

Knowledge exchange: plankton education and outreach activities

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Plankton are at the base of the marine food web supporting almost all marine life. They produce around 50% of the world's oxygen and remove several million tonnes of carbon from our atmosphere every year. Without marine plankton our planet would be a very different place. The Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science (SAHFOS) is an international charity responsible for running and maintaining the Continuous Plankton Recorder (CPR) survey. The CPR survey has been collecting plankton samples from the North Atlantic and the North Sea for more than 80 years and has sampled more than 6 million nautical miles of ocean. Plankton are highly sensitive indicators of environmental change and the data collected by the CPR survey provide essential information on the ecological health of our oceans. SAHFOS has been educating students and society about CPR research and plankton ecology for more than 13 years. This well-developed program aims to promote a better understanding of the importance of plankton and SAHFOS science to teachers, educators, schools, A level students, undergraduates and the interested general public.