

**EAST Region Marine Ecosystems - EASTME**  
**The State of the EAST Regions Seas Conference**  
23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024, Lincoln

**Programme**

**Aim**

*To report on the state of the East Region seas in 2023 and build the relationships between leading stakeholders who are engaged in understanding and managing this environment.*

**Objectives**

1. To hold a one day conference that reports on the state of a number of thematic topics for the EAST Region from Flamborough Head to the south Suffolk border.
2. To start to build the EASTME process and the communities of practice that support that.
3. To produce an EASTME State of the Seas Report covering 2023 that starts the process of annual documentation

[Book here](#)

**Programme**

08:45 – 09:30 *Doors open, refreshments and registration*

09:30 – 09:35 **Welcome to the conference** from Mark Schuerch, Associate Professor Physical Geography, University of Lincoln

09:35 – 09:45 **Introduction to the marine Natural Capital Programme**, Mike Nelson, Senior Advisor, mNCEA Land-Sea Interface Project Lead, Environment Agency

09:45 – 10:00 **Introduction to East Marine Ecosystems and next steps**, Bob Earll

**Session 1**, Chair: Mark Schuerch

10:00 – 10:20 **Oceanography, Plankton and Productivity**: Rodney Forster, University of Hull  
**Seabed and Seashore**: Ian Wilson, Benthic Solutions

**Coastal and Estuarine Habitats**: Jeff Kew, RSPB

Discussion of the relationships and interactions between thematic topics

11:10 – 12:00 *First break: Sandwiches and refreshments*

**Session 2**, Chair: Tammy Smalley, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

12:00 – 12:15 **Marine and Coastal Birds**: Dave O'Hara, RSPB

**Marine Mammals – Seals**: Beth Thompson, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

**Marine Mammals – Cetaceans**: Peter Evans, SeaWatch Foundation

**Fish, Fisheries and Shellfish**: Rui Viera, Cefas

**Marine Planning**: Alex Curd, Marine Management Organisation

13:05 – 13:25 Discussion of the relationships and interactions between thematic topics

13:25 – 14:15 *Second Break: Cakes & refreshments*

- 14:15 – 14:30 **Session 3**, Chair: Adele Powell, The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership  
**Marine Protected Areas:** Jennifer Love and Georgina Roberts, Natural England  
**Water Quality: Sewage, Storm Overflows and Other Pollutants:** Kayleigh Gadd and Emily Ball, Environment Agency  
**Plastic Pollution and Marine Debris:** William Fitter, Eunomia & East of England Plastics Coalition  
**Energy in the Marine Environment:** Jon Rees, Cefas
- 15:15 – 15:35 Discussion of the relationships and interactions between thematic topics
- 15:35 – 16:30 EASTME Next steps – facilitated discussion
- 16:30 Conference close