



**PANACHE**

Protected Area Network Across the Channel Ecosystem

# NEWSLETTER

## 12/2014

Towards a better protection of the Channel marine environment through the networking of Marine Protected Areas and actors.

Vers une meilleure protection de l'environnement marin de la Manche par la mise en réseau des aires marines protégées et des acteurs.

### EDITORIAL

For me personally, the 25th Sept. marked an important milestone in the VALMER project. Until then, deliverables were largely just text, a statement of intent, existing in an excel spreadsheet or handwritten to-do list. Yes there have been tangible outputs: a website; brochures; a (great) film, and as the Comms Officer for VALMER I know how much time and effort went into producing these outputs and the important role they play. But on the 25th, at a stakeholder meeting in North Devon, I saw for the first time, first-hand the real value of the work VALMER is undertaking...and crucially, so did the stakeholders! It is fair say that some of these stakeholders remained, understandably, unconvinced about our ambitions and aims during much of the engagement process. It is a testament to their patience and faith in the process however, and the fantastic work undertaken by the VALMER North Devon case study team, that at our fourth and final meeting with stakeholders on the 25th it became clear just how useful and applicable the methodology and the results we produced together might be for marine and coastal governance in the area.

At the project's five other case study sites, and across its four work packages work is reaching an advanced stage too and beginning to turn text into tangible outputs and usable resources. With something as vast as the VALMER project it was always going to take a little time to get going, to overcome the initial inertia and get those propellers turning. Like PANACHE, as Gérald previously mentioned, VALMER too has been cruising at top speed now for the best part of a year, to the point where looming on the horizon for both of us is our final destination and the final conference. That destination, as it turns out, is Torquay – the English Riviera, my home town, and a fantastic place for a final conference. I, along with all my VALMER colleagues, am very much looking forward to our rendez-vous with PANACHE on the Riviera and the chance to share our experiences, celebrate our achievements, and consider where we go next after Torquay.

Steve Guilbert,  
VALMER Comms Officer and North Devon Case Study Coordinator



# FOCUS ON 4 PANACHE PARTNERS

## > KENT WILDLIFE TRUST



Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) is one of 47 Wildlife Trusts in the UK and the leading conservation organisation covering the whole of Kent and Medway, dedicated to protecting wildlife and wild habitats for everyone to enjoy.

«We are leading on the intertidal surveys part of the PANACHE Citizen Science programme, running several 'Shoresearch' surveys around the Kent coast throughout the year, and developing best practice with our PANACHE partners. The surveys give volunteers the opportunity to take part in meaningful practical and scientific data collection. This data helps to identify areas in need of protection and to identify changes over time.



Bryony Chapman / KWT



Fiona White / KWT

We are also very much involved in the other PANACHE Citizen Science elements which engage divers in underwater surveys, and involve the general public and others in Marine Protected Areas.



*Solea solea*  
Paula Young



Kent Subtidal life  
Paula Young

Kent has just 2 new Marine Conservation Zones along its stretch of the channel and is working hard to ensure more areas gain much needed protection.»

## > IFREMER

Created in 1984, Ifremer (French research institute for exploitation of the sea) is a public institute of an industrial and commercial nature (EPIC). It is supervised jointly by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy.



Ifremer performs targeted applied research to address the questions posed by society (climate change effects, marine biodiversity, pollution prevention, seafood quality etc.). Results include scientific knowledge, technological innovations, and systems for ocean observation and exploration. Monitoring of the seas and coastal waters is conducted in support of public policy on management of the environment and its resources. Through expert advice, reports on studies, stock assessment surveys, and monitoring or surveillance networks of the marine environment, Ifremer provides expertise on the major scientific questions in its fields of competence and in collaboration with the professionals of the maritime world.

Ifremer, through its research work and expert advice, contributes to knowledge of the oceans and their resources, to monitoring of marine and coastal environments and to the sustainable development of marine activities. To these ends, Ifremer conceives and operates tools for observation, experimentation and monitoring, and manage the oceanographic databases. It also operates a great part of the French oceanographic research fleet, including all underwater systems and large-scale mobile facilities and equipment (seismics, penetrometer, etc.).

The specific objectives of IFREMER within PANACHE are :

1) It participates to expert workshop and working group to agree criteria for assessing and measuring the achievement of ecological coherence of MPAs to be used in the project and carries out a scientific analysis on the ecological coherence of existing and proposed MPAs in the Channel using existing "gap analysis" results and using hydrodynamic model to measure the connectivity of the existing network.



2) Through workshop and working group, ifremer helps to determine how MPA monitoring data and techniques can be shared to give greater comparability and develops a prototype of towed video system and a trial of its use for monitoring MPAs.



3) Ifremer is in charge of the development of a model to simulate the ecological and socio-economic impacts of different levels of protection in the MPA network.

4) Ifremer participates to the development of databases for MPAs and associated data using a Web GIS interface and which will include relevant information about the status, management and designation of each site as well as information on specific species. It will also collaborate to metadata harmonization, catalogue interoperability, GIS data exchanges and interoperability.

## > IFCA - Sussex



The Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority is one of ten IFCAs established in 2010 from the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Each Authority faces challenges and opportunities to meet marine fisheries and environmental duties defined in sections 153 and 154 of the Act.

The Authority's activities are influenced by seven Success Criteria and High Level Objectives developed nationally and defined in Defra guidance to all IFCAs. In 'foundation building' the organisation has focused resources toward development of strategic planning, research and evidence to inform management and developing community partnerships.

The Authority oversees a team of ten staff with specialist skills, knowledge and experience in fisheries, environmental and aquaculture science, vessel operations, regulatory procedures, compliance and enforcement as well as financial and administrative functions.

The Authority's Technical Subcommittee provides a mechanism by which the specialist knowledge of members can support the development of IFCA management measures; typically byelaws.

The Authority is undertaking a review of existing byelaws and has identified and prioritised specific issues through the Subcommittee and an external consultation process. Considering appropriate evidence with community input is central to successful decision making by the Subcommittee.

The Sussex IFCA officers have an excellent track record of data collection and dissemination. As part of their wider duties, collaboration is not just confined to adjacent districts but collaboration is encouraged with other English Channel users, where practical knowledge and experience can be shared. An example is PANACHE. The Sussex IFCA has been involved in work packages trialling underwater video equipment used to identify MPA conservation features and reporting on best practice for compliance risk management in MPA's ([see page 6](#)).



*Pleuronectes platessa*  
(c) Justin A Evans - [www.justinevans.co.uk](http://www.justinevans.co.uk)

## > WWF-UK

Launched on 23 November 1961, WWF-UK was the first National Organisation in the WWF network. Today they have offices in England, Scotland and Wales. They are a registered charity - most of their income comes from voluntary sources, such as their dedicated members, supporters and the business community. Their 300+ staff work with governments, businesses and communities both in the UK and around the world.

“We use our experience, credibility and influence to help create long-term solutions to global threats to people and nature - such as climate change, the peril to endangered species and habitats, and the unsustainable consumption of the world’s natural resources.”



WWF is very interested in the Panache project primarily because it is working at a trans-national and trans-boundary level in its work which looks at the management and effectiveness of the marine protected areas in the Channel region.

WWF has considerable experience and expertise in the development and implementation of similar networks around the world. In 2014, WWF contributed to the project group’s report which examined the Channel network for its ecological coherence - which aims to demonstrate how effective the network will be at protecting habitats and species - in short will the network as a whole deliver its conservation objectives.

We hope this valuable piece of work will be used to strengthen the network going forward but also be used to add to the growing scientific and knowledge base around this important subject area.

Going forward we are working on an article for our supporter magazine which has a circulation in excess of 90,000.

WWF has been very pleased by the way that the various organisations involved on the project have worked together to ensure the successful delivery of the various work packages and raise awareness of the Channel’s growing and important marine protected area network.



*Urticina felina*  
(c) Justin A Evans - [www.justinevans.co.uk](http://www.justinevans.co.uk)

# THE PROJECT'S NEWS

Within the framework of WP2 «Share best practices and positive experiences in the monitoring of MPAs», Ifremer, IFCA Sussex and Marine Institute carried out a comparative study of towed video methodology for benthic habitat monitoring in Marine Protected Areas:

Seabed imaging is used increasingly to identify vulnerable communities and ecosystems and to select and manage marine protected areas. This method also provides tools for assessing the environmental status of European waters.

The study conducted by the project partners examines the use of towed underwater video devices as an effective and non-destructive technique for monitoring marine environment ecological changes in particularly sensitive areas. Three towed video sledges were tested on different sea beds (rocky, mixed and sandy) in the same marine protected area: Kingmere Marine Conservation Zone, West Sussex, UK. Each sledge was assessed to compare their different characteristics, their strong points and their limitations, to subsequently make recommendations about their future use and the comparability of data obtained with each system:

«Heavy sledges are more adaptable in all sea conditions and depths but they are difficult to use on uneven beds and significantly impact the sea bed. Big differences were noted in terms of abundance, density, coverage and composition and are probably



due to the deployment limitations of each device and to the differences in their optical specifications. Good light intensity and the use of HD resolution no doubt helped to increase the taxonomic resolution of the videos. In the light of this study, special attention must be paid when choosing the physical and optical specifications of the sledge if the aim is to implement a medium- or long-term MPA monitoring programme.»

More results will be available in the report, available soon on [www.panache.eu.com](http://www.panache.eu.com)!



Within the framework of WP2 «Share best practices and positive experiences in the monitoring of MPAs, an innovative partnership for seabird protection has been developed.

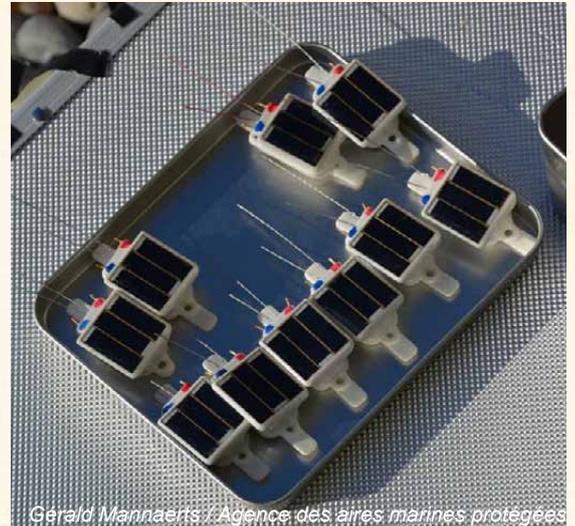
The partnership has been set up by the French Marine Protected Areas Agency (Agence des aires marines protégées), the Groupe Ornithologique Normand -the leading bird society in Normandy- and the operators of the future wind farms of Fécamp and Courseulles-sur-mer, to monitor black-legged kittiwakes on three sites: Falaises du Bessin (cliffs), Fécamp, and Boulogne.

In June and July, tracking devices weighing a few grams were attached to the kittiwakes, which nest at that time of year in the cliffs or on old buildings in urban environments (in Boulogne-sur-Mer here).

The birds very quickly recovered from their initial fright and headed back to their nest or, better still, to their «fishing area».

Such a survey has several benefits:

- find out the exact areas in which these birds feed (as kittiwakes can travel several dozen kilometres out at sea, they are difficult to monitor from the coast) to be able to provide effective protection (site designation, protection of the functional area),
- study potential interactions between the future wind farms and the birds to minimise them as much as possible,
- model the kittiwakes' preferred habitats in their search for food.



Gérald Mannaerts / Agence des aires marines protégées

The technical work was not easy, between the sea-swept intertidal zone and the narrow cliffs. However, after a few hitches and some trial and error, no less than 43 birds were fitted with devices and monitored.



Gérald Mannaerts / Agence des aires marines protégées

The first results are extremely interesting and provide leads to explore for integrating the species



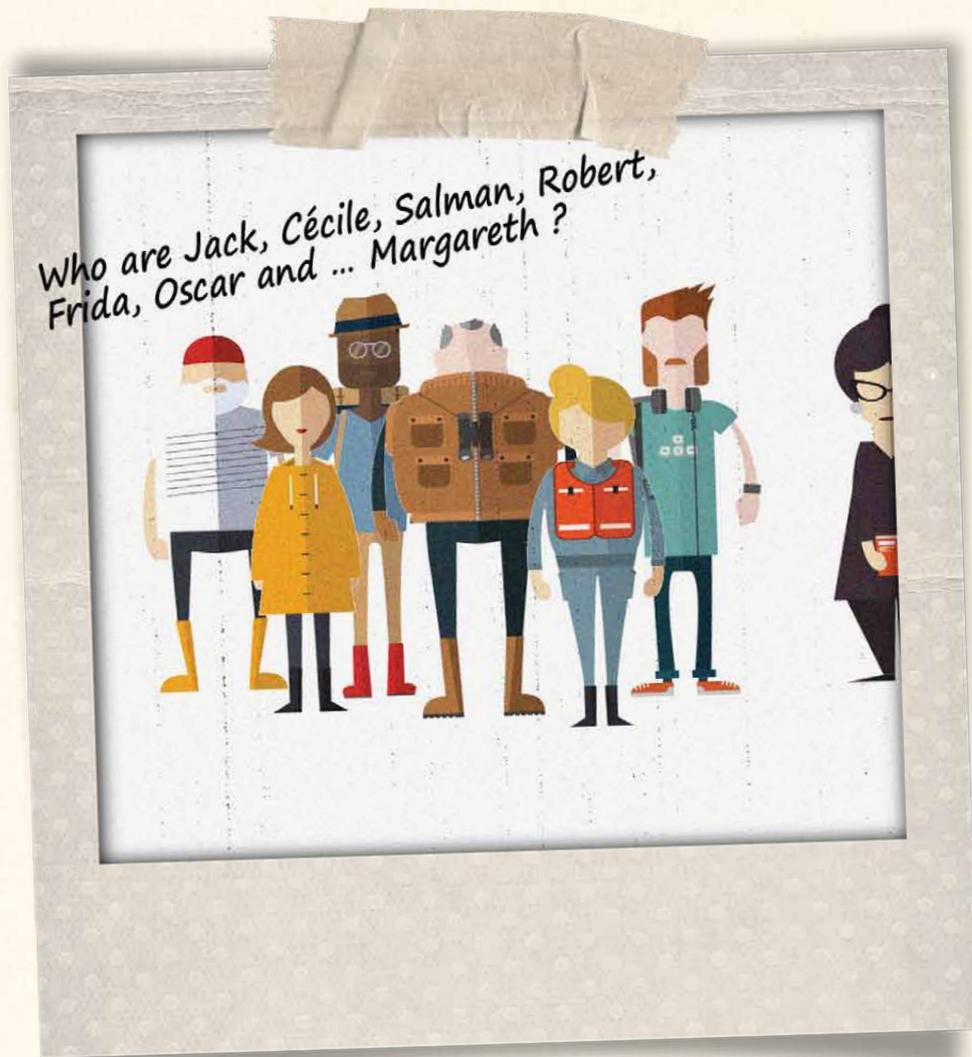
Gérald Mannaerts / Agence des aires marines protégées

into management of the Channel. The results must, however, remain confidential until the wind farm contracts have been completed. We can nonetheless already say that each colony appears to be very loyal to a single feeding site.

One kittiwake is particularly worthy of note: this great traveller flew no less than 800km in two weeks, visiting the different colonies in the region - the local postman perhaps?

The fifth PANACHE meeting, and last one before the final conference, was held at the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, in Jersey, from the 13th to the 14th of October. It gathered some 40 French and British participants. Several workshops were organised in accordance with the project's workpackages. Lots of results were already presented and led to both productive and friendly exchanges between the partners.





The heroes of the educational video game *PANACHE Expedition*, of course!

[Rendezvous in March...](#)





# PANACHE

Protected Area Network Across  
the Channel Ecosystem

PANACHE is a Franco-British project funded by European programme INTERREG IV. The project aims for better protection of the Channel marine environment by establishing a network among existing marine protected areas.

There are five main project goals:

- Assess ecological coherence across the marine protected area network;
- Pool and share experience in monitoring these areas;
- Strengthen coherence and foster interaction for improved marine protected area management;
- Heighten awareness of marine protected areas: create a sense of ownership and shared expectations through citizen science programmes;
- Establish a public GIS database.

France and Great Britain are facing similar challenges to protect the marine biodiversity in their shared marine territory: PANACHE aims at providing a common, coherent and efficient reaction.

PANACHE est un projet franco-britannique, visant à une meilleure protection de l'environnement marin de la Manche par la mise en réseau des aires marines protégées existantes.

Les cinq objectifs du projet :

- Étudier la cohérence écologique du réseau des aires marines protégées;
- Mutualiser les acquis en matière de suivi de ces espaces, partager les expériences positives;
- Consolider la cohérence et encourager la concertation pour une meilleure gestion des aires marines protégées;
- Accroître la sensibilisation générale aux aires marines protégées : instaurer un sentiment d'appartenance et des attentes communes en développant des programmes de sciences participatives;
- Instaurer une base de données SIG publique.

France et Royaume-Uni sont confrontés à des défis analogues pour protéger la biodiversité marine de l'espace marin qu'ils partagent : PANACHE vise à apporter une réponse commune, cohérente et efficace.

- [www.panache.eu.com](http://www.panache.eu.com) -

Financé par



PANACHE Project partners / Partenaires du projet PANACHE

