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Foreword

Every year, as Founders we challenge ourselves to take a step back and consider what we have achieved, as we put together this Annual Report. 2022 was a year to consolidate and to grow. Our income was higher than it has ever been and we were delighted that we could keep pace with that growth and extend the reach of our grants considerably.

Our Main Grants Fund goes from strength to strength and we are receiving more applications than ever and seeing a wider range of organisations and projects coming forward. Our Small Grants Fund has also been much in demand, allowing those projects that need only a small injection of cash to apply at any time, in order to get up and running with their ideas.

It was the third year of running the Bunzl Coastal Fountain Fund, which continues to make a massive impact around our coasts in reducing plastic pollution, as well as providing beachgoers with the option to refill.

2021 was the inaugural year for both the Innovation Fund and the Marine Conservation Social Fund. The grants allocated in that year really came to fruition in 2022 and we are delighted with what has been achieved.

Having been unable to meet in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our Board finally came together in November 2022, with the help of the Sladen Butterfly Fund. Our fantastic Board Away Weekend allowed us to rebuild our sense of team and to reset our priorities.

By the end of 2022 we were busily recruiting new trustees to join our Board and we start 2023 with three new fantastic Board members, bringing vast experience and fresh ideas so that we can keep moving forward.

Helen Webb and Rachel Lopata





Who we are



We believe that the best people to care for the UK's coasts and seas are the people who live, work and play there.

Sea-Changers is a unique charity run by a team of passionate sea-lovers, marine experts and conservation specialists.

Sea-Changers seeks to harness the commitment and passion of those who enjoy the UK's coasts and waters to improve our seas, shores and wildlife, supporting everyone from grass-roots, local organisations to national, household-name charities, from Orkney to Alderney and all around the UK.

In the past eleven years, more than £350,000 has been raised and distributed to 300+ projects, involving practical actions like beach cleaning, but also educational activities and scientific research. Our grants enable local people to care for, and raise awareness about, the coastal environments they love.

Grants programmes we run include:

- Main Grants Fund awards grants of between £500 and £2,500 twice a year through an open application process.
- The Small Grants Fund runs year round to support community conservation projects in need of a small amount of additional funding quickly.
- The Innovation Fund encourages new and more experimental solutions to marine conservation challenges.
- The Bunzl Coastal Fountain Fund supports the installation of water bottle refill stations around the UK coast.
- The Marine Conservation Social Fund enables socially beneficial marine conservation approaches and solutions.



Our objectives

Our charitable purpose is to promote, for the benefit of the public, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural marine environment and promote marine biodiversity. We are meeting this purpose by:

- Establishing fundraising partnerships with partners across the UK.
- Managing these partnerships and collecting funds raised for Sea-Changers.
- Administering transparent and robust grant-giving processes, available to marine conservation charities and projects within the UK.
- Providing funding to enhance the work of charities and other organisations with shared aims.

Sea-Changers arranges partnerships with a range of marine-connected and other commercial and philanthropic organisations. We develop a range of models of partnership in negotiation with individual partners to raise funds.

This funding is then distributed, in line with set criteria, to reputable and appropriate marine conservation and protection organisations throughout the UK.

To achieve our purpose, Sea-Changers has four priority actions within our business plan and under which all activities of the organisation fall:

- To expand the number of partners that work with us to raise funds for marine conservation:
- To raise our profile and build our reputation;
- To run effective grants programmes supporting marine conservation projects around the UK;
- To build the long-term sustainability of the charity.





Governance & management

Type of governing document

Sea-Changers was formed through the signing of a Trust Deed (our governing document) on the 10 December 2010, amended by deeds dated 23 April 2013, 18 March 2014 and 29 September 2021

We are managed by a Board of Trustees. The day-to-day operation of the charity's work is undertaken by a team of volunteers, including the charity's two co-founders. Whilst the charity has no paid employees, we do buy-in some support for the grants administration process on an ad hoc basis, using the services of a freelance, self-employed administrator.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

There must be at least three Trustees.

- Apart from the first Trustees, every Trustee must be appointed by a resolution of the Trustees passed at a special meeting. In selecting individuals for appointment as Trustees, the Trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the Charity.
- The Trustees must keep a record of the name and address and the dates of appointment, re-appointment and retirement of each Trustee.
- The Trustees must make available to each new Trustee, on his or her first appointment:

 (a) a copy of the Trust deed and any amendments made to it;
 (b) a copy of the Charity's latest report and statement of accounts. No one shall be appointed as a Trustee:
 (a) if he or she is under the age of 18 years;
 or (b) if he or she would at once be disqualified from office under the provisions of clause 11 of the Trust deed.
- No one shall be entitled to act as a Trustee whether on appointment or on any reappointment as Trustee until he or she has expressly acknowledged, in whatever way the Trustees decide, his or her acceptance of the office of Trustee of the Charity.

"We exist to make marine conservation happen around the UK. We believe we have a unique role to play in enabling grassroots and fledgling projects to thrive and to grow. Many such projects have gone on to greater things, some becoming bigger entities than Sea-Changers - nothing makes us more proud than that!"

Sarah Brown, Chair of Sea-Changers

Our trustees in 2022

Name	Role	Date appointed	Other trusteeships
Sarah Brown	Chair	3rd May 2013	
Lesley Fitt	Trustee	7th September 2015	
Beth Siddons	Trustee	20th November 2017	
Tanya Ferry	Trustee	20th November 2017	
Sue Holden	Trustee	20th November 2017	The Geographical Association



2022 - The Year in Review

Activities, achievements & performance

If 2021 was a year of recovery, post COVID, for Sea-Changers; 2022 was a year of consolidating that recovery and going on to achieve strong growth. Our total annual income almost doubled, as compared to the previous year, and the number of grants we were therefore able to give out, followed suit.

Our relatively small grants continue to offer something unique in the UK marine conservation landscape.

We remain in a unique position with our overview of the wide range of organisations working to protect and enhance the UK's coasts and seas. We also help groups and communities to make links together and encourage joined-up thinking in conservation work and activities.



Main & Small Grants Funds 2022

In 2022 our main grants programme, which runs twice a year in Spring and Autumn, allocated over £50,000 in grants funding to 26 UK marine conservation projects. The projects we have funded are diverse and often focus on local communities, engaging them in conservation solutions that will positively change their local marine environment. Meanwhile our small grants fund, which is open all year round for applications of £500 or less, also allocated £6,670 to 15 different projects.

The sheer diversity of what we fund can make it challenging to summarise our impact in a given year and the true impact of these projects will only be fully clear when we receive their final evaluations, many months after funding is first received. Nevertheless, we are delighted to share just a flavour of where Sea-Changers grants have been going in 2022.

We have covered a lot of ground, funding projects all over the UK. We have funded work the length and breadth of the country - from the furthest Northern tip of the UK - supporting research into thornback rays in the Shetland Islands – to remote ocean clean-up work as far South as Isles of Scilly. And from West to East – supporting work engaging children in marine conservation in St Davids, West Wales and protecting threatened sea birds in the Humber estuary as well as engaging businesses in plastics reduction around the Thanet coast in the East.

Some key themes of the 2022 grants were:

Regeneration of marine habitats, for example:

- Car-Y-Mor- Introducing Ocean Farming- working with school children and students to introduce them to regenerative ocean farming.
- Our Only World- Harbour Walls project- installing a Living Sea Wall to support increased biodiversity in Falmouth harbour.
- Fal Fishery Cooperative CIC engaging the younger community with marine conservation through an oyster rewilding project.

Supporting threatened seabirds, for example:

- Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Ltd- Little Tern Protection scheme funding a lookout shelter for the wardens who are monitoring and protecting a breeding colony of Britain's rarest breeding seabird.
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust- Motus Receiver Station at Gibraltar Point Nature Reserve and Bird Observatory- purchasing kit needed to monitor migrating birds and bats as part of a European network of data collection.



<u> Main & Small Grants</u> Funds 2022

Engaging children and young people with the marine environment, for example:

- Seaful Vitamin Sea Project Plymouth engaging a local school, with predominantly pupil premium children that might not otherwise have this opportunity. The focus will be on ocean literacy through exploration and education.
- International Otter Survival Fund Team Otter Broadford, a club to help children engage with wildlife and the environment; take part in campaigns and increase the environmental health of Skye.

Citizen science projects, for example:

- Seaweed Gardens a community of creative active citizens researching seaweed and growing it as a way to take action on climate change and to protect the coastal environment.
- Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch will be running fortnightly public sea-watches to record whale and dolphin sightings between April and September 2023.

Researching and monitoring threats to UK marine life, for example:

- Project Baseline UK- Microplastic accumulation in Marine Sediments collecting sediment and water samples from around the UK to ascertain the distribution of microplastics.
- Shetland UHI investigating the feeding ecology (diet and feeding strategy) of the near threatened thornback ray (Raja clavata) around the Shetland Islands, Scotland.

Taking direct action to clean up marine and coastal habitats, for example:

- Divers against Dumping gill net removal project in Kent these nets can become stuck and keep fishing, continually catching fish and wildlife. The nets can often only be removed by divers. The Sea-Changers' grant is enabling five days of diving to take place to tackle the problem.
- Ullapool Sea Savers- Remote Beach Cleans in Wester Ross Marine Protected Areaenabling the local community to do beach cleans in remote areas where rubbish removal is particularly difficult.



The Innovation Fund

Outcomes from the 2021 Innovation Fund

Dorset Wildlife Trust were the very first recipients of the Sea-Changers' Innovation Fund. The Fund aims to encourage and support new ideas, solutions and projects for marine conservation in the UK. The grant made in 2021 was for £2,000 towards the Dorset 3Deep Project.

Surveying underwater is like working in a dense fog – you can only see any detail or colour if you are very close to the seabed, generally within a metre. Using specialised software, it is possible to stitch together hundreds of overlapping seabed photographs to create an otherwise impossible to see widescale "aerial" view. The aim of this project was to apply this technique to monitor changes in fragile reef species within the Studland to Portland Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in Dorset.

The founding sponsor for the fund was MRT - a world-leading manufacturer of Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) and marine safety equipment. The outputs from this innovative research provide a unique way to illustrate seabed dynamics and the habitats within the Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). The resultant 3D models, which are available to view online, provide a novel way to engage with stakeholders and the wider public. The project's evaluation report has now also been published.





The 2022 Innovation Fund

The Sea-Changers Innovation Fund in 2022 was supported by Liga and the William Grant Foundation with a further donation from a family trust. Applications were received by the end of October and a wide variety of innovative ideas were evaluated by our grants panel.

The projects supported represent a range of ideas and the nature of the innovation is varied. Some grants went towards innovative science, some were innovative applications of technology and some were innovative people engagement.

The list of projects supported can be found <u>here</u>. Details of the outcomes of these eight projects will be available for our 2023 Annual Report.



The Marine Conservation Social Fund - Projects

The aim of this exciting new fund was to support socially beneficial marine conservation approaches and solutions. The fund total was £23,000 and this was made possible by a single donation to Sea-Changers. The first grants from this new programme (launched in late 2021) were awarded in 2022 to the following projects:

The Ocean Well Being project - Clean Ocean Sailing

The Ocean Well Being project brings together marine conservation and positive social outreach, offering individuals from disadvantaged communities the opportunity to participate in ocean clean-up missions.

Reusable period education to our Schools -Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute (GRAB Trust)

This project supports Teachers at all 77 Schools in Argyll & Bute by providing free resource packs and accessible online training that will enable pupils to make informed choices about their health and their environmental impact.

Ocean Pathways - Ocean Conservation Trust (OCT)

Ocean Pathways integrates a year-long programme for 16–18-year-olds from diverse communities. Ten people were recruited from culturally and socially diverse backgrounds from communities around Plymouth.

A school period box - developed by the GRAB Trust



Trash and Treasure - Penparcau Wildlife Group

The Trash and Treasure project aims to recruit volunteers from the community to visit the local beach to learn about its wildlife, take part in surveys to monitor a range of species, and to work together to remove litter from the strandline.

Blue Youth: Kickstarting the connection with marine conservation – Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC)

WDC Shorewatch is a long-standing citizen science project gathering regular, specific data on cetacean presence and absence in Scotland. A main barrier to volunteering for young and disadvantaged communities is lack of transport and/or funds to get to volunteer locations. WDC want to make Shorewatch opportunities more accessible to 18 to 25 year olds within the Highlands and Islands including the Hebrides, North Coast and Moray Firth. They will run free events and transport options to improve accessibility to these opportunities.

Dee Estuary Wellbeing with Nature Project – Cheshire Wildlife Trust

A new structured and supported coastal volunteering programme designed to connect communities to their coastal wildlife, improve participant health and wellbeing. Delivery of two 6-week structured and supported Wellbeing with Nature volunteering programmes covering both the English and Welsh shores of the Dee Estuary for a total of 24 participants. The Conservation and Volunteering Officer will receive specialist training and be supported by a Wellbeing with Nature practitioner to ensure these programmes meet the needs of the participants and provide an enjoyable experience, for what for many will be their first time engaging with the Dee Estuary.



Young people learn citizen science with WDC



The Marine Conservation Social Fund - Impact

THE 2022 MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIAL FUND IN NUMBERS



OVERALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE IMPACTED

620 + 150 + 679

Project Participants Teachers Engaged Wider Public

=1,449

PEOPLE REACHED

IMPACTING THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE



24 x Young People given access to Shorewatch Kits



77 x Schools Engaged



150 x Teachers Upskilled

Social Groups Targeted

- Young People from Disadvantaged and Remote Communities
- · Men with Mental Health Needs
- Intergenerational Groups
- People with Visible and Invisible Disabilities

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



642 x Scientific Records Collected



1 x Important Discovery of Rare Species (Blue Skate)



22 x Miles of Coast Cleaned



1 Tonne of Waste Collected

In-Kind Contributions £26,996

(e.g. volunteer hours, venue hire, fuel)



Sea-Changers Grants x 6 £23,000

Funding from Other Sources £22.440

"We spotted the trigger fish on Friday but didn't know what it was, I've since told my son and shown him what they look like. He's thrilled to have seen a species not native to us here."

"I realised life is bigger than my worries and being part of a worthwhile project and part of a community was really lovely and what I needed."

"It was a pivotal change for me that has led to a huge transformation in my life."

WIDER IMPACT



88 x Sessions and Workshops with 620 participants



20 x Staff achieved professional accreditations during the project delivery



10 x Public Events with 679 attendees



7 x Newsletters Podcasts or Articles



The Bunzl Coastal Fountain Fund

Sea-Changers awarded nine organisations grants from the 2022 Bunzl Coastal Water Fountain Fund. Since launching in 2020, the Sea-Changers Coastal Fountain Fund has enabled organisations based around the UK to install fountains in busy and/or environmentally important coastal locations. In 2022, grants were awarded to a range of organisations from Wildlife trusts, to District, Borough and Community Councils and the National Trust.

The locations of fountains installed so far through the programme are shown here (click on the map to review it in more detail):



"We know that our customers, suppliers and the societies in which our businesses operate around the world all want to find ways to protect our environment and to make better use of natural resources. That's why we're delighted to have supported the fund in 2021 and are looking forward to seeing more water bottle refill stations installed around the UK coast." James Pitcher, Head of Sustainability, Bunzl plc

The fund aims to tackle the increasing problem of plastic bottles, left behind along the coast as marine litter, which damage the marine environment and the species that call it home. It is anticipated that the provision of the water refill stations will significantly reduce the numbers of non-reusable plastic drinks bottles on our beaches. In fact, research suggests that providing more free drinking water in public spaces could lead to a 65% reduction in the use of plastic water bottles.

The fund is being sponsored by the specialist international distribution and services group, Bunzl plc, who are supporting this work as part of their response to the plastic challenge. The issue remains widespread on UK beaches despite the rising awareness around the impact of single-use plastic.



Partnerships

Our bespoke funding partnerships are developed to deliver against partners' corporate social responsibility themes. We enable partners to track the projects funded so that they can create employee and customer pride in their support for UK marine life.

Core to our fundraising model are our partnerships with a range of diverse businesses. We are grateful to all the amazing businesses that supported our grant giving work throughout 2021. The 2022 grant money came from Sea-Changers' marine business partners, including:

- 10 International, who raise funds through sales of their ethically sourced eco-friendly wine range, Sea Change Wine.
- International distribution group, Bunzl Plc, which invested in the installation of drinking water refill stations around the UK coast.
- Liga, a family-run business, generously committed to donate 1% of sales from their online store to Sea-Changers and also contributed £10,000 to the Innovation Fund.
- The William Grant Foundation, which contributed £10,000 towards the Innovation Fund
- The Bernard Lewis Family Charitable Trust which supported both the Marine Conservation Social Fund and the Innovation Fund in 2022.
- Extrême Ice Cream Brand funded the set-up of the 'Tackling Ocean Plastics Fund', to support groups and organisations around the UK who wish to run marine conservation projects aimed at tackling the issue of plastics.

Other donors to our Main Grant Fund in 2022 were:

- 10 Percent for the Ocean
- · Hebridean Island Cruises.
- Simply Washrooms.
- Jungle Culture.

""We wanted to support a charity directly promoting the UK's beautiful coastline. Sea-Changers is focused on practical solutions and that was exactly what we were looking for."

Simon Rolfe, Director, 10 International



Financial Review

INCOME

Total Funds

During 2022 we received income from three main sources: personal donations, unrestricted business donations and fundraising activities undertaken by our supporters. Total income in 2022 was: £158,702 (2021: £79,371).

Sea-Changers also continues to generate income through mechanisms such as Amazon Smile and Give as you Live.

Restricted Funds

Sea-Changers' purpose is to raise money for marine conservation projects through working with marine businesses. During the year 2022 we raised £68,010 (2021: £40,639) in restricted funds specifically for this use. Over time we have been moving away from partnerships that actively restrict our expenditure, however, the vast majority of our unrestricted income also goes towards marine conservation projects.

Pro Bono work / key volunteers

Much of our work is done through the generous donation of time and services by key volunteers, some of whom are supported to do this by their employers. This has included:

- · Our Scientific Advisor Dr. Helen Scales
- Our social media team Jo Hutchinson and Ashley Atkins
- Project evaluation support Sarah Harvey
- Emma Armshaw and Rachael Ogden Wilson both giving invaluable strategic support on specific projects.
- Book-keeping Lydia Edwards.
- IT support: lain Lopata

Sea-Changers would also like to thank Sea-Changers' Grants Officer Rosy Carter who is remunerated for some of her work but certainly goes above and beyond, volunteering extra hours to keep our grants programmes running.



With thanks to our main funders in 2022



Financial Review

EXPENDITURE

Administrative Costs

Total expenditure for administration by Sea-Changers during the year 2022 amounted to £14,627 (2021: £12,727). This covered administrative costs (insurance, travel and administration costs and purchase of merchandise and marketing materials). A further £1,186 (2021: £690) went towards the costs of governance.

Grants for Marine Conservation Work

In 2022 Sea-Changers dispersed grants totaling £130,277 (2021: £36,073).

Sea-Changers' purpose is to raise money for marine conservation projects through working with commercial partners. Depending on the nature of the agreement in place with a commercial partner, some of the money raised through these routes goes into our restricted fund and must, ultimately, be passed on to marine conservation projects, through grants; rather than being used for charity administrations, support or campaigns.

Money raised through other fundraising: through partnerships where no restriction has been agreed about how the money should be used; and / or personal donations direct to the charity (not via a business relationship or text donation) goes into our unrestricted fund and may be used for any purpose, including for governance and general administrative purposes.

Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration was paid by Sea-Changers to any Trustees during 2022 (2021: nil). No Trustees received payments for expenses during 2022 (2021: nil).

OTHER NOTES

Reserves

Sea-Changers maintains a reserve of at least £7,500 at all times. This is held purely to allow for fluctuations in receipts / payments and to cover for unforeseen situations and requirements - i.e. as a small contingency fund.

Deficit

There was no deficit during the year.

Risks

Throughout the year, the Trustees continued to manage risks by reviewing key aspects of Sea-Changers' work, determining their likely impact and associated level of risk. These included:

- The need for funding to cover core costs;
- External factors impacting on future plans thus year, in particular the trustees had to consider the continued impact of COVID-19;
- · Compliance with legal requirements; and
- The risks and benefits of volunteer recruitment.



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		from	01/01/22	То	31/12/22	

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	Restricted	Endowment		
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90,692	68,010	-	158,702	79,371
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The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Sarah Brown

Soul Br.

Sarah Brown Trustee and Chair

Date: 28th August 2023

