

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION OF THE SEA
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, have pleasure in presenting their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2018. In preparing this report the Trustees have complied with the Companies Act 2006, the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (revised 2005) and applicable accounting standards.

OBJECTS, PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND ORGANISATION

The charity is a registered charity, number 290776. The charity's object and principal activity continues to be that of encouraging the prevention of marine pollution and promoting and conducting research into its causes and effects.

Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (“ACOPS”) is broadly concerned with environmental policies and scientific issues. It also hosts, conducts and contributes to high-level seminars, meetings and lectures on critical marine policy issues, such as those held with Globe in the Houses of Parliament.

The charity continues to monitor marine pollution and collaborates with other national and international organisations concerned with environmental policies. It is encouraging to see a new focus by government and society on the adverse impacts of plastic waste in the marine environment. This was highlighted by ACOPS in 2015 at a House of Lords Dialogue informed by key experts.

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers. The Trustees believe that the Charity’s mission of encouraging the prevention of marine pollution and promoting research is of huge benefit to the public.

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, company number 01867863, and is therefore governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees may be appointed under the terms of the Articles of Association only with the power to co-opt until subsequent general meetings to fill casual vacancies as and when they may arise are held. Newly appointed trustees are given sufficient training and instruction in order to enable them to complete their necessary duties.

The charity is administered by its Executive Committee, which includes the Trustees.

DEVELOPMENTS, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR

ACOPS continues to have Observer status with several Agencies and associated bodies of the United Nations (including the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other international intergovernmental bodies, including the Office of the London Convention and London Protocol); the Arctic Council; and the OSPAR Commission (the Regional Seas Convention for the Protection of the

Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic), which guide ACOPS's activities and enable ACOPS to provide technical support for the work of these bodies within its areas of expertise. More specifically ACOPS engages as follows:

The Arctic Council

The Arctic Ocean is an important area of interest for ACOPS at a time of profound change for the Arctic environment. In addition to involvement in the Arctic Council and the Polar Code at IMO, Professor Hunt was also a member of the House of Lords Select Committee on the Arctic during the 2017-2018 session. ACOPS follows the work of the Arctic Council with particular interest in marine protected areas, and changes to permafrost, permanent ice cover and marginal sea ice extent. Professor Johnson represented ACOPS at the Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council in Fairbanks Alaska (May 2017). ACOPS has engaged with the All Party Polar Group in the UK.

The London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matters and the 1996 Protocol

ACOPS follows these two Conventions. The London Convention is one of the first global conventions to protect the marine environment from human activities and has been in force since 1975. Its objective is to promote the effective control of all sources of marine pollution and to take all practicable steps to prevent pollution of the sea by dumping of wastes and other matter. In 1996, the "London Protocol" was adopted to further modernize the Convention and, eventually, replace it. Under the Protocol all dumping is prohibited, except for possibly acceptable wastes on the so-called "reverse list". Application of a "precautionary approach" is included as a general obligation in the Protocol.

During this reporting year ACOPS was represented at:

The 39th meeting of the London Convention and 12th meeting of the London Protocol, 9-13 October 2017 by Prof David Johnson, and Ms Youna Lyons. They followed the topics of disposal of fibreglass vessels; dealing with platforms and other man-made structures; and marine litter and microplastics. ACOPS has been active in this work undertaken by the Parties to the London Convention and Protocol since its adoption as a high-profile issue by the Parties in 2007. Discussions on geo-engineering culminated in an amendment to the London Protocol that formally places marine geo-engineering in general and ocean engineering in particular in a clear international regulatory framework, and defines marine scientific research for the first time in international law. For further information, please see Dr. Philomene Verlaan's description and analysis of the ground-breaking work by the Contracting Parties to these two treaties in developing the international law applicable to marine geo-engineering and marine scientific research in an invited article in the *International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law* 28(4):729-736 (2013). No significant developments on marine geoenvironment occurred in this reporting period.

International Maritime Organization

ACOPS routinely follows the Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC) of the IMO. At MEPC: 71st meeting of IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee, 3-7 July 2017, ACOPS was represented by Lord Julian Hunt, Prof David Johnson, Prof Anthony Gallagher, Philip Turner and Dr. Natalia Martini. MEPC 71 further clarified Ballast Water Management procedures; worked towards effective implementation of the global sulphur limit; and GHG reduction. Of particular interest to ACOPS was an agreement to work towards protecting the Arctic from heavy fuel oil and

designation of Tubbataha Reefs National Park (Philippines) as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area. Prof Johnson acted as a technical expert to the Philippines PSSA.

IMO Awards Ceremony: on the occasion of the 30th Session of Assembly of IMO – 29th November 2017 | Embassy of Japan, London, ACOPS noted the award of the International Maritime Prize to Mr Koji Sekimizu, IMO Secretary-General Emeritus, for distinguished service and leadership.

Ghana Exchange Program (GXC):

Lord Hunt continues to speak about this in Parliament. Contact is being kept with relevant experts in Ghana.

Asian Network on Climate Science and Technology (ANCST)

ACOPS is closely affiliated to the Asian Network on Climate Science and Technology (ANSCT), which provides and facilitates exchange of information to aid development of research coordination projects led by Asian researchers. The scope of ANCST encompasses the broad areas of climate science and technology with particular emphasis on disaster resilience, extreme climate events and urban climate change and related topics.

ANCST is dedicated solely to enhancing capacity on disaster and climate resilience research, underpinned by science, technology and innovation. ANCST aspires to bring together researchers from various disciplines to a multidisciplinary platform to strengthen their capacity, while simultaneously interacting with other multi-stakeholder networks, intergovernmental bodies and multi-lateral institutions operating in the region.

Greater capacity to innovate and transmit science and technology would enhance disaster and climate resilience in many parts of Asia. This is particularly relevant for Southeast Asia. Institutional planning and coordination for development of multidisciplinary research programmes on disaster and climate resilience is needed at regional and national levels. Establishing strong networking among researchers and academics is critical for building capacity in multidisciplinary and integrated approaches that address disasters related to extreme climate events.

ANCST is hosted by University Kebangsaan Malaysia with SEADPRI-UKM serving as the coordination centre, with support from the Cambridge Malaysian Education and Development Trust (CEMDT) in Association with the Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre (MCSC) of Trinity College, Cambridge.

Workshops convened and attended

ACOPS Dialogue on UK Marine Reserves – 7 November 2017 | House of Lords, London. This meeting focused on Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, which has both quantitative and qualitative elements. The UK and her Overseas Territories have made significant efforts to exceed the 10% coverage target but evidence is needed to ensure these designations are effective, equitable, well-connected and ecologically coherent. Commentary during the Dialogue stressed the need for transparency and inclusive governance. Speakers at the Dialogue

have developed a peer-reviewed paper based on the session that will become available on the ACOPS website.

UN Oceans Conference – 5-9 June 2017, United Nations, New York

4th International Marine Protected Area Conference – 4-8 September 2017, La Serena, Chile

Velux Foundations Symposium: A Sea of Interests – How can we contribute to a sustainable environment in the sea surrounding Denmark – 9 November 2017, Copenhagen, Denmark (keynote given by Prof Johnson)

IMarEST Award

Prof Johnson was awarded the 2017 Institute of Marine Engineering Science and Technology (IMarEST) International award. The International award recognises an individual who has undertaken activities or actions to help developing countries improve their ability to comply with international rules and standards relating to marine safety and the protection of the environment or a contribution to human resources development or institutional capacity-building. IMarEST is the international professional body and learned society for all marine professionals and this award acknowledges David's outstanding contribution to conserving marine biodiversity.

FUTURE PLANS AND DEVELOPMENTS:

ACOPS intends to continue to:

- Publish *on behalf of Marine Coast Guards Agency *an Annual Survey of Reported Discharges Attributed to Vessels and Offshore Oil & Gas Installations Operating in the United Kingdom Pollution Control Zone. The previous report was published in 2015?

- Engage with the Arctic Council and its work towards pollution prevention and biodiversity conservation
- Work with the International Maritime Organization, following developments of environmental regulation for international shipping, within the remit of the Marine Environmental Protection Committee.
- Work with the London Convention and London Protocol on the international regulation of ocean fertilization, marine geo-engineering, carbon sequestration and aspects related to the disposal of sediments, wastes and other effluents from deep-sea mining in particular and waste disposal at sea generally.
- Continue following the work of the International Seabed Authority (ISA). Dr. Philomene Verlaan, Senior Adviser to ACOPS on Deep Sea Mining, follows this topic in detail as the Representative of the Sargasso Sea Commission to the ISA. Her most recent publication on this topic is the chapter on Deep-Sea Mining in the *Handbook on Marine Environment Protection: Science, Impacts and Sustainable Management*, edited by Till Markus and Markus Solomon, Springer, Berlin (2017). ACOPS intends to seek observer status with the ISA.

- Work with the OSPAR Commission on the Environmental Impact of Human Activities, with a focus in particular on marine litter, deep-sea tailings placement and marine spatial planning (including marine protected areas).
- Hold meetings in Parliament and the Scottish Parliament.
- Work in a voluntary partnership with the P1 Marine Foundation to develop their university awards scheme.
- Develop a programme of regular topical Climate seminars in Cambridge, taking forward in particular the outcome of the 2015 UNFCCC Climate Summit in Paris and to continue with the search for support for the Meta-data centres for climate/environment data in African countries project.