**Upscaling of Marine Autonomy: Marine research community consultation**

A recommendation of the landmark [Net Zero Oceanographic Capability (NZOC) report](https://noc.ac.uk/files/documents/nzoc_summary_report.pdf) was that "*NERC should expect to double the size of the autonomous fleet it supports every five years*."

In response, the [NOC Association for Marine Science National Capability Beneficiaries](https://noc.ac.uk/partnerships/our-national-role/coordinating-uk-marine-science/noc-association#:~:text=The%20NOC%20Association%20of%20Marine%20Science%20National%20Capability,facilities%20and%20data%20and%20National%20and%20Public%20Good.) (NOCA) and the [Challenger Society for Marine Science](https://challenger-society.org.uk/) have formed the joint Upscaling Autonomy Working Group (UAWG). The UAWG is running a series of information webinars, followed by a consultation, on the future shape of upscaling of marine autonomy in the UK. Both are open to all.

The webinars will be live, one-hour sessions, repeated on three occasions and will provide background information on the Natural Environment Research Council's NZOC programme and specifically, the elements relevant to marine autonomy. The webinar will include Q&A.

**Webinar dates: 2023**

* Wednesday 15th February 10:00-11:00
* Wednesday 1st March 12:00-13:00
* Tuesday 14th March 13:00-14:00

The community consultation will operate through an on-line questionnaire and virtual, round-table discussion.

**Roundtable discussion:**

* Monday 24th April 2023 09:30 – 12:30

Views will by integrated after the roundtable and synthesised, alongside UAWG analysis, into a report which will be issued by the NOCA.

**Registration**

To participate in the webinars and/or round-table discussion, please [register now](https://noc-events.co.uk/upscaling-marine-autonomy-community-consultation-nzoc-roundtable-discussion).

For further information, please contact UWAG Secretary, Jackie Pearson (jfpea@noc.ac.uk)

**Membership of the UAWG**

* Chair - Professor Mark Inall, Scottish Association for Marine Science

**Ex-officio**

* Professor Carol Robinson, Chair of the Marine Facilities Advisory Board
* Professor Mike Meredith, President of the Challenger Society

**Members**

* Dr Rob Hall, University of East Anglia
* Professor Kerry Howell, University of Plymouth
* Alex Murphy, British Antarctic Survey
* Dr Tim Smyth, Plymouth Marine Laboratory

**Advisors**

* Dr Maaten Furlong, Associate Director, National Marine Facilities,

National Oceanography Centre

* Leigh Storey, Senior Responsible Owner NZOC, Major Programmes,

Natural Environment Research Council

* Dr Matthew Palmer, Digital Science Lead,

Plymouth Marine Laboratory

**Secretary** – Jackie Pearson, National Oceanography Centre

**NZOC Programme Director** – Dr Kristian Thaller, National Oceanography Centre (nzoc@noc.ac.uk)