



### Old Low Light, North Shields fish quay

An exhibition by artist Margaret Livingstone was installed in early March 2020, but this Heritage Centre closed soon afterwards due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Centre has reopened from 4 September, currently three days a week on Fri, Sat and Sun (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Margaret's inspiring exhibition 'North Atlantic Drift: Our Fish in the North' features and highlights plastic pollution in our seas. Litter and plastic have provided material for the artist to delicately weave and sew into shape to make us think about our legacy for future generations.

Alongside Margaret's exhibition is a new wall panel which focuses on marine plastic pollution and features some detail from our Save the North Sea project and the Northern Fulmar: <https://www.nhsn.ncl.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Wall-panel-pollution-1200x1000mm-31.8.20.pdf>

Please visit the Old Low Light, call to the café and explore the many exhibits and exhibitions. [www.oldlowlight.co.uk](http://www.oldlowlight.co.uk)

NEBBS Group held meetings there in 2018 & 2019.



### An Ocean Story, screening of a feature-length documentary, 2 October 7-9 p.m.

There is to be an online screening of the documentary 'An Ocean Story' by The Scottish Fisheries Museum on 2 October. Following the screening there will be a discussion with guest, marine biologist Marijn van Doorn, so that the (virtual) attendees can discuss further the themes explored in the film and perhaps express specific hopes and solutions for a more sustainable, less damaging future. The team behind the film explains what to expect ...

"Increasing pollution, over-fishing and climate change are only a fraction of the threats our oceans are currently facing worldwide. This documentary follows us on our journey as we film devastating consequences of these harsh realities."

Tickets for this online event cost £5 (NEBBS Coordinator has bought one) and may be purchased through this link ... <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-ocean-story-online-screening-and-discussion-tickets-121026492497>

### New scientific paper: Plastic ingestion by northern fulmars in the North Sea

Dr Jan A van Franeker and Susanne Kühn with an additional 14 co-authors are currently preparing a major scientific paper. The paper focuses on North Sea fulmar monitoring data during 2002-2018 (beached birds) as well as reference to further associated fulmar data from Arctic Canada and additional Arctic locations. A main aim of the paper is to confirm and define the Threshold Value within the North Sea which will indicate a 'no harm' or pristine situation. It is an important paper in the progression of our international North Sea, and further afield, fulmar research, particularly in relation to plastic pollution.

### NEE (Northeast England) beached fulmars in 2020

So far our group has collected and stored frozen 6 beached fulmars as follows: Druridge Bay (April, Mo Dewar), Boulmer (April, Mo Dewar), Druridge Bay (May, Pauline Gilbertson, likely missing stomach), Saltburn to Redcar (3 birds, June, Martin Blick).

Trip to Holland Just before the main corona lockdown, I had a successful trip to Texel, taking with me 18 fulmar stomachs from Scottish- and English-found birds. This visit enabled me to gain further experience and consolidate techniques in order to transfer this knowledge to northeast England. Results on individual fulmars have been published in a ‘Finders Report’ which is freely available online [Select one of these links to view: a) <https://doi.org/10.18174/530534> or b) [https://www.nhsn.ncl.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Franeker2020\\_Findersinformation\\_UK\\_3rdBatch2019-final-V2b.pdf](https://www.nhsn.ncl.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Franeker2020_Findersinformation_UK_3rdBatch2019-final-V2b.pdf)



Some participants during fulmar work, Texel, March 2020.



Our fulmar & plastics work-group, Texel, March 2020

Van Franeker, J.A., Kühn, S. & Turner, D.M. 2020. Finders Information United Kingdom (2019). SNS Fulmar Study Report - Findersinformation\_UK\_3rdBatch2019, Wageningen Marine Research, Den Helder, 24pp. <https://doi.org/10.18174/530534>



Occasionally, fulmar stomachs hold plastic objects from a clear source. The ‘wheel’ on the right side is an object used in sewage-treatment. It provides a large surface to microbial life forms that assist in purifying the water by removing for example excess nutrients. To the far left are two industrial plastic pellets, the form in which plastics are produced before being transported to factories that make the plastic products for our daily life. (Stomach contents from Orkney fulmar).





Overview of the stomach contents shown in the 'Finders Information' Report

To End I hope you can continue with your beach surveys as circumstances allow. Please continue to return your survey reports to me. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for your continuing involvement and wish you well as we negotiate the continuing coronavirus pandemic.

Kind regards, Dan Turner (Group coordinator). Email [dan.m.turner@btinternet.com](mailto:dan.m.turner@btinternet.com)