



PANACHE

Protected Area Network Across
the Channel Ecosystem

NEWSLETTER 05/2015

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

This is the last newsletter: the PANACHE project is finished!

The last field actions have been completed and the reports duly written. Mid March, in Torquay, the closing conference was an opportunity for all the partners to present the results of their work. The conference was shared with the VALMER project (www.valmer.eu) and was also a chance to extend the cooperation developed and to discover other work focuses, other players and new cross-cutting themes.

The three years of the PANACHE project were punctuated with a whole array of actions conducted on either side of the Channel and the often innovative results have prepared the ground for future studies. In particular, a network of players has gradually developed and gained strength, with the aim of providing ever more coherent protection of the entire Channel marine environment.

Future projects are already taking shape as former and new partners build on the findings of PANACHE and VALMER and imagine the best possible synergies to fill the still visible gaps, to leverage the progress made and to keep up the splendid cooperation momentum.

Gerald Mannaerts
PANACHE project coordinator
Agence des aires marines protégées

PANACHE BOWS OUT

Towards protection of THE ENTIRE Channel marine environment

From 17 to 19 March, in Torquay, England, the project's final conference brought together all the PANACHE project players, the VALMER project ones (www.valmer.eu), and many interested participants for an enthusiastic wrap-up review.

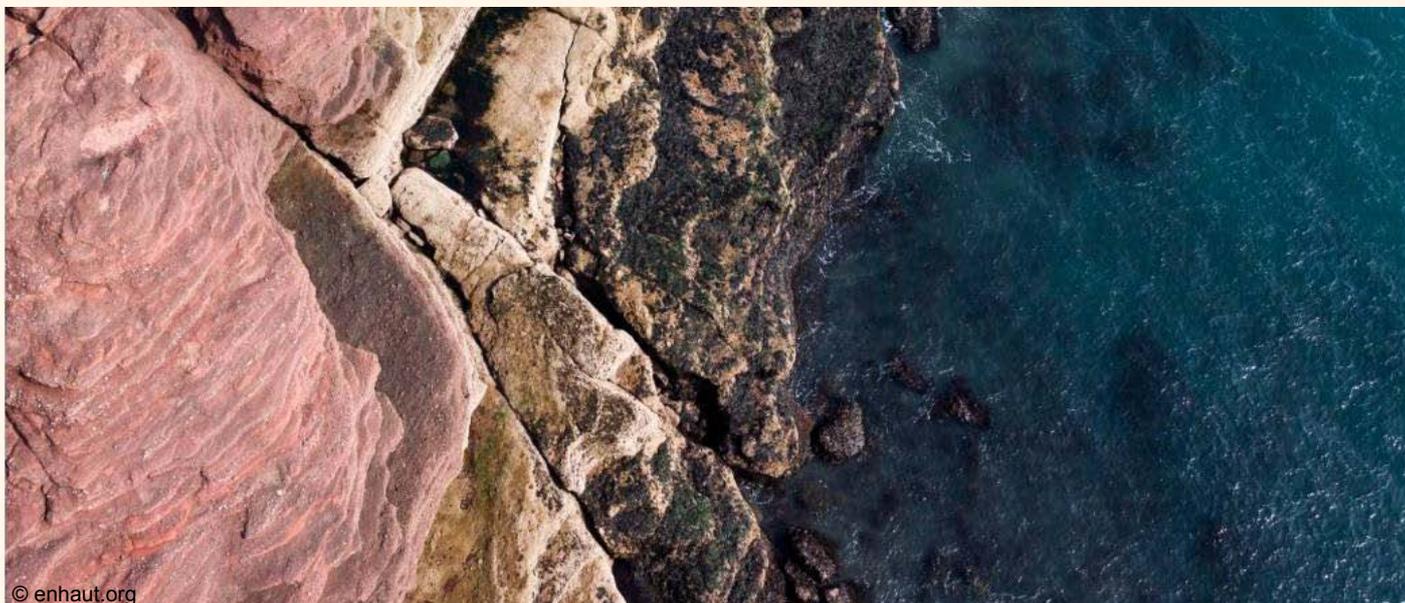
The PANACHE project has been closed with two and half days of meetings to review the actions taken, lay the foundations for future cooperation initiatives and seize an ultimate opportunity to strengthen the already solid human relations between stakeholders who work to protect their shared marine area on both sides of the Channel.

The existing marine protected area network is well developed: it covers 10% of English waters and 31% of French waters in the Channel area (whereas the national average is 16.52% of French waters). Its effectiveness is also ensured by a good degree of «ecological coherence»: for example, protected sites are inter-connected or considered representative of protection priorities. However, the project has pinpointed another priority to be considered: the establishment of offshore marine protected areas, in the high seas of the Channel, where they are currently lacking and where ecosystems are greatly in need of conservation.

The project has also challenged management of existing marine protected areas, again emphasizing the urgent need for greater coherence and effectiveness: measures have thus been proposed to improve French-British coordination in monitoring marine species and habitats, and joint, sustainable tools have been developed to share the data produced.

PANACHE scientific experts have worked on several key activities: the creation of towed underwater sledges equipped with a camera to film and then analyse the species encountered on the Channel seabed; an echosounder to analyse both the geography and nature of the sea's beds; and the development of shared methods, to monitor marine birds in the Channel and to analyse the socio-economic impacts of marine protected areas on the activities carried out in them: professional fishing, surfing or even swimming, as well as tourism, for example.

Finally, the project also involved a number of partners which receive the public so that people can discover -and learn to respect- the marine environment: Nausicaa – Centre national de la Mer, the aquarium and science centre in Boulogne-sur-Mer, as well as four British Wildlife Trusts that are environmental organisations highly active on a local scale. As part of the project, and in 2014 alone, these organisations brought together more than 12,500 people whom they informed about marine environment protection at a hundred or so public events. An educational video game was also developed and is now freely available, in French and English, to pursue the efforts while targeting new audiences.



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TORQUAY, AS IF YOU WERE THERE!

Conference talks and presentations:



Line Viera / Agence des aires marines protégées



Corinne Defeyer / AAMP



Corinne Defeyer / AAMP

Constructive workshops and roundtable discussions:



Line Viera / Agence des aires marines protégées



Corinne Defeyer / AAMP



Corinne Defeyer / AAMP

A field trip to discover three marine environment monitoring methods by kite, drone and citizen science:



Corinne Defeyer / AAMP



Line Viera / AAMP

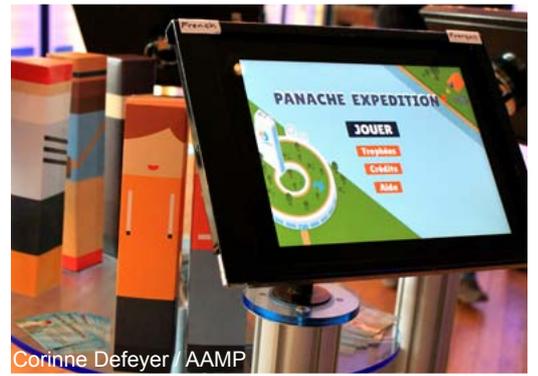


Line Viera / AAMP

A multimedia exhibition to share and encourage participants to disseminate the tools created:



Alan Stewart / Plymouth University



Corinne Defeyer / AAMP

Times to socialize, because that (too) is how a network develops!



Alan Stewart / Plymouth University



Line Viera / AAMP



Corinne Defeyer / Agence des aires marines protégées

PROSPECTS FOR THE CHANNEL

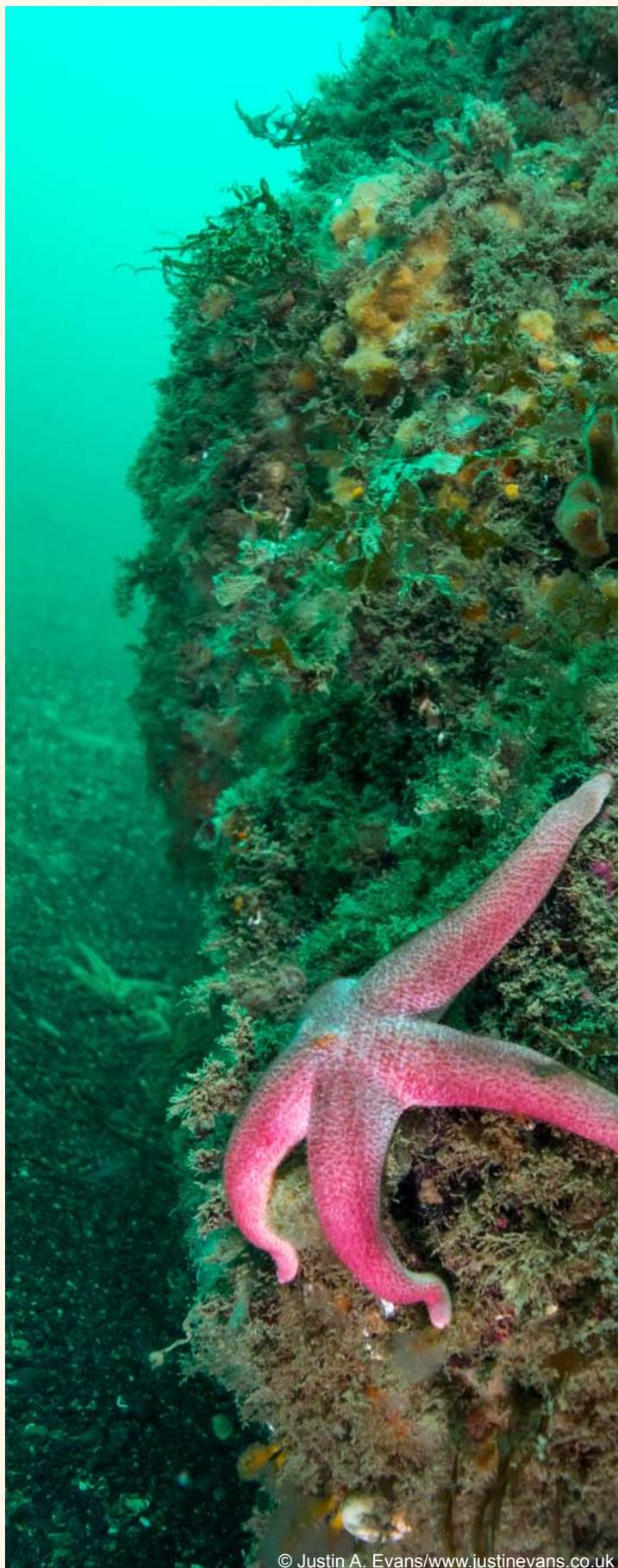
Free retranscription of the talk given by Christophe Lefebvre, delegate for European and international affairs to the Agence des aires marines protégées

«The final PANACHE and VALMER conference has been an opportunity to discuss the tools developed and knowledge acquired within the framework of each project. These two and a half days spent sharing knowledge and know-how have brought to light several major prospects for the Channel region.

Strengthening the observation and technical and scientific cooperation programmes could be one first outcome. PANACHE and VALMER were intended to serve as observatories and laboratories for observing the Channel ecosystem, and thus contribute to scientific intelligence for the protection of specific areas of environmental importance in the Channel. Concrete examples of achievements that can be leveraged include: ecosystem services analysis and assessment; database pooling to share and publish knowledge across marine sites; MPA conservation status monitoring; and cooperation to achieve greater coherence in management schemes.

The two projects have **developed and consolidated the construction of a real network among MPA managers in the Channel**. Relationships of mutual support have been developed between researchers and managers and they must now be maintained by building new partnerships to continue creating shared tools. A common working platform, a technical coordination committee or a scientific and technical alliance for data exchanges are all forms that these future partnerships could take.

PANACHE and VALMER also gave MPA stakeholders in the Channel an **opportunity to become key players in the marine spatial planning process**. A true, innovative and pertinent bottom-up approach has been developed on which a solid, coherent network of marine protected areas can be built. It helps to integrate the socio-economic value of protected sites, enabling us to compare different geographic scales and facilitating consultation with economic stakeholders affected by marine spatial planning. This approach also simplifies implementation of governance for decision-makers, as it provides a real point of convergence with local practitioners. In terms of marine spatial planning, we have also seen the importance of working closely with the fishery industry, to defend together the conservation of the ecosystem and socio-economic services that living marine resources provide.



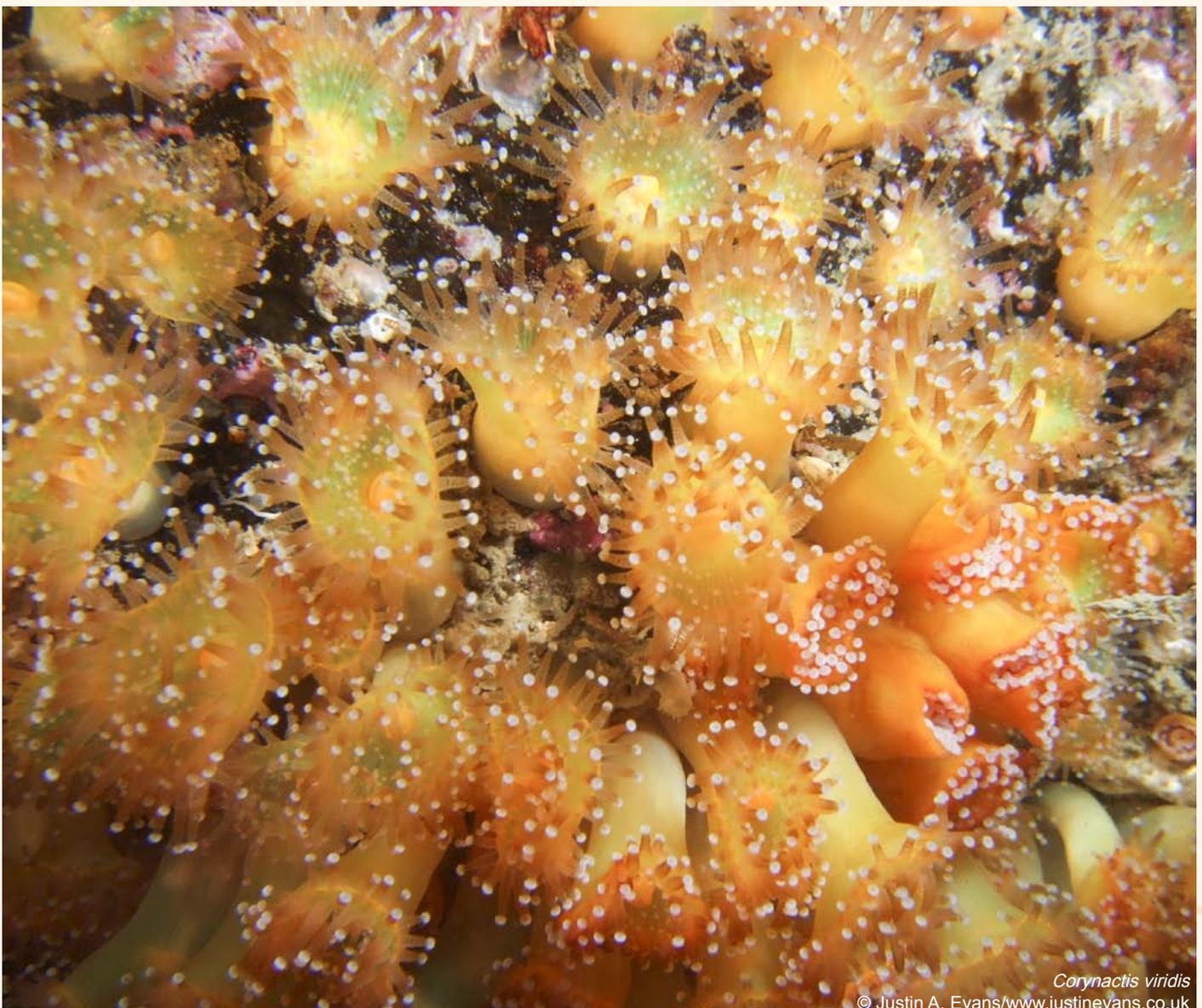
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It is crucial that the PANACHE and VALMER project initiatives be **recognised and supported by society**. Therefore, the general public must absolutely be regarded as an appropriate target for the dissemination of knowledge acquired. Tools should be developed for school children, citizen sciences will be increasingly important and social networks and other new information technologies will be the best possible media.

At this stage, the two projects' work must no longer remain solely at a technical and scientific level: **political and institutional support is required, to firmly establish it in Channel management strategies**. In particular, we must demonstrate that this work meets our international political commitments and that it is vital for the effective application of European integrated marine policies (such as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Marine Spatial Planning). Political support must therefore be sought from the appropriate players, such as decision-makers in governance bodies on either side of the Channel.

PANACHE and VALMER are indeed ending, but we are witnessing the promising start of strong technical and scientific cooperation. It is now vital that we reinforce these relationships **by structuring and durably funding the joint activities conducted across the Channel ecosystem**. Two options appear to emerge: either we work along the same lines as the Regional Advisory Council funding set up for fishing and financed by the Direction Générale des Affaires Maritimes et de la Pêche, or we propose a new Interreg IVA programme that takes account of development possibilities and addresses the network structuring and financial future of the two projects' initiatives.

As an operator of the French Ministry of Ecology, the French MPA Agency dedicated to marine environment protection will support all organisations that pursue the bilateral cooperation initiated by PANACHE and VALMER to protect the Channel marine environment we share.»



Corynactis viridis
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GO FURTHER WITH PANACHE

DATABASES

- English Channel Marine Protected Areas database : http://www.panache.eu.com/mpa_database_en
- Marine birds database : www.oiseaux-manche.org

DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCES

- Map library: www.panache.eu.com/map_library_en
- Reports and tools: www.panache.eu.com/documents_en

Including:

WP1 - Assess ecological coherence across the marine protected area network

WP1 report - short version

Assessing the Planktonic Connectivity of the Channel MPA Network

Workshop report detailing agreed criteria for ecological coherence

Methods for assessing ecological coherence of MPA networks

Criteria for assessing ecological coherence of MPA networks

Assessing the Ecological Coherence of the Channel MPA Network

WP2 - Pool and share experience in monitoring these areas.

Marine Protected Area Monitoring in the Channel : a Review

Use of multibeam echosounder surveys in relation to designating and managing Marine Protected Areas

Methods for monitoring the socioeconomic effects of MPAs

Marine Monitoring by Wildlife Trusts along the South Coast of England

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities and Marine Protected Area Management

Comparative study of towed underwater video methodology

Marine birds and MPA monitoring

Sharing best practice and working towards a more coherent approach in the monitoring of MPAs and trialling innovative monitoring techniques

WP3 - Strengthen coherence and foster interaction for improved marine protected area management.

Involving stakeholders in MPA: Case studies across the Channel

Effective management of vulnerable beach nesting birds

Risk management applied to marine habitats and fisheries in MPAs in the English Channel

Best practice for the development of management plans for cetaceans within Marine Protected Areas in the Channel region - Cornwall as a case study

Marine Protected Areas Management plan tutorial

Marine Birds: Environmental quality indicators

WP4 - Heighten awareness of marine protected areas: create a sense of ownership and shared expectations through citizen science programmes

WP4.1- Experiences of public awareness campaigns for marine protected areas and recommendations for most effective approaches

WP4.2- Mobilisation of divers as active practitioners and disseminators

WP4.2- Engaging people when they are at the seaside

WP4.2- Use of digital imagery by non-specialists (citizen scientists) for marine species and habitats recording and monitoring in Marine Protected Areas MPA Network

Tools and guidelines

Intertidal Survey Guidance Notes for Citizen Scientists

Bucket joint technique

Guide to Marine Protected Areas in the English Channel

AN EDUCATIONAL VIDEO GAME TO BE PLAYED BY ALL!

PANACHE EXPEDITION !

Start by watching the trailer of this free educational game dedicated to the Channel marine environment and marine protected areas.



Or set off on an expedition right away!

www.panache.eu.com/expedition





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 -

Financé par



PANACHE Project partners / Partenaires du projet PANACHE



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