

Chair of Environment and Sustainability Group

Job description

Background

The underwater world is a place of wonder, adventure and vital biodiversity, but as we know as divers and snorkellers, it faces growing threats from climate change, pollution, habitat degradation and more.

As part of BSAC's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, we are committed to environmental conservation through sustainable practices, community action, and meaningful partnerships.

To amplify our efforts, BSAC is a proud member of the Clean Water Sports Alliance, advocating for cleaner, healthier waters and aiming to significantly improve the state of UK blue spaces by 2030. We're also publishing a sustainability plan to guide our journey toward a greener future.

To drive this vision forward, BSAC is forming an Environment and Sustainability Group. The Chair of this group will play a crucial role in shaping innovative strategies, inspiring community engagement and turning our conservation goals into reality.

This is a unique volunteer opportunity to lead change and protect the underwater world we all cherish. If you are interested, please contact Mary Tetley, BSAC CEO, at maryt@bsac.com for an informal chat about the role.

Key responsibilities

Reporting to BSAC CEO Mary Tetley, the Chair of Environment and Sustainability Group will:

1. Lead the Environment and Sustainability Group

As Chair, you will provide overall strategic leadership to the Group. Working jointly with the CEO, you will create the Group's Terms of Reference.

2. Spokesperson / HQ support

- BSAC's primary spokesperson on matters relating to the environment, providing quotes and opinions on behalf of BSAC.
- Attend relevant meetings, conferences or other events, to represent BSAC.
- Engage with national media, as required.

3. Environmental conservation and marine protection

- Develop and support the implementation of conservation initiatives that engage our community, and others, to help protect marine life and underwater ecosystems.
- Ensure BSAC's diver and snorkeller guidelines to protect our seas, are up to date and fit for purpose.
- Work with Head of Diving and Training to ensure that training programmes embed conservation issues such as wildlife disturbance, habitat loss and pollution within existing curricula.

(Note the Sustainability Advisor will do the same for embedding sustainability messages and approaches



into training programmes.)

4. Support community engagement initiatives

- Evaluate, support and help develop BSAC's own conservation initiatives to engage our community (and others) to deliver impact and change, including:
 - Underwater and beach litter picks
 - BSAC Operation Oyster
- Evaluate, support and help develop BSAC's collaborative initiatives to engage our community and deliver impact, including:
 - Motion for the Ocean
 - Clean Water Sports Alliance
- Help foster a community of environmentally conscious divers and snorkellers, sharing knowledge and promoting a culture of active conservation within the diving sector.
 - Write a monthly column for SCUBA magazine / BSAC blog. Other content to be discussed (possible podcast, videos, social media).
 - Conduct workshops for members on best practices for environmental conservation, responsible diving and how to get involved in initiatives that make a difference.

5. Partnerships and collaborations

Develop relationships with environmental organisations, water sports NGBs, governmental bodies and others, to deliver greater impact with our marine conservation efforts.

Please note, this role does not include responsibility for sustainability or carbon-reduction initiatives. These will be defined in a separate role.

Who we're looking for

Passion for marine conservation

- Deep commitment to preserving marine life and underwater ecosystems in the UK.
- Ideally an innovative thinker, bringing fresh ideas and new approaches to drive forward BSAC's environmental ambitions and impactful change.

Education

- Bachelor's degree in environmental science, marine biology, or a related field. A master's degree would be a plus.

Experience

- Minimum of 3-5 years of experience in marine conservation.
- Experience with scuba diving practices and initiatives related to marine conservation.
- Familiarity with marine protected areas (MPAs), underwater ecosystems and sustainable diving practices.

Diving

- Certified scuba diver (at least BSAC Sports Diver level or equivalent).



Skills

- Strong understanding of marine ecosystems and threats on marine environments.
- Experience in environmental education, community engagement and creating content for a wide audience.
- Ability to communicate complex environmental issues to diverse audiences, from diving instructors and members to the general public.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite.

Diversity and inclusivity

We particularly welcome applications from under-represented groups.

Your commitment

- Time commitment approx. 6-8 hours per week
- Attending monthly Environment and Sustainability Group meetings.
- The Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Group will be ratified annually, but the expectation is that the appointment will last for three years.
- While the role is voluntary and unpaid, we do pay expenses and provide a full induction to the organisation's work.

How to apply

If this appeals to you (and we hope it does!), you are strongly encouraged to have an informal conversation with Mary Tetley, BSAC CEO to discuss the role further.

Please contact Mary Tetley at Maryt@bsac.com.

To apply, you will need to submit a CV and short (250 words) statement of suitability, by Monday 13th January, to Mary at maryt@bsac.com.