



## **Socio-Oceanography Workshop 2024**

### **SESSION 1 DESCRIPTION**

#### **Risks and opportunities of Marine heatwaves for the UK (Env lead: Dr. Zoe Jacobs, NOC; Social Science lead: Dr. Katie Smith, MBA)**

In recent years, the world has witnessed alarming events tied to marine heatwaves. In 2019, millions of mussels along the Oregon coast boiled in their shells, while the 2011 Western Australia heatwave decimated 36% of seagrass meadows. The 2012 Northwest Atlantic Ocean heatwave triggered a lobster population shift, causing market collapse and fisherman conflicts. Marine heatwave of 2016 brought about the worst global coral bleaching event on record. In 2022, Norwegians enjoyed an unusually warm coastal season, and in 2023, the UK and Ireland experienced one of the most intense global marine heatwaves, boosting coastal tourism.

Join our interdisciplinary session to address marine heatwave impacts on the UK's natural and social systems. Collaboratively, we'll identify knowledge gaps, shaping research to enhance preparedness. Key questions include MHW effects on ecosystems, blue economy opportunities, cultural traditions, public perceptions across latitudes, and potential climate change action implications. We seek to engage scientists of all backgrounds, aiming to produce a position paper and propose a NERC highlight topic, addressing one of our ocean's critical challenges.