

MASTS@CoP26 – Glasgow 2021

🌐 www.masts.ac.uk/cop-26 ✉ masts@st-andrews.ac.uk 🐦 [@mastscot](https://twitter.com/mastscot)

MASTS and many others share the ambition that the UN CoP26 climate negotiations be a turning point for transformative action at the global, national and local levels. These responsibilities are not just on the shoulders of government and major corporates, but also through synergy with actions from organisations, smaller businesses and citizens.



2021-2030 is also the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, so we seek to build on momentum from CoP26 to embrace further challenges and opportunities for ocean science to help drive positive outcomes for people and planet. We will be stimulating new, broader and deeper conversations about climate change and its intersection with marine science and many other related issues, disciplines and sectors.

What is MASTS?

MASTS pools the majority of Scotland's marine science capacity in universities, public bodies and independent labs, with close links to government and industry.

We help drive collaboration and coordination across and beyond our members, encouraging and enabling pathways to impact on policy, society and the environment. Some of this happens through our [twelve research forums](#). This includes a Marine Climate Change Forum and a Marine Energy Forum, but most of the forums touch on matters of climate in their own ways.

Our [People Ocean Planet](#) initiative is a vehicle for new efforts to drive positive change in society based on accumulated and emerging knowledge in the marine sciences.

The MASTS Blue-Zone Observers Delegation

Click on the image to see profile and contact information.

Week One: 1st to 6th November



Prof David Paterson
MASTS Executive Director
& University of St Andrews



Dr Max Holloway
Scottish Association of Marine
Science, UHI



Dr Bee Berx
Marine Scotland Science



Prof Andrew Brierley
University of St Andrews



Prof Beth Scott
University of Aberdeen



Hannah Lee
Heriot Watt University



Prof Anne Magurran
University of Aberdeen
(2nd Nov only)



Hannah Ladd-Jones
MASTS Comms, University of
St Andrews (1st-2nd Nov only)

Week Two: 8th to 13th November



Dr Chris Leakey
MASTS, University of St
Andrews and NatureScot



Dr Guillaume Hermann
Marine Scotland Science



Dr Alan Cuthbertson
University of Dundee



Celeste Kellock
University of Stirling



Dr Andrew Johnson
Heriot Watt University



Alejandra Garcia Cabanillas
University of Strathclyde

What are MASTS doing to support greater positive impact from marine science?

At the policy or industry interface, recent actions include:

- [Scottish Research Innovation events: Societal Change and Sustainable Recovery](#)
- [‘Scotland's Contribution to COP26’ conference: a joined-up Just Transition](#)
- [The Role of the Ocean project: Driving the Transition to a Resilient and Inclusive Future](#)

At the public interface, recent actions include:

- Three arts-based projects for public engagement. See [Ocean ARTic](#) and [Taming Aegir](#)
- An experimental museum exhibition mixing marine science with a behavioural change narrative – see [Dive-In!](#)
- Partnering for a month of climate and ocean-themed public events - [Sea-Tember](#)
- Supporting a civil-society project to inform and inspire action - see [From Paris to Cop26](#)
- Short films sharing the insights and passions of young climate researchers – see [Next Gen Climate Leaders](#)

What’s hot in marine climate science?

Understanding **physical, chemical and biological aspects** of climate change from the coastal zone to the open ocean and deep sea, and from polar to temperate and tropical zones.

Developing **integrative tools and technologies** for efficiencies and advances, including multidisciplinary modelling, genomics, robotics, machine learning and artificial intelligence.

Adopting **long-term, sustained observations** of the ocean, with regional and global observational networks for high quality and accessible data and models to understand processes and predict future - Week scenarios.

Understanding **multiple stressors**: climate is just one stressor on marine systems, often interacting with other stressors (e.g. extractive industries and pollution). Science can help understand combined effects and consequences.

Delivering **nature-based solutions** to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Understanding important features of nature to protect or recover for this purpose is an important area of work, integrating with systems of marine management, conservation and governance.

Getting **offshore and marine renewable energy** right: navigating to a sustainable future for offshore wind, wave and tidal developments, understanding the opportunities, impacts, how to mitigate negative effects and how best to integrate and manage alongside other uses of the sea. **Marine planning** holds potential for innovative approaches to ensuring the right developments occur in the right places for a just transition to net zero for people and nature.

Ocean literacy and its connection to climate-related behaviours is a growing area of work for public engagement in marine science, where we can elevate the societal impact of science outreach by collaborating with communication and engagement specialists, and applying insights from behavioural psychology and sociology.

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MASTS Partner Institutions



University of St Andrews

