

# Plymouth Sound

National Marine Park 2021

Enjoy it, love it, care for it

There are great ambitions for Plymouth Sound National Marine Park - and there is already so much going on right now. There are lots of opportunities to get in, on or by the water. There are **Adventures** to be had, impressive events and great exhibitions to **Inspire**, amazing space to **Explore**, opportunities to **Care** for our environment and ourselves, possibilities to **Recover** and help recovery. And so much that you might not know about – conservation, fishing, scientific study, marine autonomy, digital integration and more.

## Adventure 2021

Hundreds of young Plymothians who have never been to sea will get hands-on adventures on traditional sailing boats through the Spirit of Adventure project 2021.



1000 young people will get the chance to get on the water sailing and paddle-boarding through Sailors of Tomorrow programme 2021 to ignite a passion for sailing.



Climate positive sport and entertainment showcasing blue technology.

**SailGP** is a global sports championship, powered by nature, with bold, cutting-edge technology and awe inspiring athleticism.

See this adrenaline-filled, high speed race up close on the Plymouth Sound, between 17-18 July 2021.



# Inspire 2021

## First summer at The Box

Discover the epic and historic relationship between Plymouth and the sea at the city's major new museum, gallery and archive – from the 'Yardees' who tramped through our dockyard gates daily and fishermen who battle the elements to land a catch, to troops that go off to war, the shipwrecks and much more.

From the creation of the Marine Biological Association to the incredible work marine scientists undertake today, find out why Plymouth is the centre for marine science research in the UK. Glimpse life beneath the waves through hundreds of preserved marine animals, and learn how climate change, ocean acidification, plastic pollution are all affecting marine life.



New Hoe Trail leads you on a seaside walk through Plymouth's maritime history, from the ruins of medieval Plymouth Castle to the 1930s Art Deco Lido.

The city and Plymouth Sound will be the stage for Hatchling world premiere, a highlight event of Mayflower 400. A dragon taller than a double-decker bus, that will hatch and roam through the city this summer before transforming into the world's largest human-operated flying puppet to soar out to sea over the Sound.



Get up close to the fish when the National Marine Aquarium – the biggest aquarium in the UK – reopens this summer.



The Elizabethan House reopens in 2021 telling the stories of Plymouth's people and Plymouth Sound's port and fishing life.

Simply **paddle** or **swim** in the beautiful settings around the Plymouth Sound or try something new.

There are two designated safe swimming areas in the Sound: Tinside beach and Firestone Bay at Devil's Point. Respect the water and know how to stay safe

Plymouth swimmers will be able to rest on and jump off new **swimming pontoons** due to be installed at the Hoe.

## Explore 2021

Use the Visit Plymouth website to find a wide range of activities available in, under and on the water including sailing, paddle boarding, kayaking, diving, snorkelling and swimming.



Try a new activity at Mount Batten Centre or join one of the many clubs and organisations providing kayaking, sailing, paddle boarding.



Explore the Sound's coastline and change your perspective by walk along the much loved South West Coast Path.



# Care 2021

Join beach cleans and volunteering events through the summer.



It's being made easier to get to the water's edge through a programme of steps and slipways improvements from Mount Wise to Mount Batten.

Electric vehicle charging points are being installed to support the use of battery powered boats.



The Preventing Plastic Pollution Project includes:

- At least 15 events and 60 volunteer days
- Trial of a passive marine plastic collector
- The production of a waste sculpture to raise awareness of plastic
- Engagement with over 500 sailors in Plymouth to reduce their use of avoidable plastics
- Commitment of at least 25 plastic-free business, 25 plastic-free schools, 25 community ambassadors, and 10 plastic-free tourism/leisure groups.



The 'Welcome to Plymouth' from the sea landscaping is being refreshed.



The 1000 Tyres Project, led by the SHIPS Team, will remove tyres and pollutants from our marine environment and provide awareness about the impact of rubbish in the sea. With community backing and working with experts in industry, universities and institutions, this citizen science project will also use volunteers to locate and remove 1000 tyres from Plymouth Sound.



Learn more through the University of Plymouth Marine Institute's public lecture programme.

Support our local fishermen – eat local and taste first class fish at the Seafood Festival.

PWP Ambassadors will be welcoming people to the waterfront this summer.



# Recover 2021

**Recharge your batteries** - walk around the stunning coast, embrace the cold water, or just take a moment to be by the sea.



Relax at five new managed 'performance spaces' along the waterfront by Plymouth Waterfront Partnership for musicians and artists.



Try saltwater swimming at Tinside Lido and Mount Wise Pools and coldwater swimming in the sound.

Tinside Lido and Mount Wise Pools are opening a month early this year in May.



Support your local fishing community – buy local Plymouth fish.



Over five million visitors annually experience the brilliant culture, heritage and natural assets that Plymouth Sound has in abundance. Local, regional and international marketing activities will continue to raise profile, awareness and audience reach globally as the National Park develops.

# Did you know?

The Mayflower Autonomous Ship (MAS), developed and tested in Plymouth by ProMare with IBM and MSubs, sets off on its maiden transatlantic crossing from Plymouth in 2021. MAS will be the world's first full-sized, fully autonomous unmanned ship to cross the Atlantic, carrying a variety of science pods to conduct experiments during its voyage.

Ayse Atauz Phaneuf, ProMare President



Scientists at the University of Plymouth are working to identify essential habitats needed for young fishes and to understand how these habitats underpin the productivity and sustainability of coastal fisheries

Dr Ben Ciotti, University of Plymouth

Call4Fish was born in Plymouth in 2020 as a response to the pandemic and has grown to nationwide listings where you can get fast access to some of the amazing species of fish and shellfish we have in our waters. Call4Fish operates as a not-for-profit, to support UK fishermen and the coastal communities they live in.



Research on microplastics by scientists at the University of Plymouth and Plymouth Marine Laboratory has informed policy to reduce microplastic pollution worldwide, and we are currently working in Plymouth Sound to quantify the dispersal of microplastic tyre particles originating from our roads.

Prof Richard Thomson OBE FRS, University of Plymouth

The National Marine Aquarium is working with partners in the waters of Plymouth Sound to develop simple new approaches for the mooring of vessels in order to protect seagrass beds.

Nicola Bridge, Head of Conservation Education, National Marine Aquarium



University of Plymouth is involved with projects around the sound looking at nearshore sediment budgets and pathways, extreme storm impacts and recovery, storm overtopping risk and predicting the future coastline position.

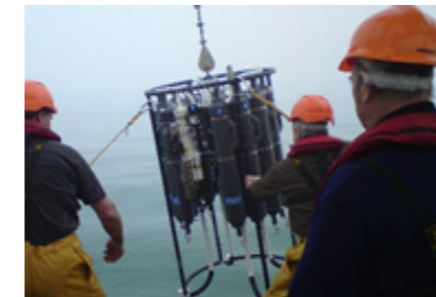
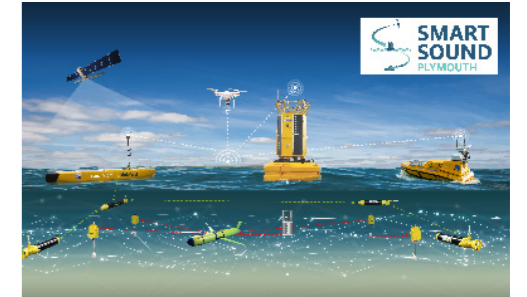
Prof Gerd Masselink, University of Plymouth

I moved to Plymouth because I fell in love with the Plymouth Sound and have spent the last few years discovering all there is to know about what lies beneath the surface. I feel rejuvenated every time I jump into the waves, so to give back, I decided to set up Plymouth Beach Clean, we're cleaning coasts to protect the ocean.

Oleta Forde, Founder Plymouth Beach Clean

Smart Sound Plymouth is a world-renowned fully instrumented and managed advanced testbed, providing equipment and innovation support for the development of the next generation of marine technologies including applied autonomy, clean propulsion, environmental measurement, cyber security and advanced communication, including ocean-based 5G testing.

Smart Sound Plymouth partnership headed by Plymouth Marine Laboratory



Data sets extending back over a century and the breadth of measurements taken makes the Western Channel Observatory unique and of international importance for marine science, complimented by remote sensing and complex ecosystem models that combine to deliver pioneering, policy-relevant, marine science and technology for the benefit of all.

Dr James Fishwick, Head of Operations and Technology, Western Channel Observatory

Hidden beneath the surface of Plymouth Sound are 1000 species and incredible habitats. The pioneering approach of the UK's first National Marine Park is not to look for new regulation, but rather to create an opportunity to connect the public with the sea, developing stewardship in the process and helping us all understand why the marine environment is so important to the future of our island nation.

Charles Clover, Executive Director Blue Marine Foundation



## Dockyard Port of Plymouth

The Dockyard Port of Plymouth encompasses all the waters from about 1 1/2 miles south of the Breakwater to as far as the tide flows in all Plymouth Sound's tributaries.

The largest naval base in Europe, it hosts half the Royal Navy's fighting strength. This includes over half the frigate force, the amphibious capability and the surveying flotilla. The Naval Base also contains the UK's nuclear submarine refitting facility and is the base for the Fleet training organisation. It is the most operationally and socio-economically diverse, navigationally challenging and environmentally sensitive port in NW Europe.

Operated and managed under the primary legislation of The Dockyard Port Regulation Act of 1865, a Queen's Harbour Master (QHM) is appointed who superintends the port on behalf of the MOD for the benefit of National Defence and to otherwise protect the port. This encompasses the preservation of life, protection of the environment, protection of property and the safe and effective

management of port activities. It is a strategic port – in every sense, militarily, commercially, environmentally and in recreational terms. It is an asset for all to enjoy.

Responsibility for, ownership and management of the Dockyard Port is extremely complex, involves a multitude of supporting legislation and guidelines, and involves close cooperation between numerous Government departments, statutory and relevant authorities, commercial, environmental, educational and research bodies, as well as leisure users and charitable organisations. This is managed collaboratively, under QHM Plymouth through well-established, nationally acclaimed, inclusively representative fora including the Harbour Authorities Liaison Committee, Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum and Port of Plymouth Marine Liaison Committee.

Together with managing approximately 60,000 shipping movements per year of vessels ranging from nuclear submarines and commercial fishing vessels to oil tankers and cruise liners, the port contains a Special Area of Conservation, a Special Protection Area, several Sites of Special Scientific Interest and a Marine Conservation Zone.

# What is coming up

The ambitions for Plymouth Sound National Marine Park are bold. We aim that the 'Park in the Sea' will:

- Support the ongoing protection of our world class natural environment and heritage landscape
- Get the entire city involved with the water
- Increase access to our heritage so everyone can enjoy the benefits
- Provide new employment opportunities and career pathways in sustainable future ocean jobs
- Position Plymouth as a UK top day-visitor destination
- Champion health and wellbeing with a new generation of engaged volunteers, communities and champions.

We aim to help the entire city connect with the water through key gateways:

- A Welcome Centre for the National Marine Park at the National Marine Aquarium
- New facilities for water users at the waterfront
- Improvements across the Mount Batten Peninsula, with better transport access, access to the water and investment in parts of the Mount Batten Watersports Centre
- Refurbishment of the Garden Battery at Mount Edgcumbe
- A digital porthole to the sound, so that everyone can access the wonders it holds.

## What's being planned for the next couple of years?

Sea-in-the-Park roadshow, bringing the National Marine Park to your community with pop-up activities and family fun.

Walking events and challenges engaging users with the marine park and their own wellbeing.

Give-it-a-go events, so that anyone can progress from limited water skills to teach safety and build confidence in activities such as swimming, snorkelling, paddle boarding and sailing.

Community focus-group 'National Marine Park Community Conversations' - a regular, open forum for residents to hear and discuss with leaders from across National Marine Park.

Ocean-themed new programming at The Box through 2023, with new exhibitions and art installations reflecting on our relationship with the marine world and sustainability.

A new 'National Marine Park Season Opening Fest' event in May 2022, building on the Pirates weekend with on-the-water free taster sessions, organisations providing offers, sign-ups for summer courses and fun outreach activities.

Building Armed Forces Day to showcase naval heritage and naval activity in Plymouth sound.

A trial of Park Rangers to lead engagement and education activities.

Extension of the school learning programme of Ocean Citizenship.

Activities to help inspire and prepare young people for marine tech careers.





# The vision, partnership and future

## Vision

The National Marine Park will celebrate our past and our future. It will encourage greater prosperity and enhanced engagement with our marine and maritime environment. Building on our current work and existing structures, it will support how we value and work in harmony with the natural environment to deliver the greatest benefit for all. Our vision is for a National Marine Park that supports thriving businesses, connected communities and inspired visitors.

## Why Plymouth Sound is a National Marine Park

It is one of the world's most important and visually stunning natural harbours. It has multiple designations for protected habitats and supports over 1000 species of fish and other marine animal life. It is home to HMNB Devonport, the largest naval base in Western Europe, commercial ports, a substantial national fishing fleet, international fish market, commercial diver training, a global hub for marine leisure industries and an internationally important marine research cluster.

It is a historic tourist destination as Plymouth and its people have played a vital role in the development of Europe and the Americas. Nowhere could be more deserving of special recognition at a local or national level. So many pioneering voyages have set sail from here that it is natural for Plymouth to be considered the UK's first National Marine Park.

## Progressing organisational foundations

The Plymouth Sound National Marine Park is a major initiative for the city and surrounding areas. During 2021-22, the partners will:

- Create a long term business plan
- Showcase existing marine conservation and protection
- Support 'green recovery' where a high quality natural environment and strong economic performance thrive together
- Secure additional funding and support.



## NMP Declaration

History was made in Plymouth in September 2019 when key local, regional and national partners signed the Declaration of Intent for Plymouth Sound National Marine Park and came together to create the UK's first ever National Marine Park.

The full text of the declaration can be read at [www.plymouthsoundnationalmarinepark.com](http://www.plymouthsoundnationalmarinepark.com)



For more information about Plymouth Sound  
National Marine Park, please visit  
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