actively promoted the understanding and appreciation of the Manx countryside and the coastal and marine environment through interpretation materials and events.

The House of Manannan, in Peel, also includes information about marine and coastal wildlife in its interactive displays.

Manx National Heritage has an Education Officer who organises educational activities for schools on a wide range of themes linked into the work of MNH, including natural history and biodiversity. An education pack on Manx fisheries 1600-1990s has been produced by MNH, which provides a valuable overview of the history of Manx fisheries and more recent developments:

<https://manxnationalheritage.im/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/The-Fishing-Teaching-Guide.pdf>

The Manx Museum National Archive and Library is a valuable source of marine information and holds copies of many PhD theses and other research outputs from the Port Erin Marine Laboratory as well as historical fisheries reports and other marine records. The library also produces bibliographies on popular topics, summarising the information sources available. Bibliographies relevant to the marine and coastal environment are currently available on 'Manx Coastal Erosion', 'Manx Natural History' and 'Manx Geology':

<https://manxnationalheritage.im/collections/library-and-archives/>

The Manx Wildlife Trust

The Manx Wildlife Trust has been in operation since 1973 when it was established as the Manx Nature Conservation Trust. Environmental education has been an important part of the Trust's work since its inception. The Trust employs a part-time education officer who works closely with schools and other organisations as well as organising regular events for Manx Wildlife Trust members and for the public. Education and awareness raising is an important part of the role of the Trust's marine officer. Subjects covered include basking sharks, coastal habitats, cetaceans, seals, litter, invasive species, protected areas and food chains.

Marine events held by the Manx Wildlife Trust include regular rockpooling sessions throughout the summer on shores around the Island and its successful annual Marine Weekend. The Marine Weekend evolved from a Marine Day with touch tanks and other marine attractions that was held for many years at the Port Erin Marine Laboratory, and later formed an integral part of the Queenie Festival in Port St Mary. This has now been replaced by the Port Erin Beach and Sea Festival. Additional large events have focused on Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve (MNR), such as informative displays and a series of activities, such as biodiversity workshops, crafting and poetry, all designed to promote Ramsey MNR.

The Trust reaches on average more than 4000 people each year on marine topics and related issues through its various events and talks. The Manx Wildlife Trust has two regional groups – the Southern Group and Northern Group, which also organise public talks and events that often have a marine theme.

The Manx Wildlife Trust has a Marine Committee which advises on the marine work of the Manx Wildlife Trust and co-ordinates events such as the Beach and Sea Festival. Members of the Marine Committee hold a wealth of marine knowledge and are also consulted with on coastal and marine development issues.

The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (until 2010 the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)

The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA) has a role in marine education and awareness raising and following the appointment of the first Marine Conservation Officer (now Marine Biodiversity Officer) in 2004, the Department has hosted regular marine seminars and also organised a wide range of training courses and other events.

Training courses have included a number of Cool Seas sessions to introduce primary school teachers to marine environmental education resources and marine issues in the Isle of Man, linking in to the visits of the Cool Seas Roadshow to many primary schools.

DEFA run occasional marine lectures and seminars for the public. The Department has also hosted Seasearch training courses for recreational divers, and WiSe training courses for wildlife friendly boat operation (see items later).

Basking Sharks – A Global Perspective

In 2009 the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Manx Wildlife Trust collaborated with international organisation SaveOurSeas Foundation to host the world's first basking shark conference, Basking Sharks – a Global Perspective.



Basking Shark Conference T-shirt.

The conference was attended by delegates from Canada, USA, New Zealand, Norway, Seychelles, France, Belgium, Ireland, Scotland and England. There was also excellent Manx attendance, including local scientists, basking shark experts and enthusiasts,

conservationists and students from local schools, the Isle of Man College and local students currently studying at University. A full week of local events and scientific sessions was held to ensure that local residents as well as delegates were able to participate. The conference closed with a determination to ensure that more is done to tackle accidental capture of basking sharks, to legally protect basking sharks in countries that do not yet have the legislation in place and to ensure that those countries that do have legal protection for basking sharks are actively working to protect them in practice. The abstract booklet for the conference is available from DEFA.

A Conference Audio Slide is available to view on YouTube at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y89Y7CDn0ek>.

Images taken by SaveOurSeas Foundation during the conference are available at:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/saveourseas/3830306941/in/photostream/>.

Fisheries Science for Fishermen – Marine Resource Education Programme

In 2011 and 2012, the Fisheries Directorate of the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture ran a programme of fishermen's training courses, the Marine Resource Education Programme, based on a similar initiative developed by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, USA. The courses brought together fishermen from the Isle of Man, UK, Ireland, scientists and representatives of conservation organisations to learn about marine science and discuss fisheries management issues. In 2012 the course was accredited by the University of Liverpool Continuing Education Programme.

Newsletters and Mailing Lists

The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture produces a number of newsletters for the public.

There is an annual Biodiversity Matters newsletter produced by Biodiversity Officers:
<http://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment,-food-and-agriculture/forestry,-amenity-and-lands-directorate/wildlife-and-biodiversity/>

There was also a sea fisheries newsletter (Fish Skeet) (as well as a freshwater newsletter) produced by the Fisheries Directorate. This has now been replaced by the Bangor University Science update. <http://fisheries-conservation.bangor.ac.uk/iom/newsletter.php.en>

Bangor University also provides an Isle of Man Fisheries web page where all relevant reports on Isle of Man surveys can be found at
<http://fisheries-conservation.bangor.ac.uk/iom/reports.php.en>

There is also a marine email list to keep members up to date with marine news and events. For further information please see the department's website at: www.gov.im/defa/

University College Isle of Man

The Isle of Man College offers the opportunity to study AS and A-level Marine Science, either full time alongside other A-levels or as a part-time student. This offers opportunities to survey a rocky shore with visits and guest lectures from local marine scientists and organisations involved in marine science, fisheries and aquaculture. The curriculum covers a diverse range of aspects from chemical and physical oceanography (including the chemical composition of sea water, processes shaping the ocean bed and coast and global currents), nutrient cycles and productivity, diverse habitats from tidal coasts and coral reefs to deep oceans and hydrothermal vents, marine biology including primary producers, ventilation in fishes and reproductive cycles, aquaculture and fisheries management, and human impacts on the marine environment. The course is examined by Cambridge Assessment International Education (a department of the University of Cambridge) and is taught at centres all around the world.

<http://www.ucm.ac.im/>

The Centre for Manx Studies – Liverpool University

The Centre for Manx Studies was part of the School of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology at the University of Liverpool and offers an MA in Manx Studies and the opportunity to study for a PhD in Manx Studies. The Centre also offered a range of continuing education opportunities in association with the Isle of Man Government Department of Education and Children. The 'Know Your Island: Landscape and Environment' module is accredited through Liverpool University and introduces the Manx landscape and how it has been formed and the influence of people on the landscape. It contains aspects of coastal and marine landscape.

A 10 week evening class 'An Introduction to Marine Conservation: Isle of Man and International' was run in 2008 and was available as an assessed module, accredited by the University of Liverpool. The course combined an overview of Manx marine biology and conservation with a global view of the topic. These are no longer available.

Department of Infrastructure – Harbours Division

Crucial Crew

Crucial Crew events are organised by the Isle of Man Coastguard for children starting secondary school and provides a range of safety information including inland and coastal water safety information. The 25th anniversary was celebrated in 2017.

Crucial Crew events were first held in 1992 and over a five day period safety presentations and demonstrations from the IOM Coastguard, IOM Fire & Rescue Service, St John's Ambulance, DOI Road Safety Team, Manx Electricity Authority and Manx Gas are given to around 900 children.

Over the years it has been well supported by schools and has proved to be an enjoyable and informative event.

Seasearch Isle of Man

Seasearch is a training and survey programme for recreational divers coordinated by the Marine Conservation Society in the UK. Training courses for Seasearch divers have been held in the Isle of Man since 2005 and there are approximately 45 local divers who are trained to Seasearch Observer level and an additional two divers who are trained to Seasearch Surveyor level. Since 2008 there has been an active volunteer Seasearch Co-ordinator for the Isle of Man and each year of the order of 100 survey dives have been carried out, including dedicated surveys to support the Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve, assessing Fisheries Closed Areas and assisting with scientific studies.

A number of identification talks and training activities have also been organised to support Seasearch divers. More recently Surveyors from the UK, such as the Porcupine Group, and Seasearch divers from across the British Isles have come over for week long dive holidays and undertaken more detailed surveys.



A few of the many trained local Seasearch divers prior to a survey dive in the Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve.

For further information and for contact details of the local co-ordinator please see: www.seasearch.co.uk/.

Manx Basking Shark Watch

Manx Basking Shark Watch (MBSW) is a charity organisation that monitors basking sharks in Manx waters. They undertake boat based surveys, monitoring shark abundance but also GPS tag and DNA test the sharks too. MBSW is actively involved in marine education and awareness rising and regularly hosts talks for members of the public and for organisations.

<http://www.manxbaskingsharkwatch.org/>

For further information on the work of Manx Baking Shark Watch and findings, see MMEA chapter (3.5 – Basking Sharks).

Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch

Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch is a voluntary organisation that carries out marine research and awareness-raising focussing on marine mammals, and cetaceans in particular. It has an Education and Outreach Officer who visits schools and youth groups across the Island, giving talks and running activity sessions.

www.mwdw.net

For further information on the work of Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch and findings see MMEA Chapter (3.4a – Marine mammals).

Outdoor Operators

Through local outdoor providers, such as sailing, diving and kayaking, and schools and clubs, there are a range of opportunities to learn new sports and develop marine skills with associated opportunities to learn about the marine environment.

For further information about opportunities in Manx waters, see MMEA Chapter 7.1 (Tourism and Recreation).

The Isle of Man Queenie Festival

The annual Isle of Man Queenie Festival started in 2008, organised by a group of Port St Mary organisations and individuals, led by Island Seafare, the Port St Mary seafood processors and fishmongers. The event raised awareness of marine life and promoted Manx seafood and fisheries, with a focus on Manx queenies.

A highlight for visitors to the Queenie Festival were the touch tanks where local children and their families could get up close to some of the varied marine animals that live in Manx waters. This has latterly taken on a more conservation approach with involvement from DEFA, Manx Wildlife Trust and other marine related non-government organisations. The last event was held in 2015. After a year's break, aspects of the festival transferred to Port Erin

and joined forces with Port Erin Beach and Sea Festival in 2017. The marine mega tanks were re-established by Manx Wildlife Trust and the promotion of marine conservation, with the support from DEFA and other marine groups.

The Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society

The Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society (IOMNHAS) was established in 1879 and since then has organised regular field trips, meetings and lectures about Manx natural history and heritage. The Society played a significant role in the establishment of the Manx Museum in 1922 and the founder of the IOMNHAS, P.M.C. Kermode, was the first director of the Manx Museum.

The Society produces a formal journal, *The Proceedings of the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society*, currently published every two years. The Society's programmes include lectures and excursions related to the Manx coast and seas and recent papers in the proceedings have included a review of the work of the Calf of Man Observatory by Kate Hawkins, a paper on saltmarsh ecology in the Isle of Man by Erica Spencer and Rebecca Crow's paper about grey seal and the seal surveys on the Calf of Man.

www.manxantiquarians.com/

Manx Heritage Foundation, now known as Culture Vannin

Culture Vannin has a remit for supporting and promoting natural heritage research and education in addition to its main focus on Manx cultural heritage. The Foundation funded the publication of an illustrated Isle of Man Rocky Shore Name Trail with English and Manx names for common marine species found on Manx shores. This guide was produced by the Field Studies Council and accompanies the Rocky Shore Pack, also produced by the Field Studies Council for the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in 2006. The guide is a useful resource for exploring the Manx shore and is available for purchase at local bookshops and from the Manx Wildlife Trust.

www.manxheritage.org/

Manx Birdlife

Manx Birdlife is a Manx charity dedicated to bird conservation and research. The organisation completed a coastal bird survey in 1999 and more recently in 2017 and carried out seal surveys around the Manx coast in 2006 and 2007. An Education Officer was established in October 2016 to deliver education activities that inspire young people, both in and out of the classroom, to value and protect nature.

<http://manxbirdlife.im/>

The Manx Ornithological Society

The Manx Ornithological Society holds regular lectures about birds and other aspects of the Manx environment, organises summer excursions and publishes the annual newsletter Peregrine, which includes the annual Manx Bird Report.

<http://manxbirdlife.im/manx-ornithological-society/>

Isle of Man Friends of the Earth

Isle of Man Friends of the Earth is a group of concerned volunteers, who champion for a cleaner, greener Island. They have various campaigns including CHEERS (Clean Healthy Environment, Every River and Sea) and Climate Change. They attend various events, write articles and provide talks regarding conservation issues.

<http://iomfoe.org/index.php/home/>

Manx Biodiversity

A website that is a focal point for all wildlife in the Isle of Man, providing a link to all the conversation groups, the Manx Biological Recording Partnership and local natural history and wildlife.

<http://www.manxbiodiversity.org/>

Marine Industry Training

The Royal Institution of Naval Architects and the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology – Isle of Man Joint Branch

The Royal Institution of Naval Architects and The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology are two major organisations representing between them Naval Architects, Marine Engineers, Scientists and Technologists in the UK and overseas.

A brief introduction to the organisations is provided in MMEA Chapter 6.2 (Shipping).

On the Isle of Man a Joint Branch of the two organisations operates. A programme of technical presentations commences during the winter with speakers from both the Island and the UK. The current technical programme features a diverse range presentations directed towards engineers, scientists, technologists, industry and managers. Members of the general public are also welcome to attend.

For more information contact the Joint Branch Secretary Roy McLean roymclean@manx.net or the Joint Branch Chairman David Varley varley@enterprise.net, or see:

www.rina.org.uk

www.imarest.org

Ship Superintendent Training Course

Aspiring and newly appointed ship superintendents from the Island and abroad can receive accredited tuition on subjects relevant to the role of ship superintendent, here in the Island.

The accredited Ship Superintendent Training Course is primarily designed for recently appointed ship superintendents or aspiring entrants into the world of ship management or ship ownership, whether working for a ship owner or ship management company; or whether applying from a Deck, Engineering or Naval Architecture background. More experienced superintendents can also be accommodated.

This course is a joint initiative between the Isle of Man Ship Registry (Department of Enterprise) (www.iomshipregistry.com) and the University College Isle of Man (<http://www.ucm.ac.im>) and is delivered by a wide range of industry experts.

The course is put together by staff from the Isle of Man Ship Registry, the University College Isle of Man, Bernhard Schulte Ship Management (IoM), EMCS (International) Limited and the Döehle IOM Group (www.doehle-iom.com) and has been accredited by IMAREST (the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology), the Nautical Institute and DNV-GL (Det Norske Veritas).

The course is managed by EMCS International Limited (also based on the Isle of Man) and runs twice a year with an intensive nine day programme.

The course was first delivered in May 2006 and has since been a finalist in the Lloyds London Awards for 'Best Training'. As well as gaining a DNV accredited certificate, participants who complete the course also receive a certificate for 68 Continual Professional Development points.

For more information about EMCS International Limited please visit www.emcs.co.im.

For more information about IMAREST, visit: www.imarest.org.

For more information about the Nautical Institute, visit: www.nautinst.org.

For more information about DNV-GL, visit <https://www.dnvgl.com/>

WiSE

Manx Wildlife Trust has re-established WiSE training in 2018 to ensure boat operators and other marine users, who are promoting the marine environment through wildlife watching

trips, are doing so in a safe and appropriate way. For more information regarding the training, contact the Manx Wildlife Trust at: enquiries@manxwt.org.uk

Other Organisations or Groups Promoting Marine Education or Awareness

Society for the Preservation of the Manx Countryside and Environment

The Society for the Preservation of the Manx Countryside and Environment is a charity to preserve and repair the countryside as well as providing education for its future.

Garrad (1990) produced a comprehensive overview of the development of Manx conservation and the organisations involved which is useful for those interested in the history of Manx conservation.

Local Artists

There is a strong artistic tradition in the Isle of Man. From John Miller Nicholson and William Hoggatt, to more recent artists such as Nancy Corkish, David Byre and Nicola Dixon, a strong marine theme often appears in their painting. These art works provide both current and historic perspectives and highlight the Manx marine environment through the general availability of their work, for example:

- Manx Museum (part of Manx National Heritage)
<https://www.imuseum.im/>
- The Sayle Gallery (Douglas):
<http://sayle.gallery/>

Similarly, the advent of online tools such as the Manx Art Wiki (hosted by the Department of Education and Children <https://www2.sch.im/>) allows teachers to access specific art works, including marine themed, for teaching purposes. Similarly, Facebook has afforded members of the public a better awareness of marine themed displays.

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