

WESTERN ECOLOGY TOUR

GET W.E.T. FOR SCIENCE

EXPEDITION PROPOSAL

Expedition Leader: Andy Clark – The Northern Diver

Overview

On 18th June 2021 the expedition team of scuba divers and marine biologists will be diving along the western coast of mainland UK, linking up with 3 conservation projects and the marine biologists involved, along the way.

We will be living simply: camping, cooking under the stars and diving some of the most spectacular dive sites the UK has to offer, but that often get forgotten in view of more exotic places further afield.

The following pages give as much detail as can be crammed in to explain our aims and what we can offer you in return for your support.

This proposal contains:

1. The Expedition
2. Top 5 Reasons to join us
3. Team experience
4. What we are asking for
5. What we can offer in return

Thank you for getting this far in considering our application. Hopefully it's of interest to you, we welcome any questions which you might have when you reach the end!

Contact:

Andy Clark

ANTD Services Ltd

Andythenortherndiver.com



What are we planning?

The story

My initial introduction to diving was an invitation to join a military sub-aqua diving expedition to the Canary Islands. There we studied Angel Sharks as part of a conservation project. Several years later I have become an experienced diver, instructor and supervisor.

Planning expeditions has become a passion of mine, almost as much as diving itself. After a year of engaging with so few people face to face, this is an opportunity to assemble a large group of like-minded people, publicise 3 worthy conservation projects and show off what diving the UK has to offer along its coastline.

The aims

The expedition aims to travel from Lochs Carron and Duich on the west coast of Scotland, to Llŷn Peninsular and Pembrokeshire in Wales. Linking up with 3 conservation projects and the marine experts involved, along the way.

Our objectives are:

▪ To support scientists:

Observing the marine environment and sharing data publicly through a series of 5-page articles commissioned by BSAC's SCUBA magazine's editor Simon Rogerson.

▪ To tell unseen stories:

Produce online video and photographic content to publicise the 3 conservation projects we're working with. These are Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners, Project Sea Grass and Shark and Skate Citizen Science Scotland.

▪ To promote sustainable adventures:

Influence others that UK diving is a fantastic substitute to overseas travel. With 'staycation' being a popular buzzword, demonstrate how it can be done on a reasonable budget. We will be diving some of the lesser visited spectacular dive sites along the western coastline of the UK, in a minimalist way, camping and cooking out of the back of our cars and vans.

Publicise and support 3 worthy conservation projects

Show off what diving along the UK coastline has to offer

Loch Carron to Loch Duich

The Llŷn Peninsular to Pembrokeshire

Frugal living - Camping and cooking under the stars

Create content for publication

What are we planning?

The route

700 miles

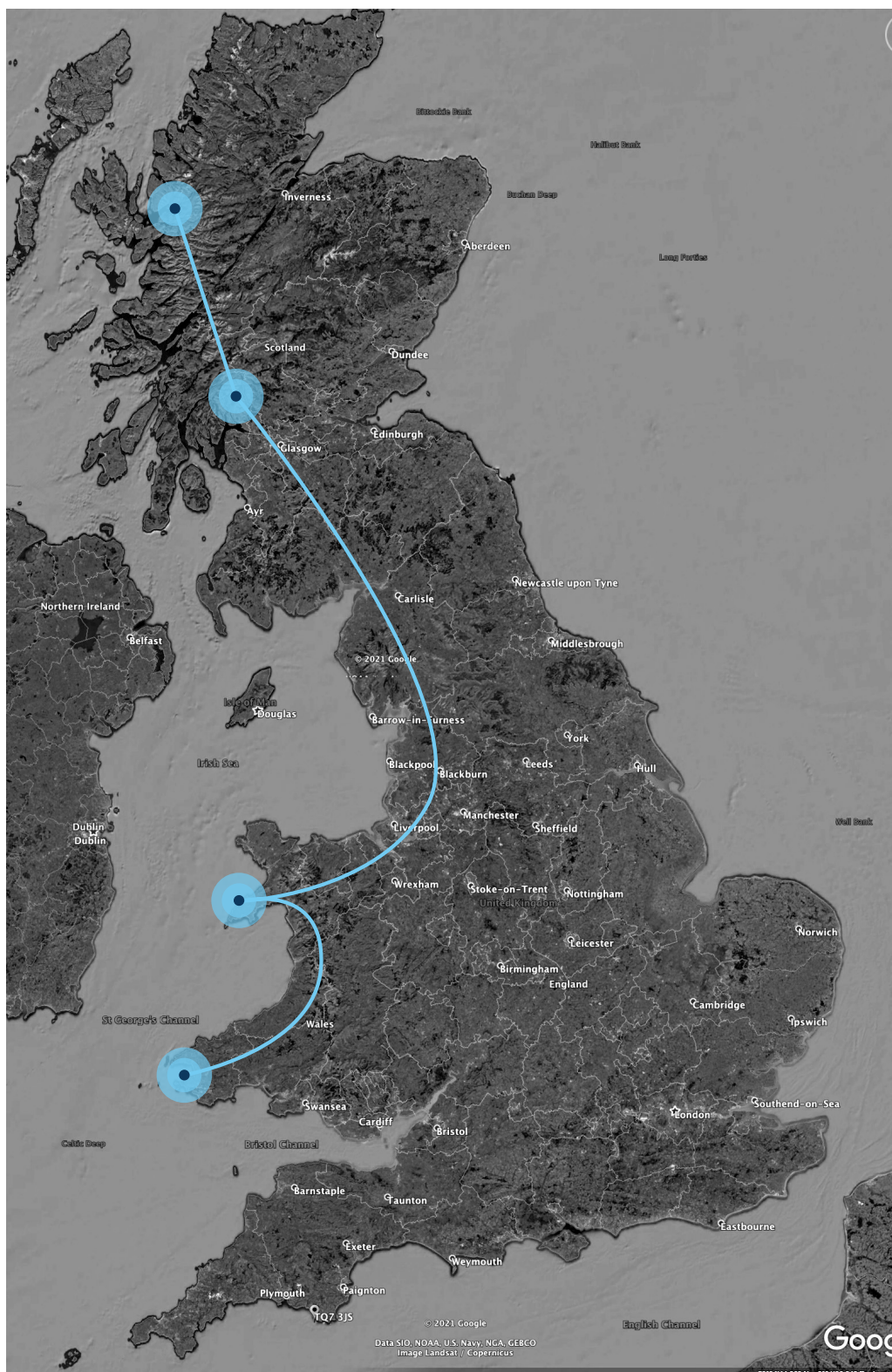
10 days

North to South

Shark and Skate
Citizen Science
Scotland

Project Seagrass

Neptune's Army of
Rubbish Cleaners



Why join us?

1. We are a safe bet

Between us, we have organised and supported over a dozen scientific or conservation lead expeditions, you can rely on us to complete a successful mission and deliver on our objectives.

2. We tell a good story

As expedition leader, I have had several articles published about the expeditions I have been involved with. In addition, we have accomplished scientists who have published papers and appeared on natural history and factual programs on the BBC. We also have some fantastic underwater photographers and camera operators joining us to help capture footage of the trip to create a 5-part underwater series for YouTube and Instagram.

3. We want to inspire others

Everyone taking part has been bitten hard by the scuba diving bug and are passionate about the marine habitat that is in steady decline. With our infectious enthusiasm and social media platforms, we will use this trip to inspire others to start their own adventures.

4. We come with a guaranteed audience

Across our social networks and combined with the reach of BSAC's SCUBA magazine we have a dedicated audience that exceeds 100,000 ocean lovers and adventurers. We hope that reaching out to media outlets that we have established relationships with such as the BBC and National Geographic, to build on this reaching a wider audience.

5. We're good bang for your buck

In exchange for your support in us, all investors will be detailed on the expedition webpage, video credits and in magazine articles and post expedition report.

Product sponsors also will receive a catalogue of images that feature their brand / product in use throughout the expedition. These images will be posted daily to social media accounts during our deployment to help raise the profile of your participation.

We are lucky to have some fantastic photographers and videographers with us to collate some great images and footage.

Who's involved?

Dr. Lauren Smith

saltwaterlife.co.uk

Lauren is a marine biologist and coastal ecologist who specialises in shark research, she is the founder and operator of Saltwater Life, a shark research and marine conservation organisation. Her scientific research has been published in several peer reviewed scientific journals.

She also writes freelance, communicating the latest marine science news and has been published by The Guardian Online, Biome Ecology, Diver Magazine and The Surfers Path Magazine. An experienced diver and underwater photographer Lauren is also a keen surfer.

Her work with Saltwater Life includes:

- Elasmobranch research and peer reviewed publications
- Marine education resource, school programs, Skype classroom Q&A's
- Freelance writer and photojournalist, articles published by The Guardian online, BiOME Ecology Webzine, Diver Magazine and The Surfers Path Magazine
- Environmental consultancy service, currently working on Marine Litter Surveys with Marine Scotland Science.



Jake Davies

jakeddavies.com

Marine Biologist Jake, is qualified as an HSE Professional Scuba diver for scientific and media purposes and as a BSAC Dive Leader. He has assisted with a variety of surveys from Seagrass monitoring to invasive species.

In 2017 Jake was successfully awarded a Sea-Changers Grant to run 'Dive into Monitoring: Seagrass' with SeaSearch North Wales. The surveys aimed to gather updated information on the Seagrass bed in Porthdinllaen with volunteer divers and local dive clubs. As a media diver, Jake has worked as part of the dive team (Marine Ecosol) filming for BBC Wales - Hidden Wales with Will Millard (Lazerbeam Productions & Folk Films).

Footage which Jake has filmed off the Welsh Coast, as well as the Canary Islands, has been featured for a variety of BBC programmes including an episode of Countryfile where he was interviewed about the Seagrass in Porthdinllaen, Wales along with the rest of the Project Seagrass team.



Who's involved?

Charlie Young

oceanroamer.com

Charlie is a passionate marine biologist (MSc), diver, expedition leader and wildlife presenter whose work has taken her around the globe to research threats such as plastic pollution and climate change, from Saudi Arabia to Indonesia. Mixing exploration with science, Charlie devotes her time to telling impactful stories about our marine world in a bid to inspire people to protect it.

In 2018, Charlie was the lead plastics scientist on the OceanGeographic expedition to the Coral Triangle. Joining a team of award-winning photographers, filmmakers and scientists, she presented a documentary on her work quantifying the extent of plastic pollution in this area. The documentary was screened in a four-part symposium across Asia led by Dr Sylvia Earle and was chosen for the 2020 Melbourne Zoo Film Festival.

Since then Charlie has gone on to present a number of impactful documentaries including a piece exposing the UK's involvement in the global shark fin trade.



Donovan Lewis

donovanlewisphotos.com

Donovan is an Underwater/Wildlife Photographer who has been enthralled by the Natural World since he was a child. A passion that has continued throughout his life.

He attained a BSc in Marine Vertebrate Zoology at Bangor University, where I specialised around large marine animals such as Sharks, Whales & Dolphins.

His passion lies within the Marine World and he's obsessed with Sharks, Donovan wants his work to help people view them as misunderstood animals and a polar opposite to what they're known as in popular media.

Donovan currently works as a Shark Diver at Blue Planet Aquarium where he takes people Diving with the Sharks and uses his platform to help educate the general public on conservation issues facing our Natural World.



Who's involved?

Ollie Putnam

ollieputnam.com

Ollie is an underwater, topside and aerial wildlife cinematographer based in the UK. He is an experienced HSE Part 4 Commercial Media Diver, dive instructor and underwater cameraman with credits on Discovery and the BBC.

A passionate marine conservationist Ollie has been involved with projects all over the world from Sea Turtles in Malaysia to Great White Sharks in South Africa, volunteering and working to create content for these projects to promote their cause.

Now based back in the UK he is working as an HSE safety diver and camera operator with current projects including a series showcasing the wildlife found underwater along the Welsh coastline with production company Dan Dwr Cymru.



Lloyd Jones

krakenproductions.tv

Lloyd is another HSE (Part4 Media Diver) with over 14 years of experience of diving around the Pembrokeshire coastline. Working as both safety diver and underwater camera assistant, freelance underwater videographer with stock footage library of some of the best marine life Wales has to offer.

He is qualified to PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer, he works alongside Britain's only dedicated group of voluntary divers who carry out underwater clean ups along the West Wales Coastline.

For the past four years he has been the official underwater videographer for the group. Collecting footage to be used for promotional/conservation and educational purposes.



What are we asking for?

What we have...

Between us all, we already have the dive kit and camera equipment to do what we do as individuals or small teams of divers.

As you can see through the links dotted around throughout this document we all produce great quality images, footage and writing. We also enjoy a wide range of diving and adventures.

Our training and combined experience makes us a confident and competent team, that together will make a success of this expedition and in representing you to the diving community and beyond.

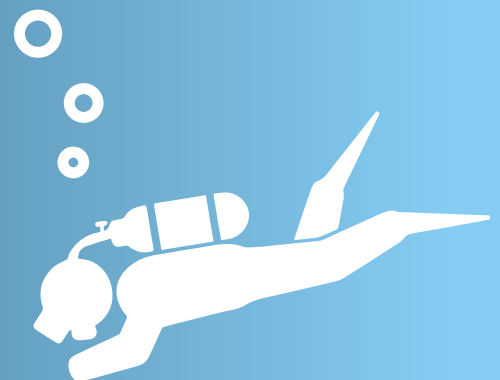
What we need...

Operating an expedition with a much larger team, we require several strategic pieces of equipment or funding to acquire them. Some of these items will be used on further expeditions through ATND Services Ltd, whilst others will be on hire / loan.

These items include:

- Nitrox Analyser
 - Expedition First Aid Kit including the following:
 - Emergency O2 Support Kit
 - Bag Valve Mask
 - HypaGuard Pocket Face Mask
 - AED
 - Emergency Splint
 - Weatherproof carryall for the above
 - Marine VHF Hand-held
 - Hand-held GPS
 - Service tools and spares
 - Throw line
 - Supervisors weatherproof crab bag
 - 50kg lift bag
- The estimated cost of the expedition is £4000 which includes: transport costs, accommodation, breathing gases, safety and first aid equipment etc.
- We would love to produce a T-Shirt, for all participants, to display all the sponsors of the expedition. This would not only help promote the expedition but serve as a lasting memory of the work we did in supporting the 3 conservation projects.

It is our aim to raise £10,000 in total. This equates to £2,000 per project and £4000 to cover the expedition running costs for all involved. Any support be it promotion, financial, gift or loan towards the execution of the expedition would be gratefully received.



The projects

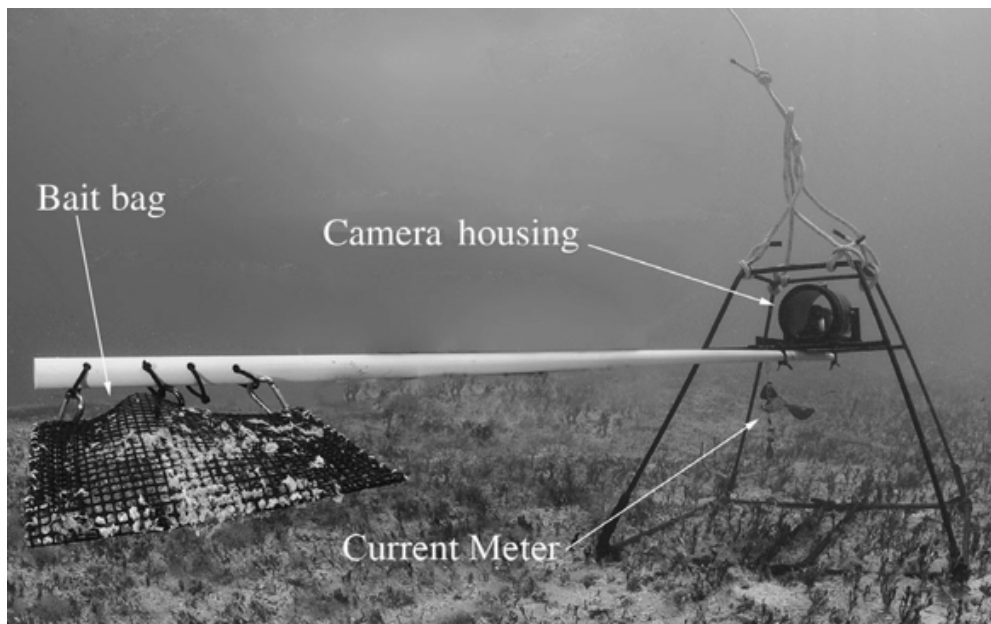
Shark and Skate Citizen Science Scotland

Headed up by Dr Lauren Smith, [Shark and Skate Citizen Science Scotland](#) is set up to obtain important data about the various elasmobranch species found in Scottish waters. We record sightings (both alive and deceased), and behavioural observations. Citizen Science such as this can be fundamental in furthering our understanding and will further inform our understanding about their biology, behaviour and habitats, the more effective our conservation and management can be.

Following the discovery of a critically endangered flapper skate (*Dipturus intermedius*) egg-laying site in the Inner Sound of Skye by Lauren's friend and fellow diver Chris Rickard. The group have been gathering data on the site and working towards getting permanent protection in place. Known as a Marine Protected Area (MPA), this will prevent damage to the site, egg cases, neonates and visiting adults from destructive fishing practices, calling for trawlers to be banned from fishing within three miles of Scotland's shoreline to help depleted fish stocks and sea beds to recover.

Fundraising will support the project by:

- **£300** = A day trip of Scientific Research on the Lock Carron site.
- **£500** = Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV).



The projects

Project Seagrass

Headed up by Jake Davies, this an environmental charity devoted to the conservation of seagrass ecosystems through education, influence, research and action.

Our four key principles define how we act. As such, we're passionate about:

1. Educating the wider community on the presence and importance of seagrass ecosystems, the services they provide and current seagrass management issues,
2. Building the capacity of local stakeholders in the use of standardised scientific methodologies,
3. Promoting and assisting with long-term monitoring of seagrass condition,
4. Assisting with scientific research and supporting conservation measures that help facilitate the long-term resilience of seagrass ecosystems.

Fundraising will support the project by:

- **£10** = The collection, processing and planting of one bag of seagrass seeds.
- **£100** = The annual updating, development and running of our [SeagrassSpotter.org](https://seagrassspotter.org) Citizen Science Programme.
- **£1000** = Fund a seasonal Seagrass-Watch monitoring programme for 12 months with volunteers.



The projects

Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners

(NARC) is headed up by Charlie Young, and are an award-winning charity helping to keep the underwater world litter free since 2005.

NARC were the UK's first underwater clean up group. Whilst litter washed up or left on our shoreline can be seen, the same cannot always be said for marine litter that is below the surface of the ocean. Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners are volunteer divers with a passion for carrying out clean up dives, raising awareness of the impacts and working on collaborative solutions.

Fundraising will support the project by:

- **£10** = 2x air fills for a diver to remove rubbish from the sea.
- **£200** = Lifting equipment to raise items to the surface.
- **£1000** = Insure their project for 2 years.



What's next?

We really hope the expedition is of interest to you. If it is and you would like a copy of the expedition's Project Plan, which formally details all aspects of the expedition, please don't hesitate to contact me andythenortherndiver@icloud.com

Andy Clark
ATND Services Ltd
44 Grove Lane, Standish, Wigan
Lancashire
WN6 0ES
07920 001980
andythenortherndiver.com

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