

The Deep-Sea Biology Society


Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

Registered Charity Number 1173699

The Deep-Sea Biology Society
Content of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

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DEEP-SEA BIOLOGY SOCIETY

Trustees Annual Report

Covering the period 1 Jan 2022 - 31 December 2022

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
Neus Company-Llovet	Treasurer	October 2021	DSBS Members
Julia Sigwart	Awards	October 2021	DSBS Members
Alexis Winnig	Secretary	October 2021	DSBS Members
Erin Easton	Membership	October 2021	DSBS Members
Franck Lejzerowicz	Communications	March 2022	DSBS Members
Erik Cordes	Development	October 2021	DSBS Members
Pierre Methou	Early Career	October 2021	DSBS Members
Alycia Jane Smith	Diversity	October 2021	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
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*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 Communications trustee appointed in 2021 left in 2022 and so, we had one new **addition to the trustee's board.**

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 6 meetings in 2022 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.**

DSBS Trustees Annual Report 2022



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 2022; one in [January](#), and another in [August](#).

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.

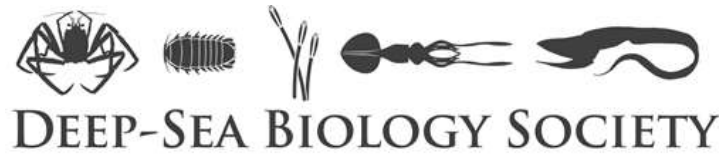
Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit):

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 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

Members

Active members on January 1 2022 were 647, we ended with 349; loss of 298 (46.06%). The absence of a symposium during 2022 can explain this loss. 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 in London on 9th September 2022 in a hybrid format after the Challenger 150 conference.

Awards

We have used our income from membership, grants and event sponsorship to continue our commitment to prizes and awards. In the post-COVID era we restructured the approach to awards and have consolidated different awards into two categories: participation (travel) and research awards. These each have a single annual deadline. The aim in restructuring was to make the available resources more clear and accessible to the membership and also to relieve the burden on the Council to evaluate award applications. We evaluate applications based on the fit to the criteria in the application



form, and with an effort to ensure balanced support of gender and geographical diversity of the recipients. Although a call for paper prizes was published in 2022, the call received very few nominations and was extended to the following year. A full list of award recipients is available on [our website](#).

Participation Award recipients 2022:

- Renata Micaela Pertossi (Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, Argentina): International Echinoderm Conference
- Claudia Francesca Vaga (Universidade de Sao Paulo, Brazil): 8th International Symposium on Deep-Sea Corals
- Savannah Goode (Victoria University of Wellington & National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, New Zealand): 8th International Symposium on Deep-Sea Corals

Research Award recipients 2022:

- Leonel Ivan Pacheco (Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales (MACN) “Bernardino Rivadavia”): *Taxonomy of Septibranchia and Protobranchia, bivalves from the southern Southwestern Atlantic deep sea*
- Vanessa Stenvers (Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History; GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research): *The evolution of visual systems in the holopelagic Oxycephalidae (Amphipoda, Hyperiidea)*

Mentoring & Student support

We continue to support students and ECRs through our dedicated [student webpage](#), [facebook group](#), and slack channels. As well as the society's mentoring program which began in 2018 with three groups totalling 20 people. The mentoring meetings are covering topics such as work-life balance, science outreach and proposal writing. This year (2022) we continued to maintain this mentoring network with previous and new members for a total of 88 participants. The society has also initiated a webinar series to compensate for the absence of conferences in 2022, providing an opportunity for early career researchers to showcase their most recent works, with four seminars gathering two speakers each and that were organised in May, June, September and October 2022.

Communications

The Society's website has been rather idling compared to its social media presence, which continues to expand. The website <http://dsbsoc.org/> remain to be a key resource for news on funding, cruises, jobs, scientific papers and to highlight members **that received awards or contribute to promoting activities, such as the “Meet the Next-Generation of Deep-Sea Researchers” and “Life After Ph.D.” profiles.** The website has been updated and therefore secured (migration to https URL), backed up, and was made available in multiple languages (using automatic translation). At the end of Dec 2022, our twitter feed [@DSBSoc](#) had over 7,729 followers (+17.1% in 2022). Our Slack channel to announce events, opportunities, and foster communication amongst researchers (<https://dsbsoc.slack.com/>) count 943 members (+4% on last year) and a total of 15,749



messages sent (+29.8%). We continue to support the Deep-Sea Life Newsletter, which is a valuable resource to the deep-sea community. Year 2022 marks the 20th edition of this newsletter and the Society will continue to co-publish this resource twice per year.

Diversity

The society recently created a new office-bearing trustee position of “Diversity Officer”, which was formally approved by the membership at the 2021 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. Following a survey disseminated to members, we composed a Religious Holidays Calendar for the year 2022, so that the society and its members were able to organise major events in times that were most accessible for those of any faith, wherever possible. General feedback points from the survey were also noted to include in future event planning. Part of the Diversity Fund was used to hold our first Diversity and Inclusion training session with Lara Lalemi from Creative Tuition Collective. We used this session to develop short-, mid- and long-term goals for the society. Additionally, we further amended our Society Code of Conduct with more specific terminology to deepen our commitment to inclusion and equity.

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.**

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.



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 Campanyà i Llovet

Position: Treasurer

Date: 23rd June 2023

**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 2022.

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: ..9 August 2023.....



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Deep Sea Biology Society

1173699

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period
from

01-Jan-22

To

31-Dec-22

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Year ended 31 December 2021
	to the nearest <input type="checkbox"/>	to the nearest <input type="checkbox"/>	to the nearest <input type="checkbox"/>	to the nearest <input type="checkbox"/>	to the nearest <input type="checkbox"/>
A1 Receipts					
Grants	-	-	-	-	21,039
Membership	8,174	-	-	8,174	11,754
Product sales	12	-	-	12	845
Events	-	-	-	-	-
Symposium	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	48	-	-	48	5
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</i>	8,234	-	-	8,234	33,643
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Foreign exchange gain	2,939	-	-	2,939	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	2,939	-	-	2,939	-
<i>Total receipts</i>	11,173	-	-	11,173	33,643
A3 Payments					
Awards	3,301	-	-	3,301	15,890
Publications	-	-	-	-	-
General Administrative costs	4,546	-	-	4,546	1,738
Promotional costs	518	-	-	518	1,565
Events	510	-	-	510	17,065
Bank charges	49	-	-	49	401
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	8,924	-	-	8,924	36,659
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Foreign exchange loss	-	-	-	-	1,858
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	1,858
<i>Total payments</i>	8,924	-	-	8,924	38,517
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	2,249	-	-	2,249	- 4,874
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	80,461	10,481	-	90,942	95,816
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	82,710	10,481	-	93,191	90,942

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted funds to nearest <input type="checkbox"/>	Endowment funds to nearest <input type="checkbox"/>
B1 Cash funds	Bank account	39,605	10,481	-
	Paypal account	16,803		-
	Paypal USD account	26,302	-	-
	Total cash funds	82,710	10,481	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted funds to nearest <input type="checkbox"/>	Endowment funds to nearest <input type="checkbox"/>
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 Campanyà i Llovet	07/08/2023	