

A selection of the stories behind The Wildlife Trusts' Marine Review 2023

The Wildlife Trusts' annual round-up of life in UK seas presents tales of hope and heartache through spectacular encounters, conservation successes and challenges for marine and coastal wildlife. Please refer to the press release which will be published on our [news page](#) on Friday 29th December 2023. What follows is a selection of stories gathered by The Wildlife Trusts' Living Seas teams, some of which contributed to the press release.

North Sea

Scottish Wildlife Trust:

- Moray Firth residents were treated to a rare spectacle this year – an incredible number of harmless basking sharks off the east coast of Scotland. At least one of the sharks is thought to have travelled from the west coast of Scotland, where they are usually found due to their migratory routes. The basking sharks were seen feeding on thick plankton blooms which had resulted from the good weather.
- External research into northern gannets with black instead of pale blue irises on Bass Rock, the largest gannet colony in the world, suggests this is a sign the birds have survived avian flu. Birds with black eyes have been spotted at other gannetries and in other species such as herring gulls.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust:

- The start of 2023 was silent in Scarborough, as New Year fireworks were cancelled to protect Thor, a

visiting 'celebrity' Arctic walrus who was resting on the coast. Previously seen in Hampshire and Yorkshire, the residents of Blyth, Northumberland, had a rare sighting in the harbour. Leaving Blyth, Thor then travelled around 850 miles to Iceland. Walrus sightings have increased in the UK in recent years and although the cause of this increase is unknown, it is possible that increasing sea temperatures due to climate change may have an impact.

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust:

- Volunteers reported thousands of small blue rubber balls washed up on beaches in Teesside. These blue Taprogge balls are used to clean the cooling system at Hartlepool EDF Power Station and were discharged into the sea by a sudden pressure build-up causing a problem for marine wildlife. The Trust has been working with EDF bringing the influence of the community on board to improve the effectiveness of the clean-up effort.

Durham Wildlife Trust:

- Stronger Shores brings together the Durham, Northumberland and Tees Valley Wildlife Trusts and other partners, to deliver activities that will help practitioners and policy makers understand the benefits of marine habitat restoration in protecting against flood and coastal erosion. This DEFRA FCRIP funded partnership builds on the work of The Wild Oyster Project at Whitburn where 10,000 native oysters have been reintroduced, and Tees River Trust where a seagrass and oyster nursery has been built in Teesmouth. The Wildlife Trusts will be undertaking innovative work around seaweed and seagrass restoration and developing

engagement and communications on marine habitat restoration.

- Durham Wildlife Trust looked after the little tern colony at Seaton Carew. Part of work delivered under the NLHF Seascapes Partnership, this year was a bumper year for this small seabird with over 125 chicks fledging. A recent record to this area of coast and an important development as organizations work to halt the decline of this threatened tern species.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust:

- Thanks to the support of numerous staff and volunteers covering a huge length of the North Sea coast, 2023 has been a year of rare sightings in the North Sea with orca, basking sharks, common dolphins, long finned pilot whales, flying fish, ocean sunfish, breaching minke whales and bluefin tuna all observed this year.

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust:

- The Trust is committed to developing careers in conservation for the next generation. The Trust's 'North Sea Marine Future' interns Jasmine Brown and Sian Peace have made progress in developing their knowledge and skill sets, enabled by funding from The Crown Estate. The interns have also been hosted by Suffolk and Yorkshire Wildlife Trusts to join activities and deliver projects for them, along with Ørsted and Natural England.
- The Wilder Humber initiative involving Lincolnshire and Yorkshire Wildlife Trusts has seen the design and work programme for saltmarsh, sand dune and seagrass nursery at their site, Sea View Farm. They are using drones to gain a better understanding of the intertidal zone, alongside field surveys to develop a strong baseline. This is the first time these Trusts are taking a

'seascape' approach charting the restoration of associated habitats, including sand dunes, saltmarsh, seagrass beds and native oyster reefs.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust:

- In a rare sighting for the area, a small pod of bottlenose dolphins was spotted off Norfolk in August. Following studies by the North Sea Wildlife Trusts, University of St Andrews, University of Aberdeen, Whale and Dolphin Conservation and dedicated volunteers Karen Munro and Steve Truluck, photos of the dolphins have been compared to identify individuals within the pod and track the movements of these dolphins between sightings. It appears the dolphins have undertaken a tour of the UK, visiting Rona Gap, Hebrides (18th July), Gairloch (20th July), St Johns Point to Wick, Caithness (22nd July), Gairloch (25th July), the Moray Firth (26th July), John O'Groats to Lybster (3rd August) and then, in less than 11 days swimming from Scotland to Norfolk (14th August).

Suffolk Wildlife Trust:

- An unusual, angel-like species of sea slug, the winged thecacera, with orange and black spots, was seen by Seasearch divers off the coast of Suffolk, attached to a crab's shell.
- Hazelwood Marshes, which transformed from a freshwater protected area to a saltwater intertidal zone during the 2013 surge tide, has now become a thriving fish nursery. Surveys reveal an abundance of juvenile species like seabass, sand gobies, and flounders. Large birds of prey, ospreys have also been recorded feeding at the site, revealing further evidence of the value of coastal reserves for biodiversity.

Essex Wildlife Trust:

- The Share Our Shores project established cameras on every single nest along the shore at Colne Point Nature Reserve for the very first time. In partnership with a range of organisations, the project was able to record close to 100% of the ringed plover, oystercatcher and little tern breeding bird activity across the project's three core sites. This provided valuable insights into both the nesting patterns and the disturbances faced by beach-nesting bird populations. People disturbing nests are suspected to have caused the failure of some, while there has also been predation by crows and foxes. Essex Wildlife Trust, the RSPB and partners are working to raise awareness of the nests and how people can help prevent disturbance and protect nests from predators.
- A rare short-snouted seahorse was discovered outside Harwich Harbour, off the northern Essex coast, and showcases the surprising diversity of marine life in Essex's murky waters.

Kent Wildlife Trust:

- The Trust's Shoresearch programme along the famous chalk reefs and rock shores went from strength to strength this year. Volunteers were amazed by the abundance of life along the protected 'Marine Conservation Zone' including over 20 stalked jellyfish in September, never seen by the Trust in such numbers before. The protected area appears to be doing well but the constant concern over rampant river pollution continued, as areas like Fulsam Rock were closely monitored for blooms of brown and green algae caused by sewage overflows that threaten to choke out this precious stretch of rare reef habitats.

English Channel

Sussex Wildlife Trust:

- To help tackle plastic waste, in particular ghost fishing gear, Wild Coast Sussex (a partnership between Sussex Wildlife Trust, MCS, the local IFCA and Brighton Sea Life) has helped fishers to recycle old fishing net gear collecting a total of 9,600kg of nets that would otherwise have ended up in landfill. The recovered ghost gear is recycled into new products, such as kayaks.
- An influx of jellyfish appeared up and down the Sussex coast over the summer. Species that were spotted included blue and moon jellyfish, and it is estimated that in total, thousands of jellyfish appeared on the shores during the month of June. While jellyfish sightings here are not uncommon, they are in such large numbers.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust:

- This year work got underway on the large-scale Solent Seascape Project, a £5 million project looking to protect and actively restore saltmarsh, seagrass, oysters and breeding birds across the Solent estuary. The highlight of this work came in July, when volunteers not only participated in a successful seagrass collection but were also lucky enough to spot stalked jellyfish and the courtship dance of some local amorous pipefish.
- The Marsh Charitable Trust Young Volunteer Awards for Marine Conservation went to Arun Curson who is the youngest marine champion at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.
- A rare sea slug has been discovered on the south coast near Southampton, the first photo verified record in the

UK. The Warty Doris (*Doris verrucosa*) was first found by Shoresearch volunteer Jenny Mallinson, while conducting a survey at Hythe.

Dorset Wildlife Trust:

- The Trust recorded a dead 9ft-long Atlantic bluefin tuna washed up at Kimmeridge Bay. The stranding follows sightings of bluefin tuna hunting in the English Channel.
- A thrilling dive in Poole Bay revealed a bumper sighting of 7 short-snouted seahorses in one day. The group of Dorset Seasearch divers found them. Short-snouted seahorses are less commonly recorded in Dorset waters than the spiny seahorse.
- The Trust lost 600 birds to avian flu on Brownsea Island at the height of the breeding season – mostly the chicks of sandwich and common terns, and black-headed gulls. Some adults attempted to have second broods.

Devon Wildlife Trust:

- Wildlife Trusts around the British Isles have reported seeing Atlantic bluefin tuna including in Devon.
- The Trust's Wembury Marine Centre has had a fantastic year engaging people with life below the waves, spotting a range of marine life including lobsters, sea hares, St Piran's hermit crabs and wrasse. Nighttime rockpools using UV touches revealed spider crabs and luminous anemones, while further down the coast, multiple sightings of large octopus were also reported by scuba divers in Plymouth. However, invasive species have also been spotted, including Devil's tongue weed, leathery sea squirts, slipper limpets and Pacific oysters.
- Other notable sightings include flying fish in Plymouth Sound and off the Yorkshire coast – while an Atlantic

species, these are rarely seen in UK coastal waters.

- Very unusually, a pod of 60 porpoises was seen hunting in a line in Bigbury Bay, off the south coast of Devon, in July.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust:

- This year the Trust celebrated the previously undiscovered scale of seagrass at St Austell Bay at over nearly 360 hectares - the largest area of seagrass in Cornwall and one of the largest in the UK. 56 species were recorded during dive surveys identifying the area as a biodiversity hotspot. Seagrass is also extremely important in storing carbon.
- It's been a bumper year for Risso's dolphins this year in Cornwall with 156 sightings in 2023 compared to 45 in 2022. Sometimes mistaken as orca, over the summer there have been rare super-pod sightings and feeding frenzies with common dolphins and fin whales joining in. The Risso's dolphins are hunting and feeding on cuttlefish but the Trust is yet to establish whether the increase in Risso numbers is linked to an increase in food.

Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust:

- Seabird surveys on the Isles of Scilly have shown a steep decline in gull populations since 2015 including greater black-backed gull (38%), and lesser black-backed gull (58%) and the red-listed herring gull (40%). However, where action has been taken to restore island habitats, burrow nesting seabirds have experienced a remarkable recovery. Storm petrels and Manx shearwaters, both have seen significant increases with Manx shearwater numbers doubling in the last 8 years. See: [Latest Scilly seabird survey reveals dramatic declines across local breeding populations.](#)

- Birders flocked to the Isles of Scilly to see two booby species in August. One red-footed and one brown booby, more commonly found in the tropics, were spotted resting on Bishop Rock Lighthouse.

Alderney Wildlife Trust:

- Several Wildlife Trusts have recorded increased sightings of impressive Atlantic bluefin tuna, which were once common in UK waters and can grow up to 10ft (3m) long and weigh more than 1,000lbs.
- The Trust is aiming to discover more about the population and movements of green ormers, a regionally important sea snail species, with a newly designed tagging survey on the island.
- Around 25% of the adult population of gannets at two colonies off Alderney were thought to have died due to bird flu in 2022, meaning less than a third of nests successfully fledged chicks. Monitoring by the Trust this year however suggests there has been no bird flu cases on the islands and around two thirds of breeding pairs successfully fledged chicks. Many gannets have been spotted with black irises, photo surveys estimate 30-35% of birds on the colonies may have back eyes. The Trust hopes Alderney's iconic gannet colonies may recover in years to come.
- The Trust has undertaken the first ever baseline survey of invasives in Alderney, identifying two new invasive species on the island – pacific oyster and devil's tongue weed. The Trust is currently at the monitoring stage to establish a baseline before establishing appropriate measures to reduce their spread. Devil's tongue weed has spread from a confined area to the whole of the bay.

Celtic Sea & Bristol Channel

Somerset Wildlife Trust:

- Harbour porpoises have been seen in the Bristol Channel, going up rivers presumably to feed and with calves in a suspected breeding area at the western end of the Channel near the Devon border. Somerset Wildlife Trust is training local volunteers around the Channel to undertake harbour porpoise watches to help learn more about these cetaceans and identify individuals through photographs. It's hoped the research will generate a baseline of data to understand how many individuals there are and key areas for them.
- Somerset Wildlife Trust held a 'Mud Day' at the coast, setting up microscopes to show people the many critters which can be found in sediment and why there are so many protections along Somerset's coast, due to the importance of these animals as food for birds which flock to the Severn Estuary.
- As part of National Marine Week, the Trust held a marine science day for 30 young people (13-24 years old) who learnt about Somerset's coast and took part in a Shoresearch survey. The Trust has also been taking youth groups (often from disadvantaged areas) to the beach, helping children discover the joys of the coast.

Avon Wildlife Trust:

- The Trust has been encouraging locals to help stop litter reaching the sea by raising awareness of litter picks in their local area, removing litter from rivers and streams – which all eventually lead to the sea. Locals have also been helping monitor water quality.

Gwent Wildlife Trust:

- The Trust orchestrated an annual clean-up event to protect the foreshore at Peterstone Wentlooge, a vibrant tidal area of the Severn Estuary. Teaming up with 25 dedicated volunteers, these passionate participants collected around 40 bags of litter, including fishing tackle/rope, tires and plastic containers.

The Wildlife Trusts of South-West Wales:

- 2023 was a mixed year for Pembrokeshire's seabirds. [Puffin numbers on the famous Skomer island soared](#) to 42,513 puffins, up nearly 10% from the previous year and bucking the trend of decline being observed globally. Following a reasonably normal breeding season on Skomer and Skokholm the cliffs were empty of common guillemots as they had returned to the sea for winter. However, on 8th July dead or sick birds started scattering beaches in South Pembrokeshire. Within the following three weeks alone 1,060 birds, mainly guillemots, [were collected from beaches](#) between Bridgend and St David's. Testing confirmed avian flu was present.
- The Trust was [awarded £560,000](#) to start a 3 year project on marine indicator species – globally important seabirds populations on Skomer and Skokholm islands, and bottlenose dolphins in Cardigan Bay.

Irish Sea

North Wales Wildlife Trust:

- As part of an annual Seagrass Camp full of activities, 11 [Ocean Rescue Champions](#) (ages 11 - 16) and 4 Ocean Rescue Mentors (ages 16 - 24) from Anglesey contributed to aims to collect 1,000,000 seagrass seeds for

[restoration efforts](#) on the Llŷn

Peninsula. They also met with the Welsh Minister for Climate Change, Julie James, speaking about what they were doing and asking questions about what her party will be doing for marine conservation. The Champions also played a starring role in Blue Peter's 'Let It Grow' programme earlier this year, receiving honorable green Blue Peter badges.

- Wales' only sandwich tern colony was affected by avian flu, with 711 dead chicks collected.
- Unusual sightings of snakelocks anemones eating a topshell sea snail and ragworm surprised Shoresearch volunteers on Anglesey.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust:

- According to the Trust, it has been an exceptional year for rare natterjack toads, thanks to their efforts to maintain ponds and despite the early summer heatwave. At one event, the Trust discovered over 200 toadlets covering the ground! In Britain, natterjack toads are almost exclusively confined to coastal sand dune systems, coastal grazing marshes and sandy heaths.

Lancashire Wildlife Trust:

- In a remarkable achievement of coastal conservation, the Fylde Sand Dunes Project won the 2023 North West Coastal Excellence Award for Coastal Best Practice at this year's 'Climate Change on the North West Coast' conference. A stellar collaboration between Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Blackpool and Fylde Councils and the Environment Agency, over the past 15 years the project has worked to expand the dunes seawards, providing a sustainable sea defense and thriving ecosystem,

playing a pivotal role in the development of a climate-resilient coastline.

Cumbria Wildlife Trust:

- The Trust has reported a high level of disturbance from boats getting too close to Cumbria's only seal colony – seals and a harbour porpoise suffered the consequences. The Trust is working with local ferry companies and boat users to observe government guidance following reports of a seal death and an injured harbour porpoise. Seal disturbance continues to be an issue around our coasts.
- Following on an exciting 6 months of training, dedicated local volunteers along Cumbria's coast have graduated as Marine Champions with Cumbria Wildlife Trust. Encompassing the scenic stretch of coast from Morecambe Bay to St Bees, local people of all ages have had an exciting venture into marine conservation, fostering skills and confidence while expanding coastal conservation initiatives. The champions have been trained in marine survey methods, species identification and how to run events to support and expand Cumbria Wildlife Trust's marine conservation efforts.

Manx Wildlife Trust:

- The Isle of Man's small shark tagging programme, led by the Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT) in partnership with the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA), was set up in 2013 to help find out more about the distribution, movement and population size of sharks, skates and rays in Manx waters by working with local anglers on a catch, tag and release programme. This year, the

project has recorded two recaptures of tope sharks, having tagged the two individuals last year in Isle of Man waters. One was recaptured in May off Spain, and the other in July off Portugal. The Trust has tagged over 500 sharks since the programme began in 2013.

- Seal surveys reveal 2023 has been a bumper year for seal pups on the Calf of Man. A whopping 94 adorable pups, a significant increase from the usual 62-66, have been recorded by observations and drone technology, which has helped access areas which are difficult to see. It's thought pups are being born a few weeks earlier on the island possibly due to sea temperatures being warmer.

Ulster Wildlife Trust:

- Last month, Ulster Wildlife, in partnership with Belfast Harbour, installed an oyster nursery in the port to help restore the native population of the species, improve water quality and boost marine biodiversity. The nursery, which is the first of its kind to be introduced to a commercial shipping channel in Northern Ireland. It will be home to around 600 native oysters, which prior to installation were cleaned, measured and screened for disease by a group of volunteers, including Ulster Wildlife representatives and employees of Belfast Harbour.

North Atlantic Ocean

Scottish Wildlife Trust:

- On the Isle of Lewis in July an entire pod of 55 long-finned pilot whales stranded themselves, making it one of the UK's largest cetacean mass-stranding events in recent history. Despite best efforts to save them by a

range of organisations, 54 whales died or were eventually euthanized on welfare grounds, only one animal was successfully refloated. Pilot whales are known for their strong social bonds, so often when one or more whales get into trouble and strand the rest follow.

- A common dolphin super-pod of between 200 to 500 dolphins, 6-10 minke whales, gannets, manx shearwaters, auks, kittiwake, great skua, great northern diver and white-tailed eagle were seen in a giant feeding event of the coast of Coll.

Further information:

Status of bluefin tuna in UK waters in 2023 – see a summary here: [Bluefin tuna in the UK - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

In the 1930s, a recreational bluefin tuna fishery in the North Sea drew crowds of wealthy fishers to harbours such as Scarborough and Whitby. In the mid-20th century, a dedicated bluefin tuna fishery developed in North Sea as commercial fishers learned how to catch these immense fish. Huge tuna were caught and prized until severe overfishing caused the fishery to collapse towards the end of the 1960s. Sightings of bluefin tuna became rare and had all but vanished from UK waters by the 1990s. In 2007, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) launched a 15-year recovery plan for the species. This was a significant step in the revival of tuna populations. The successful implementation of effective fisheries management measures, combined with the influence of climatic forcing means numbers of this species are now increasing year on year, and in 2021 the species was taken off the IUCN's Red List of Endangered Species.

Avian flu

The UK is home to an internationally important breeding seabird population,

including 20% of the world's razorbills, 55% of the world's gannets, and an incredible 80% of the world's Manx shearwaters. Seabirds are amongst the most threatened group of birds, out of the 25 species breeding here in the UK, 24 are Red or Amber on the UK list of Birds of Conservation Concern.

The worldwide pandemic of avian flu is having a devastating effect on UK birds – the tragic effects of the disease are being seen around the UK with reports of thousands of dying and sick birds.

The outbreak is believed to have its origins in the epidemic that has affected poultry farms in the Far East. Large numbers of captive birds kept in close contact and cramped conditions provide perfect conditions for new outbreaks – and factory-farmed poultry can also be highly susceptible to the disease. These features of intensive poultry farming mean that once a disease emerges, it can sweep quickly through a large population and be difficult to contain. Outbreaks like this are a symptom of this unsustainable farming system.

The Wildlife Trusts are calling for:

1. A new approach to poultry farming – intensive units that house thousands of hens and other domestic birds in barns are known to exacerbate the problem of contagious diseases, by providing ideal conditions for emerging pathogens to develop, which can then spread to wild birds.
2. Government to develop a national strategy to help wild bird populations recover.
3. Effective monitoring, surveillance, research and reporting systems in place to build real-time understanding of the virus and its progress in wild birds.
4. Resilience built into vulnerable populations through recovery and conservation

measures. This includes avoiding damaging development at sea and reduction of seabirds killed in bycatch.

5. More investment into how and why this is happening, to stand the best chance of avoiding similar tragedies in the future.
6. More resources for wildlife and nature charities to help with monitoring and tackling the problem.

What to do if you see a dead or ill bird:

- Call the Defra helpline 03459 335577 if you find a sick or dead bird. Landowners are responsible for disposing of dead birds. Contact the Local Authority if you find a dead bird on a beach. Read Defra advice page [here](#).
- Do not touch any sick or dead birds.
- Keep dogs and other pets away from any dead or sick birds.
- Do not feed wild waterfowl.
- Do not touch wild bird feathers or surfaces contaminated with droppings.

[Highly Protected Marine Areas | The Wildlife Trusts](#) – sites designated include:

- **Allonby Bay** – an important inshore area, located off Cumbria's coast. This biodiverse area includes important reefs of blue mussels and some of the best examples of honeycomb worm reefs in the UK. It is a spawning area for thornback rays and thought to be an important pupping ground for harbour porpoise. Seabirds such as guillemots frequently feed here. The area contains significant amounts of carbon and provides flood and coastal protection.
- **Dolphin Head** – a diverse area offshore in the English Channel, approximately 55km from the

Sussex coast. This tide-dominated seascape, influenced by swell from the Atlantic Ocean, contains a wonderful range species including lobsters, eels and reef-building worms. This attracts dolphins and seabirds to feed. However, years of damaging fishing activities have damaged the seabed here. HPMAs designation will enable this degraded ecosystem to recover, with benefits for surrounding waters.

- **North-East of Farnes Deep** – an area offshore in the North Sea with sediments teeming with life. This area encompasses subtidal sediments important for carbon storage, ocean quahogs, starfish, sea pens, anemones and fish. Dolphins, whales and harbour porpoises use this area – a fantastic hotspot that deserves protection.

Generation Sea:

This year, for the first time, The Wildlife Trusts have formed **Generation Sea**, a youth steering group. Participants also co-designed this year's National Marine Week programme, with new ideas and content about incredible marine species throughout the UK. Maddy de Marchis, a member of the group, participated on a youth panel at The Wildlife Trusts Federation Conference, addressing questions about nature restoration to Trust CEOs and Chairs. Generation Sea also participated in [Hope Week](#), providing video content on an oyster reintroduction project and joining in with the Celebration of Youth Activism in December. As part of Hope Week GenSea participant Libby Smith created a video about the Dornoch Environmental Enhancement Project (DEEP) which is restoring native oyster populations in the Dornoch Firth in northern Scotland, and how it has provided hope and inspired her to take further climate action.

Katie Micklewright, Generation Sea, says:

“Joining Generation Sea has helped me share my love of marine wildlife with others in my generation. Considering the challenges that are facing marine wildlife, like pollution and climate change, I think it's more important than ever that we learn about marine species and their importance as we are the ones who will be working to mitigate the impact of these threats in the future. That's why it was great to be a part of National Marine Week this year and see so many young people engaging with it. It definitely gave me hope that there will be a generation ready to fight against these challenges and protect nature.”

Libby Smith, Generation Sea, says:

“The launch of Generation Sea this year has facilitated the connection of like-minded individuals who are committed to contributing to the regeneration and restoration of UK coastal and marine life. Generation Sea has empowered me to take my own climate action, and has kept me aware of past, recent and proposed initiatives and projects relating to UK marine wildlife. One of my negative marine highlights for the year has to be learning that Rishi Sunak would be pushing back the UK's deadline for selling new petrol and diesel cars and the phasing out of gas boilers; a major setback in an urgent climate issue that in my opinion, should be prioritised. But one marine highlight has to be participating in The Wildlife Trusts 'Wild about Wellbeing' podcast episode, titled 'Nature in mind: Beating The Blues With Blue', where I discussed the important yet widely unacknowledged topic of eco-anxiety. I'm hopeful that next year positive steps and meaningful action will be taken to restore and protect UK marine and coastal life, and I'm excited to get involved in future opportunities that arise as a member of the Generation Sea team.”

Other references:

[Nature heroes recognised for lifelong dedication to wildlife and wild places | The Wildlife Trusts](#)

[Marsh Volunteer Awards | The Wildlife Trusts](#)

[Restoring life to the Solent's seascape | Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust \(hiwwt.org.uk\)](#)

For more information, please contact press@wildlifetrusts.org