

## *Outreach Newsletter*

*July 2017*

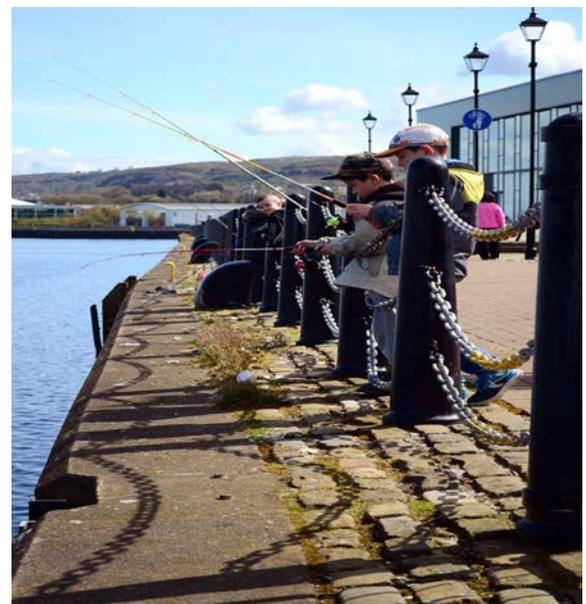
### ***Summer Starts with a Bang!***

Our Summer Outreach events are well and truly underway here at SSACN, with plenty more planned to keep families and kids entertained during the holidays whilst learning about the marine environment.

From sea angling taster sessions, pop-up drop net and rock pool activities to larger events such as our Outreach Festival, we will be visiting locations all over Scotland to run our activities!

We would especially like to thank Marek for doing a fantastic job at covering the programme whilst Samantha was off on maternity leave – and on that note, we would also like to congratulate Samantha on the birth of her beautiful baby daughter Jessica!

We would also like to thank all our volunteers who give so much of their free time to help others get an insight into the fascinating marine environment and the basics of sea angling, a sport which provides an active, outdoor activity which is accessible to all without incurring substantial costs and one which helps participants develop such skills as patience, critical thinking and social interaction.



If you or your organisation would like more information about the programme or would like to be involved with SSACN Outreach then contact Samantha at [samantha.king@ssacn.org](mailto:samantha.king@ssacn.org) or head over to our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SSACNOUTREACH](https://www.facebook.com/SSACNOUTREACH)

### ***Rock Pooling in Troon***

We kicked off our Summer Outreach with a pop-up rock pooling session in Troon.

Whilst the sun was shining and the beach was packed with people we grabbed our nets, fishing rods and viewing trays and went on to show the locals and visitors the amazing array of marine life that lives amongst the rocks and shallows.

Rockling, butterfish, urchin and crab were amongst our catch and we think that most of the adults who joined us went on to have more fun than their kids!



### ***Greenock Sea Angling Session***

On another scorching day we held a pop-up sea angling taster session at Greenock's Custom House Quay and our catch did not disappoint!

The location generated a LOT of interest from passers-by with staff from neighbouring offices popping over to see what we were up to and having a go at sea angling on their lunch breaks!

As it was early in the season we started off slow with just a few small dabs but one budding junior angler (during their first ever attempt at sea angling) managed to reel in a beautiful male dragonet whose colouring looked fantastic in the sunlight!

As usual, our drop nets proved to be a popular activity with various species of crab, large starfish, urchin and anemone coming up in the nets.

**We were especially pleased to see a group of youngsters (who had just visited the local tackle shop across from the quay) show up with brand new crab nets and ask if they could borrow some bait and join in with us!**



### ***Celebrating Our Oceans, Oban***

We teamed up with our shark tagging project officer and set off to the Ocean Explorer Centre in Oban for a weekend of marine discovery with local schools and the general public.

We discussed the various species of fish that can be caught around the Scottish coastline and how to be a responsible sea angler- with the kids particularly enjoying learning about the various species of shark found in Scottish waters!

The centre had a great turnout and we would particularly like to thank all our SSACN volunteers for helping out over the weekend!



### ***World Ocean's Day, Rockcliffe***

Thanks to the Solway Firth Partnership for organising the World Ocean's Day festival at Rockcliffe and inviting SSACN along! The weather was a tad on the windy side and we almost lost the gazebo on a few occasions but thanks to the beachside location there was plenty for the kids to do outside!

From seashore scavenger hunts to rock pool touch tanks there was plenty of activities for individuals and families alike – and thankfully the weather didn't prove too much of a turn off!



### ***Edinburgh Angling Centre***

Following on from our successful stalls at the Glasgow Angling centre, we were invited along to host our first stand at the Edinburgh Angling Centre Open Weekend.

We had many engaging conversations with fellow sea anglers about issues relating to the sport, its sustainability and best practices.



## ***C.O.A.S.T***

Once again, we were happy to join the Community of Arran Seabed Trust for the family fishing day at Lamlash Pier.

SSACN Outreach were on hand to provide sea angling taster sessions with a fair few codling, small haddock and whiting being caught in the bay.

Unfortunately, the weather turned a little sour and we had to retreat to the gazebo but thankfully we had games, crafts and touch tanks to keep the public entertained!



## ***School and Nursery Visits***

As well as running our outdoor activities we love nothing more than bringing the “Coast to the Classroom” during our various visits to schools and nurseries around the country.

In order to run our school visits our dedicated Outreach Officers head to the beach first thing in the morning before a session to collect lots of wonderful specimens for our tanks.

Our touch tanks are set up with air filters to keep the water oxygenated for the animals and are topped up with fresh seawater if we are doing a double session. All our creatures are returned to the same location in which we collected them from.

So far this year we have visited schools and nurseries in Glasgow, Greenock and Oban to showcase our rock pool creatures to the children (many of whom have never been to the beach before, never mind explore a rock pool!).

At SSACN we believe that this early experience is crucial in developing an interest and appreciation for the marine environment.



## Coming Up!

### **Portpatrick Outreach weekend – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July.**

Based on the success of the 2016 weekend, we are expecting this years Outreach Weekend to be even bigger and better.

The Portpatrick Outreach Weekend will be scheduled this year to coincide with the village's RNLI Lifeboat week which will include live music, raft races, sand castle competitions and even a talent show!

SSACN will be on hand to provide our usual outreach activities from the idyllic harbourside location.



**Arbroath Sea Festival – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August.** Arbroath Sea Fest is an annual festival of the Sea held along Arbroath's seafront and centring on the town's harbour.

The Sea Fest is a popular celebration of Arbroath's maritime heritage, and attracts over 15,000 visitors over the two days.

SSACN will be joining the many stands set up around the harbour and will be offering drop netting, rock pool touch tanks and light rock fishing.

We also can't wait to try the famous Arbroath Smokie!



**Ullapool Angling Competition – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August.** This year's competition will take place from Ullapool harbour from 9am to 5pm, where then the final weigh in will be held at the pontoon.

All entrants receive a species recording sheet.

Prizes for the biggest fish and most species caught and to help minimise the impact on local stocks, photos of species are accepted and anglers are asked to ONLY land fish they plan to take to the table.

SSACN and Scottish Wildlife trust will be co-hosting Outreach activities for kids and families in the afternoon from the harbour. The event closes with evening seafood BBQ.

