



Marine Ecological Surveys Limited

Over 30 years of experience in Environmental Impact Assessment, Site Appraisals, Eco-Audit & monitoring programmes and research in the marine environment

Find out all the news at MESL this Autumn....



MESL School of Marine Taxonomy
Helping you fulfil your potential

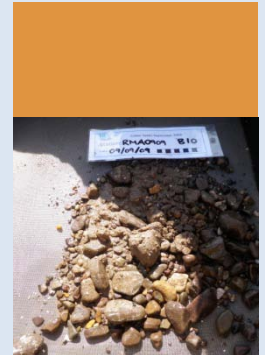
Launch of new training facility at MESL

Marine Ecological Surveys Ltd has launched a new training facility as part of a joint venture with the Marine Biological Association of the UK (MBA). The School of Marine Taxonomy has been developed in response to concerns raised in the UK Taxonomy & Systematics Review (NERC 2010) about diminishing taxonomic skills in the UK as well as the increasing need for these skills following the passing of the Marine and Coastal Act. Courses tailored to meet the needs of early career scientists as well as practising professionals are now available on the MESL website. Alongside the formal courses offered by the school, MESL will continue to offer MSc placements and bespoke taxonomy training for students currently undertaking Masters and PhD courses.

For more information visit: <http://www.seasurvey.co.uk/news>

Aggregate-ing skills at MESL

Following their long and successful association with the marine aggregates industry, MESL are delighted to announce continued service to the most prestigious companies operating within this sector. MESL have recently been awarded three new contracts from: Hanson Aggregates Marine Ltd, on the east coast; TEDA (MESL as subcontractors to ERM Ltd), Outer Thames Estuary combined license area; and Cemex UK Marine Ltd., on the south coast. Work to be undertaken by MESL ranges from benthic sampling and analyses, to desk-based ecological characterisation in support of licence renewal and full EIA support. In addition to these new awards, MESL continues to work with sister companies Gardline Environmental Ltd and Titan in order to complete annual monitoring work in the Bristol Channel on behalf of the Resource Management Association. "We take pride in our long-standing association with the marine aggregates industry and these new contracts will expand our portfolio and allow us to build on our established reputation as the UK's leading marine ecological consultancy" says Dan Brutto, MESL's Consultation Manager.



Marine Macrofauna Genus Trait Handbook



MESL Develops new Handbook App

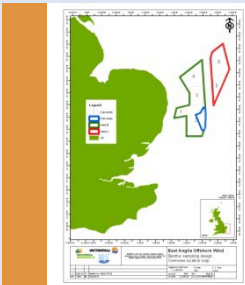
MESL are the pioneers of an exciting project which will be of interest to biologists, students, marine life enthusiasts and App geeks alike! The success of MESL's publication of the "Marine Macrofauna Genus Traits Handbook", has sparked sufficient interest for the handbook to be developed into a website and iPhone Application. This will allow users to investigate life history traits of a particular genus, see what genera might be found in a particular environment, look for a list of literature related to a specific genus or check the identification of an animal they have found in the field. The website allows MESL to create a live updateable resource, reaching an even wider audience, not just on dry land but also in the field whether that be on a boat or on the beach. The invaluable funding from both the ALSF and Gardline Environmental, and the assistance from MarLIN, has enabled MESL to grow this project and support MESL's promise to the aggregate industry to ensure that the data are updated on a regular basis. To see the original handbook visit:

<http://www.alsf-mepf.org.uk/projects/2004/0402a/marine-macrofauna---genus-trait-handbook.aspx>

Largest offshore wind farm opens off Thanet in Kent

MESL were delighted to see the opening of Vattenfall's Thanet Offshore Wind Farm in September. The Thanet installation is the world largest operating offshore windfarm and will produce enough energy to power up to 240,000 homes. MESL made a significant contribution to this project through completing benthic characterisation and pre-construction surveys at the site. For further information on the Thanet development see :

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-11395964
www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/thanet-offshore-wind-farm.htm



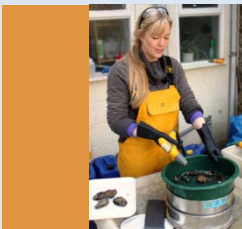
East Anglia Offshore Wind Farm Updates

MESL's recent award by Scottish Power Renewables and Vattenfall to complete the benthic characterisation of the East Anglia Offshore Windfarm Zone (Round 3) sees some of our staff out on one of our largest surveys to have been commissioned to date. Working alongside MESL's clients, ERM Ltd, this stands as an excellent testament to MESL's expanding capacity and capability. For further information on the East Anglia Offshore Windfarm project see:

www.eastangliawind.com

Fellow to the Linnaean Society

The Linnean Society of London is the world's oldest active biological society with botanical, zoological and library collections in its keeping since 1829. As it moves into its third century the Society continues to play a central role in the documentation of the world's flora and fauna, recognising the continuing importance of such work to biodiversity conservation. MESL congratulate their Laboratory Manager, Emma Delduca, on her acceptance as a Fellow of the Linnean Society in July 2010.



Growing MESL

MESL welcome Angela de Burgh, recently graduated from a Plymouth University Masters course. Angie is skilled with the latest EIA techniques used in assessment and monitoring of development related studies, as well as expertise in ArcGIS. MESL are also in the midst of a recruitment round for a further 3 staff, look out for more new joiners in our winter newsletter.

MESL Staff learn to fly?!

Can you guess what our staff are really up to in this photo?! The first to guess correctly wins a kitchen clock and scales. Following the great response to the last summer newsletter, congratulations go to Rebecca Walker of CEFAS for being the first to correctly identify the photo of *Sabellaria spinulosa* and winning the prize...and to all for spotting the generous clue!



Hovering over the Severn mudflats

MESL staff and their partners enjoyed a weekend of fun and games in August hosted by Aquatech Survey Ltd. Activities ranged from wakeboarding, canoeing and trying out the new survey hovercraft, whilst drier on-land fun included clay pigeon shooting, go-karting, biking and more. 'Gypsy Jazz' entertained us for the evening and everyone enjoyed a well-earned hog roast before retiring to their tents by the water's edge!