

The Deep-Sea Biology Society

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

Registered Charity Number 1173699

The Deep-Sea Biology Society

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for the year ended 31 December 2021

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DEEP-SEA BIOLOGY SOCIETY

Trustees Annual Report

Covering the period 1 Jan 2021 - 31 December 2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity Name: Deep-Sea Biology Society

Also known as: DSBS or DSB Soc

Registered charity number: 1173699

Principal address: 49 Station Rd, Polegate, East Sussex, BN26 6EA, UK

Trustees:

Name	Office	Date Appointed*	Appointing body
Michelle Taylor	President	October 2021	DSBS Members
Adrian Glover	Past-president	July 2017	DSBS Members
Neus Companyà-Llovet	Treasurer	October 2021	DSBS Members
Chris Yesson	Past-Treasurer	July 2017	DSBS Members
Julia Sigwart	Awards	October 2021	DSBS Members
Rachel Jeffreys	Past-Awards	July 2017	DSBS Members
Alexis Weinnig	Secretary	October 2021	DSBS Members
Erin Easton	Past-Secretary	Sept 2018	DSBS Members
Erin Easton	Membership	October 2021	DSBS Members
Santiago Herrera	Past-Membership	July 2017	DSBS Members
Ilysa Iglesias	Past-Student affairs	Jan 2020	DSBS Members
Franck Lejzerowicz	Communications	March 2022	DSBS Members
Andrea Quattrinia	Past - Communications	October 2021	DSBS Members
Paris Stefanoudis	Past - Communications	Sept 2018	DSBS Members
Erik Cordes	Development	October 2021	DSBS Members

Julia Sigwart	Past - Development	Sept 2018	DSBS Members
Pierre Methou	Early Career	October 2021	DSBS Members
Andrea Quatrinni	Past-Early Career	Sept 2018	DSBS Members
Daniela Zeppilli	Conferences	Aug 2020	DSBS Members
Alycia Jane Smith	Diversity	October 2021	DSBS Members
Raissa Hogan	Past - Diversity	Oct 2020	DSBS Members
Sofia Graça Aranha Carvalho Ramos	Non-executive	October 2021	DSBS Members
Katharine Bigham	Student affairs	October 2021	DSBS Members
Bhavani Narayanaswamy	Non-executive	October 2021	DSBS Members
Sheena Talma	Non-executive	October 2021	DSBS Members

*Note: The appointment date is set to the date of charity registration. The appointments to the unregistered society occurred by membership vote prior to the official registration.

Previous Trustees:

The following trustees stepped down on the 18th of October 2021 of their previous positions within the society: Adrian Glover, Chris Yesson, Rachel Jeffreys, Santiago Herrera, Ilysa Iglesias, Paris Stefanoudis, Daniela Zeppilli, Raissa Hogan, Steven Haddock, Chong Chen, Malcolm Clark and Leigh Marsh. The following trustees shifted their position within the society on the 18th of October 2021: Erin Easton, Andrea Quatrinni and Julia Sigwart.

Names & Address of advisors:

Argents Chartered Accountants, 15 Palace St, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 1RT, UK

Section B - Structure, governance, management

Type of governing document: Constitution

How the charity is constituted: CIO - Association



Trustee selection method: Election by members on 3-year cycle coincident with the Deep-Sea Biology Symposium

Additional governance issues:

Trustees meetings

Trustees manage society business by means of regular meetings conducted via video calling. These meetings are minuted by the Secretary. The trustees held 9 meetings in 2021 and the Annual General Meeting. In an effort to include all trustees, who are located in a variety of countries, we are continuing to implement a dual-meeting strategy, where the meeting is repeated on the same or consecutive days during different time periods to allow trustees from different time zones to participate. The trustees have a dedicated website on the Slack platform to send private messages to all trustees concerning society business.

Risks

A major risk to the society is a reduction of income due to a drop in membership numbers. We try to mitigate this risk by providing members with incentives to maintain memberships, these include: ability to apply for grants and awards, provide discounts to scientific conferences, and keeping members updated about the society's activities.



Networks

The society continues its relationship with DOSI – Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative for scientific investigation of deep-sea ecosystems - which has a remit to communicate deep-sea information to the community. We are continuing to assist DOSI with the production of the Deep-Sea Life Newsletter. Two issues were produced in 2021; [one in January](#), and [another in July](#).

Section C - Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document:

We are a scientific society that exists to enable the exchange of information on deep-sea biology to all those who are interested. Our vision is to advance knowledge and awareness of deep-sea ecosystems by promoting and disseminating deep-sea research to both scientific and public audiences, to foster the next generation of deep-sea biologists and to promote demographic diversity in the study of deep-sea biology.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit):

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The society enables the exchange of information on deep-sea biology through its membership program and the organisation and sponsorship of scientific meetings. Specifically, the society directly supports the triennial international Deep-Sea Biology Symposium, and by supporting the triennial International Symposium on Chemosynthesis-Based Ecosystems and triennial International Symposium on Deep-Sea Corals. These are the pre-eminent conferences in their respective fields, which reach out to academic, public, industry and government stakeholders. The society issues grants and awards. These include travel awards to support the society's mission of fostering the next generation of deep-sea biologists (e.g through student awards) and to promote demographic diversity by enabling researchers from developing countries to attend symposia. The society also provides annual and triennial prizes recognising excellence in research.

The society provides a public forum for discussion and information related to deep-sea biology through the website (<http://dsbsoc.org>) twitter feed (@DSBSoc), Instagram feed (@dsbsoc) slack forum (<http://dsbsoc.slack.com>) and emails. These services also provide information and articles on upcoming and recent events in the world of Deep-Sea Biology, as well as news on job and studentship announcements. The society's student forum provides access and assistance to students, while our mentoring program connects senior and junior researchers and students to offer career advice, help and support.



Additional details of objectives and activities:

Policy on grantmaking

Grants and awards are distributed by the society according to our principles. A group of trustees independently score applicants based on scientific merit and other criteria specific to the award. Applicants are ranked based on the combined scores. The top ranking applicant(s) are selected for the award, after approval at a meeting of the trustees.

Contribution of volunteers

The society is fortunate to receive hard work and assistance from its trustees, who all contribute their time and efforts on a purely voluntary basis. The society has also received voluntary support from many members of the deep-sea community.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

16th Deep Sea Biology Symposium “[16th DSBS](#)”

On 12-17th September 2021 the DSBS conducted a hybrid symposium “16th DSBS” in Brest (France) that included 581 participants (159 onsite — and 422 online) from 56 different countries. This event incorporated 200 research talks, 169 science posters, a student event, a biodiversity round table and 9 social events over the course of 5 days. This event provided deep-sea researchers an opportunity to meet and share ideas during what was a very disrupted and difficult year for many people due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This event was organised and run by trustees, members and IFREMER and registration fees were lower to all society members. A paper has been drafted to help share the Society’s experiences and lessons learnt in the conduct of such a hybrid conference to help those

planning similar events in future (Puccinelli et al. 2022;
<https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.03.18.484941>).



Members

Memberships were boosted by the symposium, which offered them a discount on the registration fees. Active members on January 1 2021 were 462, we ended with 647; gain of 185 (40.04%). Membership remains a long-term source of funding for the society.

Administration

The society continues to manage memberships through the Wild Apricot platform. We continue to remain compliant with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Our Annual General Meeting was conducted virtually on 17th September 2021 during the hybrid symposium “16th DSBS”, where 13 trustees presented and discussed a summary of our activities to 103 non-trustee members in attendance. The minutes of the 2021 AGM are available on our website (http://dsbsoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Minutes-of-DSBS-AGM-2021_Final.pdf).



DEEP-SEA BIOLOGY SOCIETY



DEEP-SEA BIOLOGY SOCIETY

15th Deep-Sea Biology Symposium

2021 Annual General Meeting, 16 Sept 2021
16th Deep-Sea Biology Symposium, Ifremer, Brest, France



Awards

We have used our income from membership, grants and event sponsorship to continue our commitment to prizes and awards. Our regular awards linked to traveling to meetings or visiting labs have been somewhat curtailed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our major awards in 2021:

- Three Cruise bursary were awarded to support deep-sea related fieldwork research.
- Two Dive Deeper research bursary were awarded to support the professional development of deep-sea scientists.
- The paper of the year was awarded to A Davis and colleagues for their paper "[Ultra-black camouflage in deep-sea fishes.](#)" *Current Biology* 30.17 (2020): 3470-3476.
- The PhD paper of the year was awarded to N Morgan for her paper "Fine Scale Assemblage Structure of Benthic Invertebrate Megafauna on the North Pacific Seamount Mokumanamana, in *Frontiers in Marine Science* (2019): 715."
- Nine travel awards were given to support on site attendance at the 16th DSBS meeting.
- Support to attend the 16th DSBS meeting online was awarded to 18 members of the society.
- Four presentation awards were given at the 16th DSBS meeting.
- A childcare support was awarded to support attendance at the 16th DSBS meeting.

A full list of award recipients is available on [our website](#).

Mentoring & Student support

The society's mentoring program began in 2018 with three groups totalling 20 people. This year (2021) we expanded this mentoring network into new territories with 100 participants. We also conducted events during the "16th DSBS".

The society has initiated a webinar series providing support to early career researchers, with content provided by a wide range of deep-sea researchers covering topics such as work-life balance, science outreach and proposal writing.

We continue to support students through our dedicated [student webpage](#), and [facebook group](#).

Communications

The society's website and social media presence continues to expand. The website <http://dsbsoc.org/> continues to be a significant resource for news on funding, cruises, jobs, scientific papers and to highlight members that received awards or send new contributions to promoting activity. At the end of Dec 2021, our twitter feed [@DSBSoc](#) had over 6,600 followers (+13% in 2021). Our Slack channel to foster communication amongst researchers (<https://dsbsoc.slack.com/>) count 907 members (+75% on last year) and a total of 12,133 messages sent (+108%). We continue to support the Deep-Sea Life Newsletter, which is a valuable resource to the deep-sea community and the society will continue to support and develop this resource.

Diversity

The society created a new office-bearing trustee position of "Diversity officer", which was formally approved by the membership at the AGM. The remit of this role is to tackle diversity, equity and inclusivity issues in the Society and the wider field of Deep-Sea Biology. We also



ammended our constitution to include a Code of Conduct that explicitly prohibits discrimination in the Society and expands our commitment to inclusion and equity. The society also approved a Diversity Fund aimed at generating opportunities to increase representation of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour in the field of Deep-Sea Biology.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity seeks to hold reserves in line with charity commission guidance. We aim to hold funds sufficient to cover a typical year of expenditure.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None applicable

Further financial review details

The charity's principal source of funds are membership fees, which have provided a steady income stream from the time of the society's formation. Memberships were boosted by the 16th DSBS meeting (which had reduced fees to all members).

This year we had success raising sponsorship funds for the virtual meeting 16th DSBS from the [Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation](#) (GBMF), the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and the Lounsberry Foundation.

We also hold funds from GBMF to support the 7th Chemosynthesis-Based Ecosystems conference, which was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will hold these funds until the meeting is rescheduled (planned for 2023).

At present we have no investments. The trustees are investigating investment options that would provide a return on our reserve holdings while maintaining access to these funds.

Section F Other optional information



No additional information is provided.

Section G Declaration

**The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

Signature

Full Name: Neus Companyà i Llovet

Position: Treasurer

Date: 23rd June 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Deep Sea Biology Society

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Deep Sea Biology Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Deep Sea Biology Society (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mark Johnstone FCA

ICAEW
Argents Chartered Accountants
15 Palace Street
NORWICH
Norfolk
NR3 1RT

Date: 29 August 2022.....



Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period
from

01-Jan-21

To

31-Dec-21

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Year ended 31 December 2020
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	-	21,039	-	21,039	14,927
Membership	11,754	-	-	11,754	16,990
Product sales	845	-	-	845	-
Events	-	-	-	-	-
Symposium	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	5	-	-	5	1,750
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</i>	12,604	21,039	-	33,643	33,667
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total receipts</i>	12,604	21,039	-	33,643	33,667
A3 Payments					
Awards	9,023	6,867	-	15,890	1,100
Publications	-	-	-	-	-
General Administrative costs	1,738	-	-	1,738	1,463
Promotional costs	1,565	-	-	1,565	1,000
Events	2,173	14,892	-	17,065	4,162
Bank charges	401	-	-	401	632
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	14,900	21,759	-	36,659	8,357
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Foreign exchange loss	1,858	-	-	1,858	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	1,858	-	-	1,858	-
<i>Total payments</i>	16,758	21,759	-	38,517	8,357
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	- 4,154	- 720	-	- 4,874	25,310
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	84,615	11,201	-	95,816	70,506
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	80,461	10,481	-	90,942	95,816

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank account	19,933	10,481	-
	Paypal account	32,314		-
	Paypal USD account	28,214	-	-
	Total cash funds	80,461	10,481	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Neus Company-Llovet	23 June 2022	