

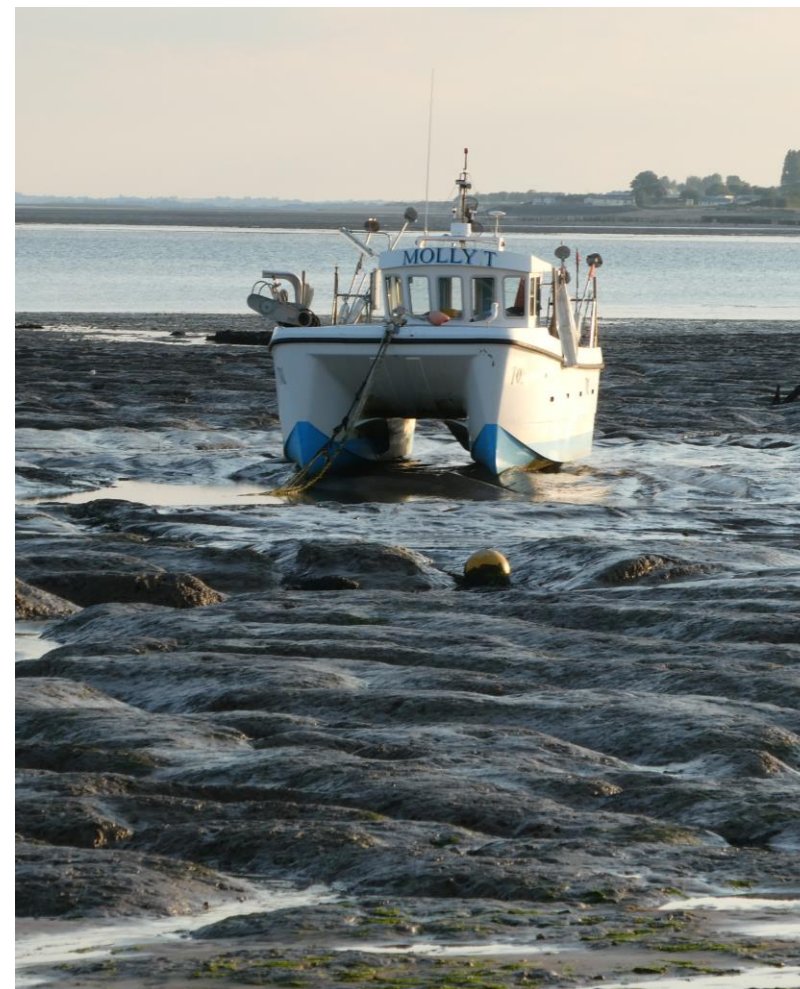
University of Essex

# **The management, creation and protection of blue carbon habitats**

**Seafish Fisheries Management and Innovation Group (FMIG), Fishmongers Hall, Thursday 5th October 2023**

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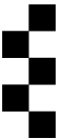
Graham J. C underwood





# UK Blue Carbon Evidence Partnership

Chair: Professor Graham J.C. Underwood  
University of Essex

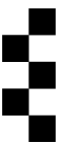


# UK Blue Carbon Evidence Partnership

- Established in 2022 after UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) COP26 (Glasgow) in Oct-Nov. 2021



- purpose of the UKBCEP is to facilitate co-ordination and collaboration across UK administrations
- The UKBCEP supports partners to work together to coordinate and progress the evidence base for **blue carbon habitats** across the whole of the UK.

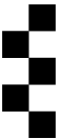


# UK “Blue carbon” habitats

- Salt marsh, Sea grass, [mangroves] (\*IPCC)
- Mudflats
- Oyster and mussel beds
- Kelp beds and reefs,
- Maerl beds
- Subtidal sediments

## Ecosystem services delivered

- Carbon sequestration
- Sediment stabilisation
- Coastal protection
- Nutrient recycling and clean water
- Fish habitat and nursery provision



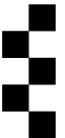
# Evidence Needs Statement: June 8<sup>th</sup> 2023

- Work across the administrations during 2022-23 to agree a single “evidence needs statement” (ENS)
- The ENS provides a roadmap for progressing research and information gathering, by administrations and with partners
- Provide benefits of co-ordination, and clarity to stakeholders.



UK Blue Carbon Evidence Partnership  
**Evidence Needs Statement**

June 2023



# Five objectives of the ENS



Working towards the potential inclusion of saltmarsh and seagrass in the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory



Encouraging and enabling investment in blue carbon habitats



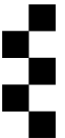
Reducing the impacts of human and environmental pressures, including climate change risks, on blue carbon habitats



Managing coastal and marine habitats on a seascape scale, with consideration of land and marine connectivity



Achieving climate change mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity benefits from blue carbon habitats as nature-based solutions



# Five interconnected themes of the ENS



1. Standardised Methods and Quality Control



2. Habitat Mapping



3. Carbon Stock, Accumulation, Burial and Emissions Data



4. Impacts of Human Activities and Climate Change

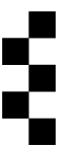


5. Socio-Economic Benefits and Costs

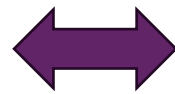
Within each theme, the ENS sets out a range of more specific areas where evidence gaps need to be addressed

# What is “evidence”?

- Evidence: fit for purpose and adhere to established codes of practice for research,
- The overall quality of evidence will be assessed by the Partnership against the following benchmarks:
  - • **Reputable:** from credible sources, including published literature, official government reports, NGO reports, website databases and other grey literature where deemed appropriate.
  - • **Reliable:** high confidence of robust provenance, with a preference for peer reviewed evidence, a complete list of cited references and/or familiarity of the source or project to the Partnership.
  - • **Relevant:** specific to the need it is hoping to address, with robust undertaking of research and a focus on the UK blue carbon habitats of most interest.



## UKBCEP



SCOTTISH BLUE CARBON FORUM

- A working group (led by Defra)



Working towards the potential inclusion of coastal wetlands in the UK GHGI

- Develop “salt marsh code” (carbon and nitrogen)
- Develop Marine Natural Capital Finance markets

