

Prospectus addresses most pressing marine science questions

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The most pressing issues that UK marine science needs to address over the next two decades are the subject of a prospectus published as a themed issue of the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A* last month. The volume is co-edited and carries contributions by scientists based at the National Oceanography Centre Southampton (NOCS). Credit: Image courtesy of Andrew Coward, National Oceanography Centre

A 'Prospectus for UK marine science' has been published by the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A*. The themed issue, which includes contributions from scientists based at the National Oceanography Centre, details the key marine science questions to be addressed over the next 20 years.

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Human-induced changes in [ocean processes](#) are already being observed, and are projected to intensify as demand for the ocean's resources continues to increase. The prospectus, introduced as 'A strategy for UK marine science for the next 20 years', is a collection of papers written primarily by young to mid-career scientists in the fields of physical oceanography, ocean–ice sheet interactions, palaeoceanography, marine geoscience, biogeochemistry, biological oceanography, climate modelling and marine policy. This horizon-scanning exercise, driven by the Challenger Society for Marine Sciences and the UK [Scientific Committee](#) for Oceanic Research, is part of a wider plan to set out new initiatives for a marine science strategy in each of these research areas.

The authors provide a vision for their respective research areas, addressing the following questions:

- What will my area of marine science be like in 20 years' time?
- What will be the role of UK marine science in international science over that period?
- What are the scientific challenges?
- What technological advances are necessary to meet the

challenges?

"The UK marine science strategy should be reviewed every two to four years by young to mid-career scientists," said Professor Harry Bryden FRS, who co-edited the volume. "This is essential to maintain the health of UK marine science."

The prospectus will also complement the marine research community vision and priorities document 'Setting Course', which was published and developed in 2011 by the National Oceanography Centre Association, by providing a more detailed, peer reviewed, scientific perspective on each of the research areas.

More information: *Philosophical Transactions of The Royal Society A: Mathematical Physical and Engineering Sciences*, December 13, 2012; 370 (1980). Published online before print rsta.royalsocietypublishing.org...content/370/1980.toc.

Provided by National Oceanography Centre, Southampton (UK)

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