

INSTITUTE OF
MARINE
Engineering, Science & Technology

Marine Mammals
Special Interest Group
Biennial Report 2024 – 2025



NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS
TO THE END OF 2025:

22



NUMBER FOR CORRESPONDING MEMBERS
END OF 2025:

568



MMSIG WEBINARS:

5



MMSIG WORKSHOPS:

1



MMSIG SEMINARS:

1



WEBINAR REGISTRATIONS TOTAL:

2076



PUBLICATIONS/ARTICLES:

5



IMarEST-DEFRA REPORT DOWNLOADS:

2906



IMarEST BLOG/ARTICLE VIEWS:

9246



MMSIG CAREERS MATRIX DOWNLOADS:

4069



Message from Co-Chairs

The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) Marine Mammals Special Interest Group (MMSIG) is pleased to present its Biennial Report covering the period 2024 to 2025. This report provides an overview of the Group's activities, outputs, and contributions during a period of continued growth, increasing sector demand, and heightened global focus on marine environmental stewardship.

Since its establishment in 2020, the MMSIG has played a central role in supporting knowledge exchange, professional development, and cross-sector collaboration at the interface of scientific research, the blue economy, and conservation and resource management. Over the 2024–2025 period, the Group has continued to strengthen its position as a trusted technical and professional forum within IMarEST by highlighting emerging challenges associated with energy sector development, climate change, innovation in monitoring technologies, and the evolving role of protected species management in the blue economy.

This reporting period includes a diverse programme of webinars, publications, and external engagement, bolstered by collaboration with other IMarEST Special Interest Groups, industry partners, academic institutions, and professional bodies. Committee members have contributed expert insight across a wide range of topics, including mitigation and monitoring practices, professional standards, careers and skills development, and the responsible integration of marine mammal considerations into offshore project planning and delivery.

The MMSIG's work throughout 2024 and 2025 reflects the commitment and expertise of its committee and corresponding members, whose voluntary contributions continue to drive the group's success. Across this period, MMSIG outputs have increasingly shaped professional practice and informed regulatory thinking, technology validation, and international dialogue at the science–industry–policy interface. These efforts ensure that the MMSIG remains influential, credible, and responsive to the evolving needs of both the profession and the wider marine community. We extend our sincere thanks to the MMSIG committee, contributors, speakers, and the IMarEST technical team for their continued support and collaboration. As the marine sector navigates increasing environmental, regulatory, and societal expectations, the MMSIG remains committed to supporting best practice, professional excellence, and informed dialogue to ensure marine mammals are effectively considered and protected within sustainable ocean use.

We look forward to building on this momentum in the years ahead.



Niru Dorrian
Co-Chair



Liz Ferguson
Co-Chair

SIG structure

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are structured into tiers of communities where SIGs are empowered to work independently and co-create and collaborate with each other, where synergies are identified. In planning outputs, SIGs can identify opportunities to work together with other SIGs to maximise value to the IMarEST.

Core committee members

Within the MMSIG, a dedicated committee serves as the driving force behind the Group's programme development and progress monitoring. Composed of a core group of committee members, the committee convenes regularly to strategize and ensure alignment with the MMSIG's goals and objectives.

Key Functions:

- **Programme development and progress monitoring:**
The committee develops the MMSIG programme of activities and oversees its delivery, ensuring it remains aligned with agreed objectives and responsive to emerging priorities.
- **Work stream review and output creation:**
Committee members collaboratively review proposed workstreams and agree on outputs that support the aims of the SIG, including events, publications, and professional engagement activities.
- **Individual expertise:**
Committee members participate in an individual capacity, contributing their professional knowledge and experience. Members do not represent their respective organisations during committee discussions.

The MMSIG is led by two Co-Chairs, who provide strategic direction, coordination, and representation of the Group within IMarEST governance structures.



Core Committee Members

Within the MMSIG, a dedicated committee serves as the driving force behind the Group's development and delivery of activities. The committee is composed of a core group of members with expertise spanning marine mammal science, monitoring and mitigation, offshore industry, research, consultancy, and conservation.

The committee meets regularly to plan, review, and coordinate the MMSIG programme of work, ensuring alignment with the Group's objectives and the wider strategic priorities of IMarEST.

Committee members contribute in an individual capacity, providing professional expertise and insight. Members do not represent their employing organisations during committee discussions.

Co-Chairs:

Niru Dorrian
Liz Ferguson

Honorary Secretaries:

Leonie Lepple
Keely Saville

Committee Members:

Caroline Barton
Keir Beaton
Ana de Muzio
Heather Fowle
Andrew Foster
Ashleigh Kitchiner
Denis Kovshov
Patrick Lyne
Giulia Luerti
Ashley Noseworthy
Julia Pelio
Lorenzo Scala
Stephanie Barnicoat
Emily Charry Tissier
Mattie Toll
Andrew Wright
Ann Carole Vallejo
Despoina Papadopoulou



Corresponding membership

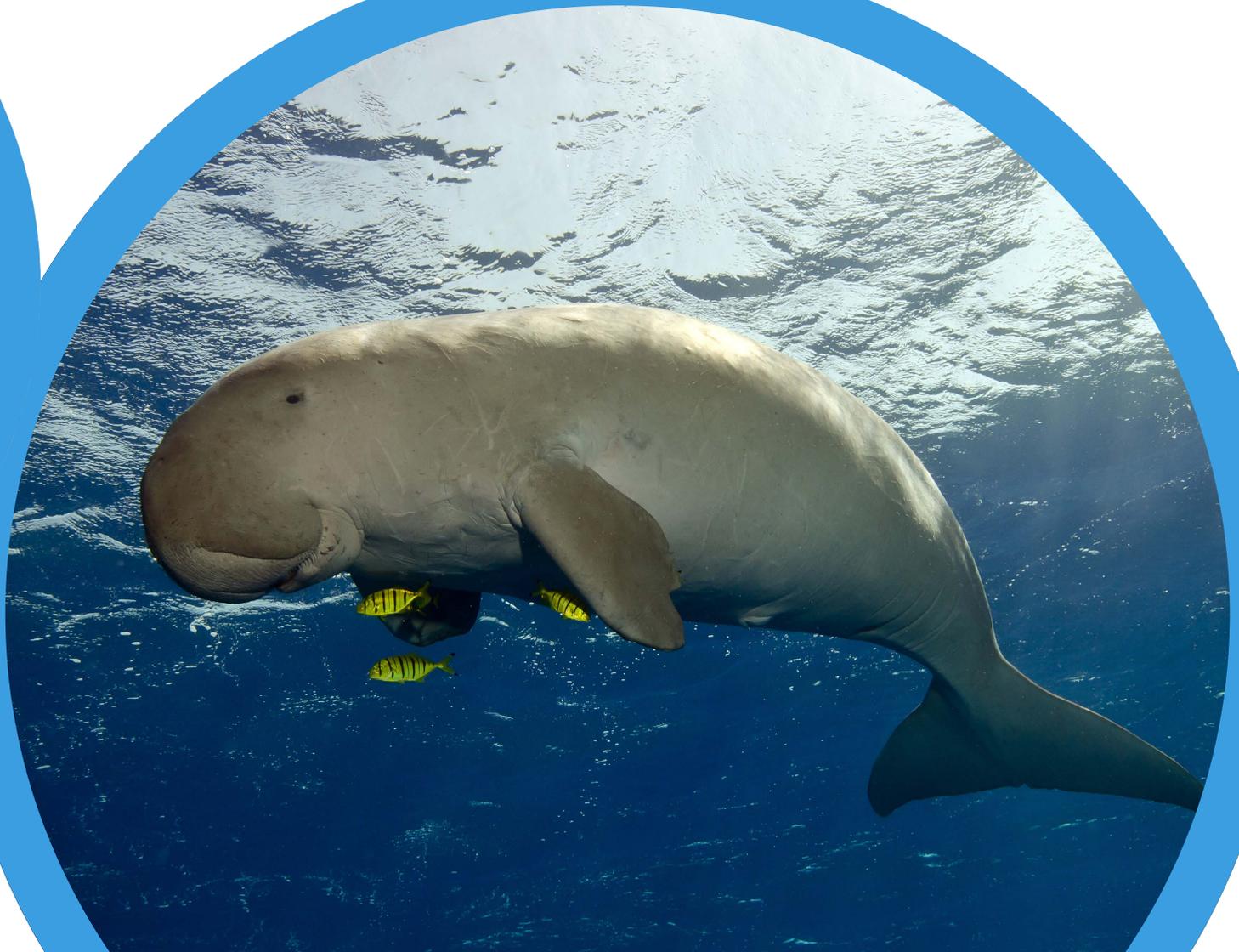
There are 568 Corresponding Members in the MMSIG as of the end of 2025.

For members wishing to stay informed and engage with the activities of the Special Interest Group, Corresponding Membership provides a route to ongoing involvement and communication.

Interested members can join the SIG mailing list by updating their SIG preferences through the 'MyIMarEST' member portal. Once registered, Corresponding Members receive regular updates from the MMSIG committee, including information on upcoming events, publications, and opportunities to contribute.

Corresponding Members may be invited to provide expert input, advice, or opinion to support MMSIG activities and outputs. This collaborative approach enables the SIG to draw on a broad range of experience and perspectives from across the marine mammal community.

Becoming a Corresponding Member provides an opportunity to remain connected to MMSIG activities and to contribute, where appropriate, to the advancement of marine mammal science, professional standards, and best practice.



How to join?

We encourage active and informed participation in the MMSIG. The MMSIG relies on the expertise and knowledge of its members to deliver high-quality resources and engaging informational opportunities to the wider marine community. All SIG members are expected to adhere to the [IMarEST Rules of Professional Conduct](#).

IMarEST MEMBERS

1. Sign into the [MyIMarEST member portal](#).
2. Select *My Special Interest Groups* and tick the Marine Mammals Special Interest Group. You will then be added to the SIG's correspondence group.
3. Members may also join the relevant SIG group on Connect, IMarEST's networking and collaboration platform, to connect and engage with other members.

Members who wish to become more actively involved in the running of the Marine Mammals SIG may apply to join the committee. To express interest or to find out more, please contact the IMarEST technical team at technical@imarest.org.

NOT AN IMarEST MEMBER:

IMarEST membership is open to all, with a range of membership grades available depending on career stage, experience, or area of interest. Membership is complimentary for marine students, cadets, and apprentices.

WHY JOIN THE MMSIG?

The MMSIG provides a professional forum for individuals working in, or with an interest in, marine mammal science, conservation, monitoring, mitigation, and industry practice.

Benefits of joining the MMSIG include:

- Advancing knowledge and education
- Networking and professional connections
- Contributing to conservation and sustainable ocean use
- Professional development and skills enhancement
- Influencing policy, standards, and public awareness
- Access to IMarEST resources and technical content
- Being part of a supportive and engaged professional community



Highlights: A look back

The MMSIG activities during 2024 and 2025 included webinars, workshops, publications, conferences and external engagement across a broad range of marine mammal-related topics.

This section highlights key activities and outputs delivered during the reporting period and provides an overview of the Group's contributions to knowledge exchange, professional development, and sector engagement.

Webinars

The MMSIG hosted 5 webinars resulting in 2076 registrations. Summaries and links to the webinars can be found below.

[WEBINAR: Monitoring MPAs: Scaling Protected Areas for Marine Megafauna](#)

09 May 2024

This webinar examined the effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in conserving highly mobile marine megafauna, including marine mammals and elasmobranchs, within a global conservation context. Speakers provided an overview of MPA types, regulatory frameworks, and conservation objectives, alongside practical approaches to monitoring and evaluation.

Case studies highlighted challenges associated with protecting wide-ranging species and balancing stakeholder interests. The session concluded with a panel discussion exploring opportunities to scale MPA design and monitoring to improve outcomes for mobile marine species.

[WEBINAR: Careers in Marine Mammal Science and Industry: Building Skills for the Blue Economy](#)

28 January 2025

Delivered in collaboration with Blue-jobs, this webinar focused on career pathways and skill development within marine mammal science and the wider blue economy. Chaired by Blue Jobs founders Celia and Patricia, the session introduced the organisation's mission and framed discussions around employability and transferable skills.

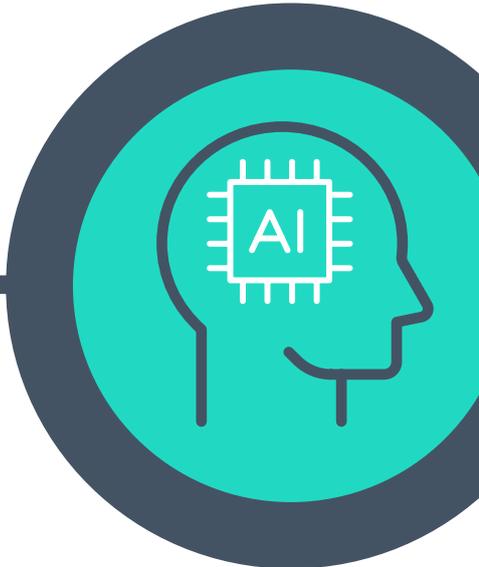
An expert panel shared insights from across research, industry, and conservation, offering practical advice for students and early career professionals. The webinar provided a supportive and informative resource for those seeking meaningful and sustainable careers in the marine sector.

[WEBINAR: Harnessing Responsible Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) for Marine Mammal Conservation](#)

20 May 2025

This practitioner-focused webinar addressed the increasing use of artificial intelligence in marine mammal monitoring and conservation, alongside concerns regarding transparency, validation, and ethical governance. Speakers examined the risks associated with unverified AI tools and the challenges of assessing their effectiveness.

The session presented a structured approach for evaluating AI solutions, supporting informed decision-making by conservation professionals, regulators, and industry stakeholders. This webinar offered timely guidance on responsible AI adoption within marine conservation practice.



Webinars

WEBINAR: Real Talk: Early Careers in Marine Mammal Science

24 July 2025

Aimed at early career professionals, this webinar provided an honest and relatable discussion on working in marine mammal science. Speakers shared personal experiences of navigating career pathways, highlighting both challenges and successes encountered at early career stages.

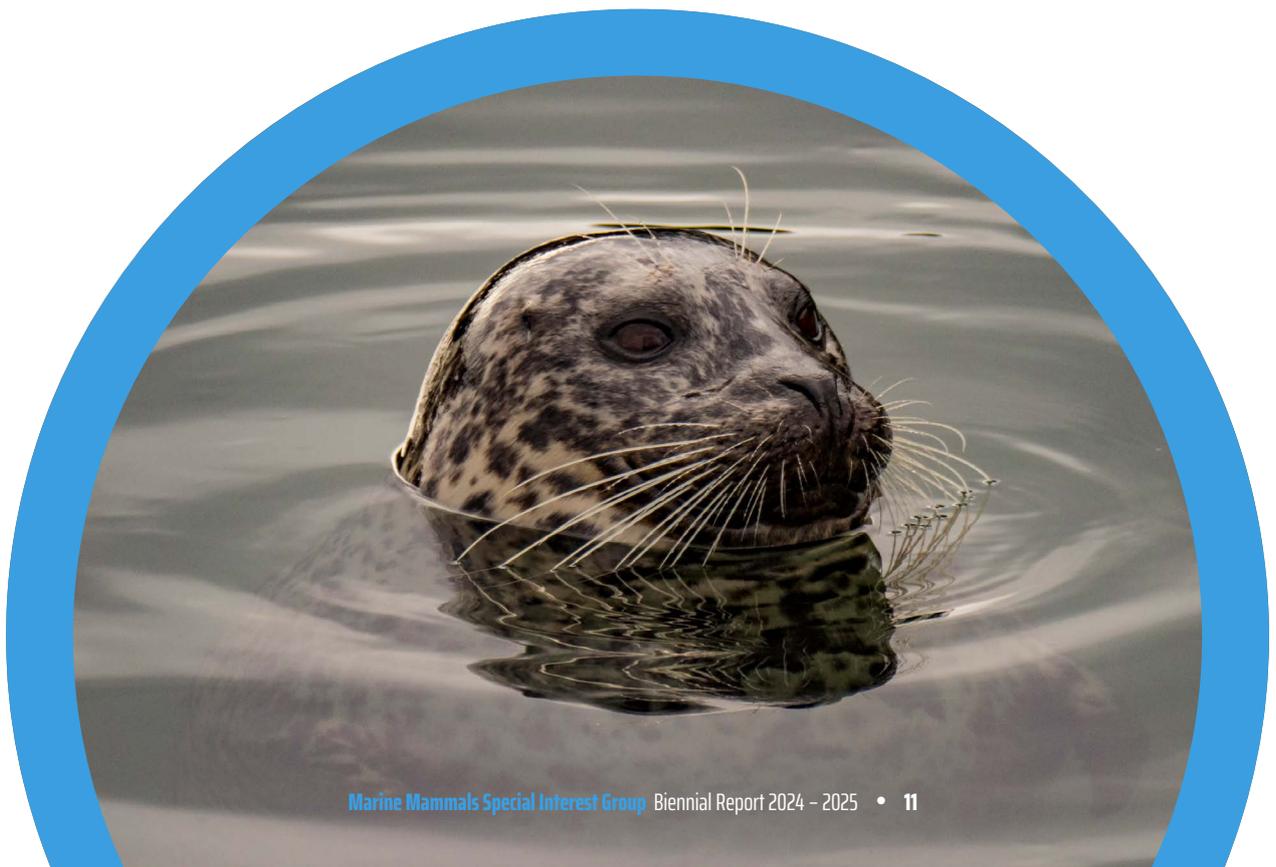
The session addressed common barriers, resilience, and professional growth, while signposting career development resources available through IMarEST. This webinar created a supportive space for open dialogue and peer learning.

WEBINAR: Unlocking Ocean Secrets: Marine Mammal Monitoring Through eDNA

22 September 2025

This webinar explored the application of environmental DNA (eDNA) as a non-invasive tool for detecting and monitoring marine mammals in large and remote marine environments. Building on interest generated through the IMarEST Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Marine Natural Capital Assessment Programme (mNCEA) Marine Mammal Monitoring Innovation Stakeholder Workshop, the session focused on practical implementation.

Speakers discussed how eDNA complements traditional survey methods, alongside its emerging role in conservation, impact assessment, and biodiversity monitoring. The webinar also addressed current limitations and future potential, offering valuable insight into evolving monitoring technologies.



Publications

The MMSIG also published 5 articles on various topics advertised in various formats (digital and print). Summaries of the publications can be found below.

Marine Mammal Stranding, Human Impacts, and Conservation Medicine

Published as a Technical and Policy blog, this article by Niru Dorrian explored the growing incidence of marine mammal strandings and their links to human pressures on marine ecosystems. Drawing on global experience in marine mammal rescue and rehabilitation, the article examined stranding as both a conservation concern and a diagnostic tool for assessing ocean health.

The piece highlighted the role of conservation medicine and the One Health framework in understanding the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. By examining disease, pollution, noise, and climate-driven stressors, the article emphasised the importance of stranding data in informing policy, mitigation measures, and long-term marine conservation strategies.

Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) for the North East Atlantic

In this article, Patrick Lyne examined the Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMA) process and its relevance to the North East Atlantic region. The piece outlined the scientific basis of IMMAs, their independence from political and socio-economic considerations, and the role of peer-reviewed data in identifying critical habitats for marine mammals.

The article discussed recent IMMA workshops covering the North East Atlantic and Baltic Sea and highlighted how IMMAs support more informed environmental assessment, responsible industry development, and regulatory decision-making. It also emphasised the opportunity for industry data to contribute meaningfully to future IMMA designations.

Helping to Create the Ocean We All Need

MMSIG members contributed to the United Nations Ocean Decade Vision 2030 process by reviewing six white papers addressing priority challenges for ocean sustainability. This article outlined how MMSIG expertise directly informed revisions to key strategic documents that will guide global ocean science and policy over the coming decade.

Committee members reviewed challenges spanning marine pollution, sustainable food systems, biodiversity protection, digital ocean representation, and global capacity building. The publication highlighted the importance of collaboration, knowledge exchange, and inclusive participation in shaping solutions that support marine mammal conservation within broader ocean sustainability goals.



Publications

[CPD training in marine mammal observation](#)

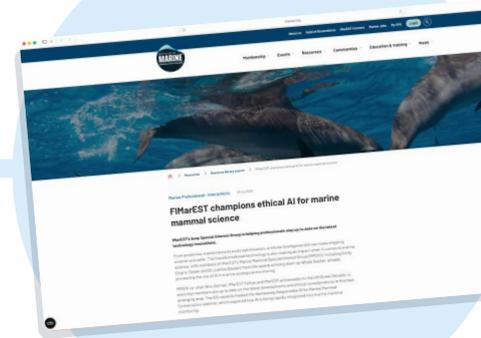
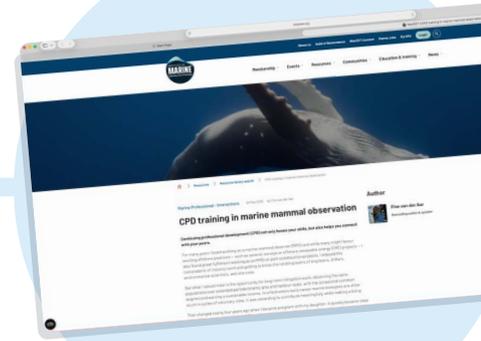
Authored by Finn van der Aar, this article explored the value of continuing professional development (CPD) for Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs) and Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) operators across all career stages. The publication highlighted CPD as a key mechanism for maintaining technical competence, keeping pace with evolving legislation, and supporting sustainable career pathways within a predominantly freelance workforce.

Using participation in an ACCOBAMS-certified MMO and PAM training course in the Azores as a case study, the article demonstrated how structured CPD can support professionals returning to fieldwork, upskilling, or seeking certification in new regions. It also addressed broader issues of accessibility, inclusion, and resilience within the marine sector, reinforcing the importance of supported professional development opportunities for marine mammal practitioners.

[FIMarEST champions ethical AI for marine mammal science](#)

This article highlighted the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in marine mammal science and the leadership of the IMarEST MMSIG in promoting ethical, evidence-based adoption of emerging technologies. The piece showcased how MMSIG members, including Emily Charry Tissier and Justine Boulent, are pioneering AI applications in marine ecological monitoring.

The publication emphasised MMSIG's strategic focus on responsible innovation, including delivery of the Harnessing Responsible AI for Marine Mammal Conservation webinar. Key themes included scientific validation, transparency, ethical oversight, and governance gaps associated with AI tools. The article also highlighted ongoing MMSIG outputs, including a peer-reviewed journal paper on ethical AI, development of a practitioner pocket guide for industry, and the IMarEST-Defra report Marine Mammal Monitoring: Methods, Technologies, and Opportunities for Innovation. Overall, the article demonstrated the value of MMSIG in supporting professional development, guiding responsible technology adoption, and ensuring marine mammal monitoring evolves in line with ethical and scientific best practice.



Other significant news

In addition to its planned programme of activities, the MMSIG contributed to several other significant initiatives and events during the reporting period. These activities reflect the Group's broader engagement across IMarEST, industry, media, and the wider marine community.

Marine Mammal Monitoring: Methods, Technologies and Opportunities for Innovation Project

In July 2025, IMarEST, in collaboration with the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Marine Natural Capital Assessment Programme (mNCEA), published a government report, *Marine Mammal Monitoring: Methods, Technologies and Opportunities for Innovation*. The report informed on monitoring technologies, including drones, passive acoustic monitoring, thermal imaging, environmental DNA, satellite and drone imagery analysis, and advances in 'omics'.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is also identified as a transformational tool, enhancing the speed and accuracy of data analysis and enabling near real-time detection of marine mammals. The publication emphasises that these innovations are driving a new era in understanding marine mammal health and the impacts of human activities, while calling for sustained investment in research, data science, and policy alignment with the UK Marine Strategy and international frameworks such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The report draws on global expertise from IMarEST's community and will support evidence-based policy development and science-driven decision-making.

Mammal Monitoring Innovation Stakeholder Workshop

In February 2025, MMSIG jointly organised the Mammal Monitoring Innovation Stakeholder Workshop with Defra and the mNCEA programme. This online workshop brought together experts from industry, academia, regulatory bodies, and the scientific community to explore methodologies and technologies for marine mammal monitoring.

The workshop served as a platform to advance dialogue on monitoring solutions, identify gaps and opportunities for innovation, and support the UK's strategic efforts to integrate new approaches into national and international evidence frameworks. The session is now available as a recorded resource for members, reinforcing MMSIG's role in convening stakeholders to address real-world challenges in marine mammal conservation and monitoring.



Other significant news

MMSIG Attends UN Ocean Conference, Nice

In June 2025, MMSIG members were represented at the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, France, supporting IMarEST's engagement at this major global forum for ocean science, policy, and sustainable development. The event brought over 15,000 participants to the Mediterranean coast, including more than 60 Heads of State and Government, and featured over 450 official side events. With nearly 100,000 attendees across the wider programme, UNOC3 demonstrated exceptional political momentum and global engagement.

Key MMSIG representation included Niru Dorrian, attending in his role as IMarEST Ambassador to the UN Ocean Decade, and MMSIG member Ashley Noseworthy, who also contributed in her capacity as Chair of the IMarEST Atlantic Canada Branch, alongside MMSIG member Emily Charry Tissier and other IMarEST-affiliated professionals. Member participation spanned panels, side events, and stakeholder discussions, with a focus on marine mammal monitoring, capacity building, professional standards, and the role of science and industry collaboration in delivering the UN Ocean Decade objectives. This engagement reinforced MMSIG's international profile and its contribution to global conversations on marine mammal conservation and sustainable ocean management.



MMOA and IMarEST Bursary for Aspiring Marine Mammal Observers

IMarEST and the Marine Mammal Observer Association (MMOA) continued to deliver the Bursary for Aspiring Marine Mammal Observers, jointly funded by the IMarEST's Don Bootle Fund and the MMOA. The bursary supports student Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs), Protected Species Observers (PSOs), and Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) Operators to enhance their skills and expertise through specialised training and essential equipment.

Designed to facilitate access to career-advancing opportunities in marine mammal observation and conservation, the bursary is officially endorsed under the UN Ocean Decade and reflects MMSIG's commitment to capacity building and professional development within the sector.

Other significant news

World First Conference in Marine Mammal Mitigation and Monitoring

In September 2024, the MMOA and IMarEST co-hosted the Marine Mammal Monitoring and Mitigation Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, co-organised and delivered by Niru Dorrian and Ashleigh Kitchiner. This sold-out, world-first event attracted representation from over 14 countries and brought together environmental professionals, industry leaders, offshore developers, technology providers, academics, and students to share insights, showcase emerging monitoring technologies, international mitigation measures, and risk assessment processes, and to strengthen professional networking and collaboration.

The conference was strongly supported by MMSIG, with multiple MMSIG and MMOA committee members attending and contributing to the delivery and running of the event. Committee representation included Dr Carolyn Barton, Ana de Muzio, Denis Kovshov, Emily Charry Tissier, Lorenzo Scala, Leonie Lepple, and others, reflecting the depth and breadth of expertise within the group.

The success of the conference highlighted the power and necessity of collaboration across professional bodies, industry, academia, and regulators, and reinforced the value of maintaining strong partnerships between MMOA, IMarEST, and the wider marine mammal community. Such collaboration remains critical to advancing consistent standards, sharing best practice, and supporting innovation in marine mammal mitigation and monitoring at national and international levels.

MMSIG Committee attends IMarEST Annual Dinner

MMSIG Committee members attended the 120th IMarEST Annual Dinner, representing the Special Interest Group at one of the Institute's flagship events. For more than a century, the Annual Dinner has brought members and their guests together to celebrate the marine industry, providing a longstanding forum for professional networking, knowledge exchange, and industry engagement.

The event offered a unique opportunity to connect with fellow marine professionals, host clients, and strengthen relationships across engineering, science, and technology disciplines. Ashley Noseworthy and Niru Dorrian attended on behalf of the MMSIG, reinforcing the Group's active engagement within the wider IMarEST community and its commitment to cross-sector collaboration.

MMSIG Presentation at the IMarEST Conference on Ships, Shipping and Environmental Sustainability

The MMSIG delivered a joint presentation by Ashley Noseworthy and Niru Dorrian, titled Collaborative strategies for mitigating industry impacts on marine mammals: perspectives from global experts. The session examined innovative mitigation approaches and international collaboration to reduce industry pressures on marine mammals, drawing on practical insights from shipping and offshore operations. Key themes included best practice in marine mammal mitigation, noise impact management, operational risk reduction, and the importance of marine protected areas in safeguarding vulnerable species. The discussion highlighted the value of cross-sector partnership and evidence-led decision-making in advancing environmentally responsible maritime activity.



Other significant news

ESB Marine Mammal Observer Training Programme

IMarEST continued to endorse the ESB Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) Training Programme, which entered its third year in 2025. Funded and organised by ESB, the programme is aimed at graduates and postgraduates in marine science in Ireland and supports early-career professionals through fully funded, industry-approved training. This includes Basic Offshore Safety Induction, MMO training, and medical certification.

The Marine Mammal Observer Association provides complimentary associate membership and mentoring support, while IMarEST offers one-year affiliate membership and access to its career development pathway. MMO training delivery, including both classroom-based learning and at-sea experience, is provided by the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, with offshore survival training delivered by the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI).

By 2025, the programme had successfully supported 16 graduates, contributing to workforce development for Ireland's offshore wind sector while strengthening marine species protection. The programme has been endorsed as a UN Ocean Decade Action and was named Renewable Skills Champion at the Irish Renewable Energy Awards, recognising outstanding leadership in the design and delivery of marine environmental training.



Marine Science and Industry Future Pathways Seminar

The MMSIG was pleased to host the Marine Science and Industry Future Pathways Seminar with Edinburgh Napier University in October 2025, providing students with the opportunity to explore career pathways across marine science, conservation, and offshore industries.

The seminar was delivered by MMSIG members Niru Dorrian, Ashley Noseworthy, Lorenzo Scala, and Ashleigh Kitchiner, who shared professional insights spanning marine science, environmental consultancy, and offshore energy. The session focused on helping students better understand the skills, experience, and career routes required to progress within the marine sector.

Endorsed as a UN Ocean Decade event, the seminar highlighted the role of IMarEST in supporting early-career development through mentoring, bursaries, professional registration, and access to international professional networks. The event supported capacity building by improving students' awareness of career pathways, professional expectations, and opportunities available through engagement with industry and professional bodies.

The MMSIG extends its thanks to Edinburgh Napier University for co-hosting the seminar, and to the students whose engagement and participation contributed to a successful and informative event.



Other significant news

MMSIG Survey Summary: Barriers, Experiences, and Support Needs

In an anonymous questionnaire distributed via social media platforms and professional membership bodies in Q1 2025, the MMSIG explored the challenges encountered by young professionals seeking to establish a career in the marine mammal sector. Over 280 respondents from 45 countries participated in the survey (Figure 1).

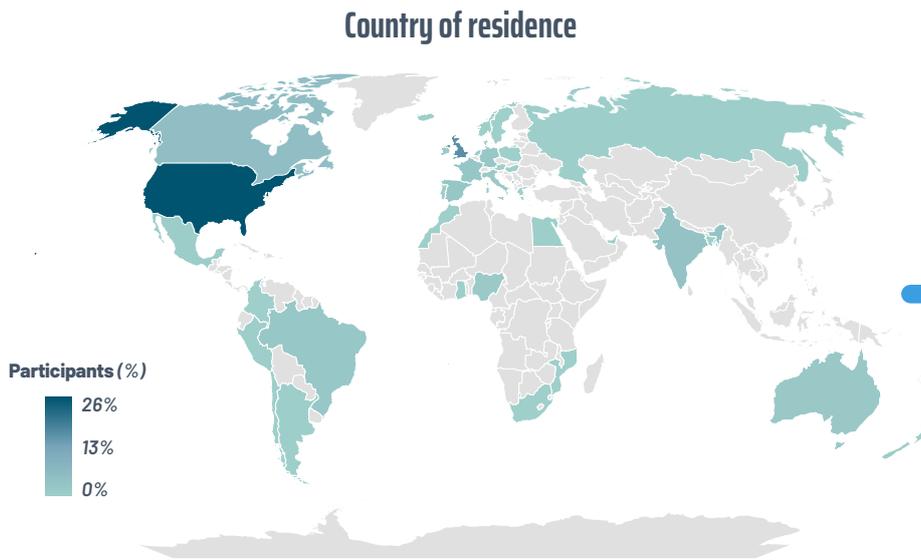


Figure 1.
Geographic distribution of MMSIG survey respondents (n > 280, 45 countries).

More than 30% of respondents identified as coming from a low-income background, having a disability, or being a first-generation university student. Most respondents reported finding it extremely difficult to gain experience in the field (Figure 2). The primary barriers identified were a lack of paid opportunities, limited opportunities overall, financial constraints, and high levels of competition (Figure 3). Suggested approaches to overcoming these barriers most commonly included increased financial support and the availability of paid opportunities, followed closely by mentorship and career guidance (Figure 4).

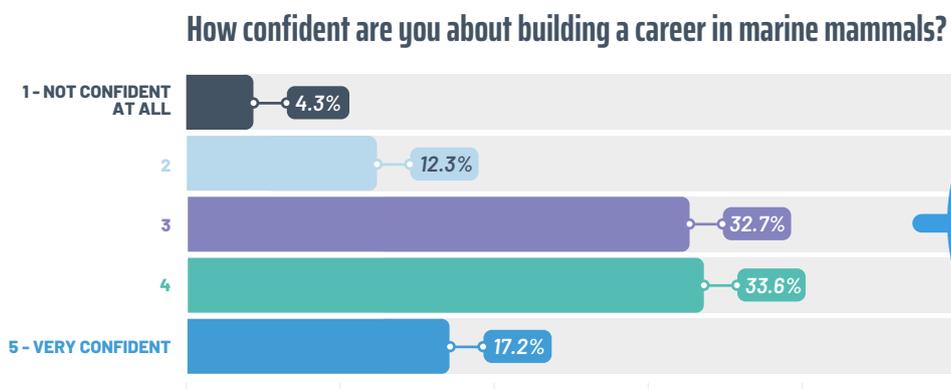


Figure 2.
Respondents perceived difficulty in gaining experience in the marine mammal sector.

What do you feel are the biggest barriers to gaining experience?

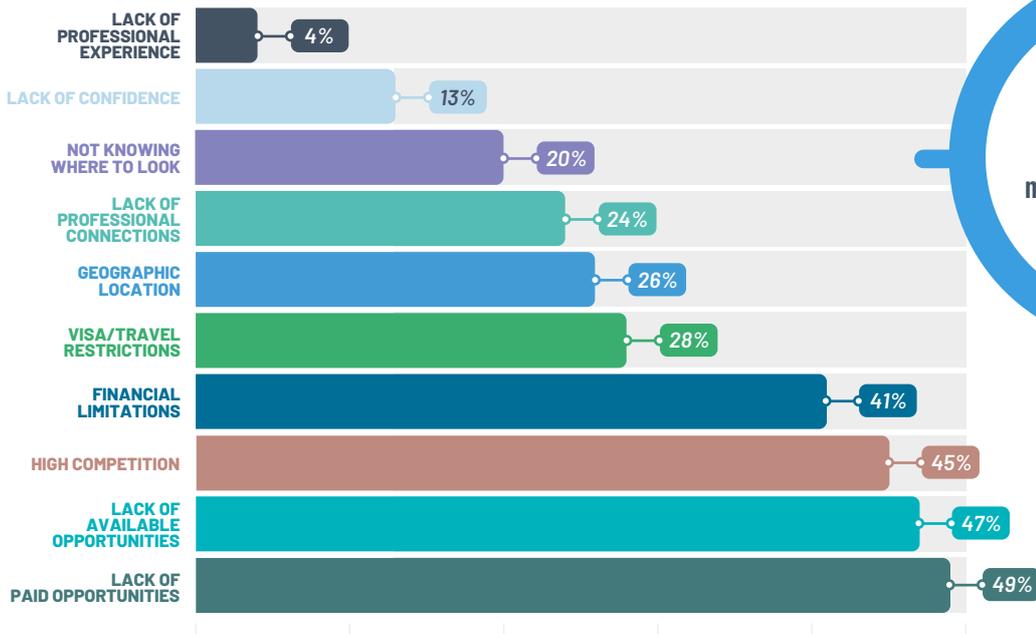


Figure 3.
Key barriers to accessing marine mammal-related career opportunities.

What would help you feel more supported in your career?

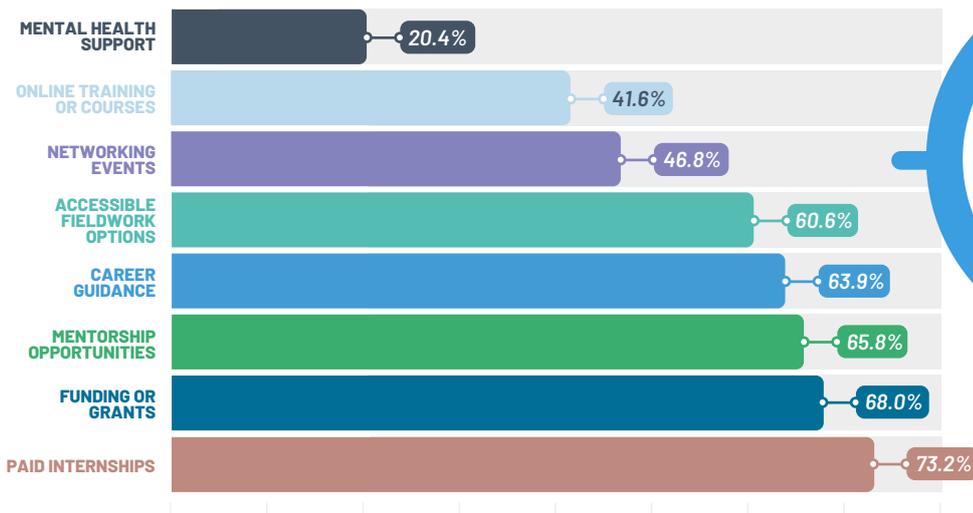


Figure 4.
Suggested measures to address barriers and improve access to early-career opportunities.

While the survey captured common challenges faced by young people globally, it is acknowledged that individuals already established in their careers may have been less likely to participate. The results may therefore be biased towards those who have not yet been successful in securing long-term positions within the sector.

Across the responses, participants highlighted recurring challenges including limited clarity around career pathways, intense competition opportunities, and difficulties accessing relevant experience and professional networks. At the same time, there was strong interest in structured support such as mentoring, training, networking opportunities, and clearer guidance on career progression and professional registration.

Awareness and use of existing career development resources varied, suggesting that while support mechanisms do exist, improved visibility and signposting would increase their impact.

Overall, the findings demonstrate a clear demand for the types of professional development, career guidance, and community support provided by IMarEST, and provide evidence to inform the continued development and targeting of early-career programmes.



The future is bright: A look ahead

The future is bright: A look ahead

As MMSIG looks ahead, it remains committed to delivering a programme of activities that supports professional excellence, informed decision-making, and the effective consideration of marine mammals within a rapidly evolving marine sector.

Planned priorities include the continued delivery of webinars and publications, collaboration with other IMarEST Special Interest Groups, engagement with industry and policy initiatives, and ongoing support for careers and skills development within the marine mammal community.

The Group will also maintain a strong presence at key national and international conferences and events, including attendance at the European Cetacean Society Conference in Dundee, Scotland, in 2026 and the Ocean Sciences Meeting in Glasgow in 2026, alongside other relevant scientific, industry, and policy forums.

In parallel, the MMSIG will continue to align its activities with the objectives of the UN Ocean Decade, supporting global efforts to advance ocean science, capacity building, and the sustainable management of marine ecosystems.

The MMSIG welcomes engagement from members and stakeholders who wish to contribute to these future activities.

Thank you

The MMSIG extends its sincere thanks to the IMarEST technical team, committee members, speakers, authors, and contributors for their support throughout 2024 and 2025.

The continued commitment and voluntary contributions of the MMSIG community are central to the Group's success. As the marine sector faces increasing environmental and operational challenges, this collective effort remains vital in supporting best practice, professional standards, and the protection of marine mammals.



International HQ: 1 Birdcage Walk , London SW1H 9JJ • United Kingdom • **Tel:** +44 (0) 20 7382 2600

Asia-Pacific Office: 298 Tiong Bahru Road, #05-01 Central Plaza, Singapore 168730 • **Tel:** +65 6472 0096

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