

## *Outreach Newsletter*

*February 2017*

### ***A Great Start to 2017!***

We had an action packed 2016 here at SSACN, with highlights including our Portpatrick Summer Outreach Festival, Ullapool Angling Weekend and C.O.A.S.T Marine Day to name a few.

2017 is already shaping up to be a cracker! With more Outreach events already planned, new members joining the team and a new addition the SSACN family on the way for our current Community Outreach Officer Samantha.

Remember, 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](http://www.facebook.com/SSACNOUTREACH)

### ***Dolphin House***

The Dolphin House is an outdoor education centre based within the grounds of Culzean Country Park, South Ayrshire - offering residential field courses to primary schools within the area.

SSACN rounded off 2016 with a three-day sea angling taster session with the help of Tarbolton Primary, our skilled sea angling coaches and Dolphin House instructors.

We introduced the children to the basics of sea angling, including introduction to equipment, health and safety, choosing the correct bait and methods of casting.



### ***Dolphin House Cont'd***

Participants had a fantastic time at the centre and demonstrated a range of new skills over the three-day period (some of them even gave our coaches a run for their money when it came to beach casting!!!)

We are pleased to announce that we will be collaborating with Dolphin House for further sea angling sessions starting at the end of February with Girvan primary.

It is our aim for SSACN to be a regular fixture at the centre over Spring/Summer to introduce more school kids to the wonderful sport of sea angling!



### ***Welcome Marek!***

SSACN Outreach Officer Samantha will be starting maternity leave as of April to focus on becoming a new mum, which meant that we needed someone to fill her shoes for all our upcoming summer Outreach! After a tough interview process with some exceptional candidates, we are proud to welcome community Outreach Officer in Marek Wolf to the team.

Marek holds a Master's Degree in Marine and Freshwater Biology from the University of Glasgow and has a passion for marine conservation.

A keen sea angler himself, we feel that this coupled with his previous Outreach work at St Abbs Marine Station made him the ideal choice.

We hope you will join us in wishing him all the best in his new role!



### ***Welcome Rebekah!***

Another addition to our team for 2017 is Rebekah Wood, who will be volunteering with us during our Summer Outreach Events and will monitor and increase awareness of SSACN via social media.

Rebekah has recently completed her HNC in Applied Sciences at Ayrshire College and will be progressing onto to her HND before hopefully going on to University to study Marine Biology.

With a passion for all things rays we can't wait to have her as part of the team!



### ***What's Ahead....***

***Glasgow Angling Centre Open Weekend – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> of March.*** The G.A.C will be hosting their yearly Spring open weekend and SSACN are pleased to announce that we will have an information stand at the event. Come along and learn about our Outreach work, shark tagging events and grab yourself a bargain instore!



***Oban Festival of the Sea – Friday 26<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> of May.*** The 2017 festival will be based at the Ocean Explorer Centre, Dunstaffnage.

Friday is aimed at young people, where schools and groups will enjoy, learn about and express their ideas for our marine environment.

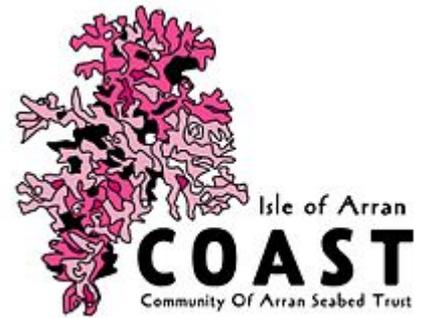
Saturday and Sunday will be open to everyone, with events, trips, competitions and fun all around the Ocean Explorer Centre.



***Shark-a-Tag Weekend – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> of June.***

Our full event programme for shark-a-tag 2017 will be launched soon.

**C.O.A.S.T Marine Day – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> OR Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July (TBC).** Following on from the success of last year's joint marine day between SSACN and the Community of Arran Seabed Trust, we will be hosting a similar event this year at Lamlash Bay with rockpooling, touch tanks, scavenger hunts and an introduction to sea angling for the kids.



**Portpatrick Outreach weekend – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July OR Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> of August (TBC).** Based on the success of the 2016 event, we are looking to expand and for 2017 to be our biggest event yet!



The Portpatrick Outreach weekend will be scheduled this year to coincide with the village's lifeboat week.

**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 boats must pay a £10 registration fee and all individual entrants on board will receive a recording sheet. Prizes for the biggest fish and most species caught (photos of species will be accepted) and ONLY land what you 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 an evening seafood B-B-Q.



All in all, it looks like exciting times ahead again for SSACN Outreach.

If you would like to get involved, please email [contact@ssacn.org](mailto:contact@ssacn.org) or [samantha@ssacn.org](mailto:samantha@ssacn.org) .

In closing, we always like to recognise the terrific support we receive from sea anglers, our volunteers as well as those other groups and individuals who are equally concerned about Scotland's marine environment.

Without their terrific contributions, so many youngsters and adults would not get the opportunity to learn a little about the marine environment and how much inexpensive family fun can be had simply rock pooling, drop netting or having a dabble with rod and line.