

Information Pack

Chair of the Board of Trustees



A Welcome from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

In the last four years, MCS has grown in strength, membership, clarity of purpose, turnover, public recognition, and staff numbers. We are more confident than ever about our future.

I first got to know MCS well when in the happy position of being able to help arrange grants from two of the UK's environmental grant-making foundations. Though occupying a vital niche in the ecology of UK green charities, it was clear that MCS also represented huge unrealised potential. Being part of its development was an irresistible challenge.

During my tenure, it has been a privilege for me to support a dynamic, energetic and committed Chief Executive and her team. We are now well into the transition to being a much larger organisation, with sharper focus on the political, economic and social context of marine degradation.

We have an inspirational new strategy, and a members' magazine we would be proud to see in any newsagent in the land. Our recent campaigns have been supported by tens of thousands of people, including gaining support for areas like fisheries management, a subject not easily accessible to the public. We help thousands of volunteers each year to clean our beaches, collecting data on litter and developing their skills as citizen scientists.

Annual income grew forty per cent in the year 2018/19 to £3.8m – a trajectory we anticipate continuing in 2019/20. Membership has roughly doubled to around 11,000. The UK's network of marine protected areas is almost complete. Microbeads have been banned, and prohibition of disposable plastic utensils like straws and stirrers is expected. Scotland will introduce a deposit return system for drinks containers, and we expect the rest of the UK to follow suit.

I am very proud of MCS, and consider it an honour to be its Chair. You are now invited to lead the Board of this progressive and ambitious charity, bringing your strategic vision and governance to an organisation that you will be able to represent as an ambassador, playing a vital role in the future of marine conservation.

Hugh Raven
Chair

Strategy 2018 - 2028



Our vision

Seas full of life - seas and coasts where nature flourishes and people thrive.

Our mission

To lead political, cultural and social change for healthy seas and coasts that support abundant marine wildlife, sustainable livelihoods and enjoyment for all.

Who we are

Our scientists, campaigners, volunteers, advocates, data experts, fundraisers, divers and researchers are all passionate about creating a sustainable future for our seas.

What we stand for

Science and people - our staff, volunteers, supporters and partners - are at the heart of everything we do.

We act because everyone relies on the ocean to survive, from the air we breathe to the food we eat. By helping people to discover, value and enjoy being connected to our seas, we can all make better decisions today, which will ensure seas full of life for future generations.

We believe in fair, open and accountable democratic institutions, in an inspired and engaged society that values the sea and in businesses that are sustainable.

We are committed to being inclusive and promoting diversity.

What we need to achieve

We need to stop taking too much out of our seas – MCS will work to ensure sustainable use of the seas by minimising harm when we harvest resources, for example, through fishing.

We need to stop putting too much into our seas – MCS will work to prevent and clean up marine litter and pollution, and to minimise damage from development and climate change.



Our Story

The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) grew from the hard work and forward-thinking of a great number of people, many of whom still actively support us today.

There was a growing awareness about the state of our seas in the early 1970s, especially amongst scientists and SCUBA divers, who devised Underwater Conservation Year 1977.

The event gave momentum to form the Underwater Conservation Society. More and more it became clear how much work was needed to influence policy, and to drive public engagement in marine conservation, and we changed to become the charity we still are, the "Marine Conservation Society", in 1983.

Since that time, MCS has achieved major successes in protecting special wildlife, tackling marine pollution, helping the seafood-buying public, and influencing Government and industry.

Today, more than 11,000 supporters fund our work through membership, donations, and turtle adoption schemes.

And last year, more than 27,000 MCS volunteers cleaned up our beaches and helped us tackle marine litter at source, collecting data used for influencing government in the process.

Many millions of people are now aware of our vital work through our sustainable seafood, pollution and wildlife programmes, wildlife recording surveys, campaigns and education work.

We operate from a main office in Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, with offices in London and Edinburgh. We employ a team of 70 people, based in these offices and working remotely in the regions.

[Download our Annual Impact Report and Accounts](#)

[Download our Articles of Association](#)

Role Profile

Key Responsibilities

- Governance:
 - Provide leadership to the Board and ensure that the Trustees fulfil their duties and responsibilities for the proper governance of the charity.
 - Provide support, and where appropriate, challenge the CEO and ensure that the Board as a whole works in partnership with the executive team.
 - Lead the Board in defining and ensuring that the charity follows an agreed strategy in accordance with its Objects.
- Outward facing:
 - Act as an enthusiastic ambassador and public face of MCS in partnership with the CEO
 - Possess a significant profile, preferably in the conservation field
 - Have an understanding and be able to navigate MCS' corporate and funding environments to further our aims
- Internally facing:
 - Liaise closely with the CEO to keep an overview of the organisation's affairs and to provide support as appropriate
 - Facilitate change and address any conflict within the Board and within the organisation, liaising with the CEO to achieve this
 - Ensure through the CEO, that the staff understand the role of the Board and that the CEO provides an effective channel of communication between the Board and staff
 - The Chair of Trustees must also fulfil the statutory role and duties of a Trustee.

Person Specification

You will be an experienced senior leader, preferably with experience as a Chair, who is genuinely driven by the work of marine conservation and able to display a commitment to MCS's ethos, aims, and objectives. You will use your experience to add value in strategic discussions, to develop the vision for MCS and assist in implementing the strategy through advice and counsel. The successful Chair will have the natural ability to operate at a strategic level and engage with a broad spectrum of people, inspiring them to engage with the Society's aims.

Appointment terms

The appointment as Chair is for a period of three years commencing in December 2019. The term of the Board Chair may be extended for a further three years.

How to apply

Please provide a covering letter which outlines how you believe your skills and interests can be of benefit to MCS. Please enclose a CV with your letter.

Please send your application to HR@mcsuk.org

Deadline for applications: 15 September 2019. Selected candidates will be interviewed in October 2019.

For further information contact: Joanne O'Hagan, Head of HR & Facilities at hr@mcsuk.org
Tel: 01989 561574



Key dates

Closing Date:

Sunday 15 September 2019

1st Interviews:

Early October 2019

2nd Interviews:

Mid/Late October 2019

Equality & Diversity at MCS

Everyone can expect to be treated with consideration and respect and MCS is committed to providing an inclusive environment for all. Good working relationships release the full potential, creativity and productivity of each individual, in an atmosphere where everyone can learn and work without prejudice, discrimination, harassment or violence.

We are committed to developing a Board which is reflective of our society, and which can offer insight and views that influence our work. We are particularly interested in applications from groups which are typically under-represented on boards.

Statutory Role and Duties of a Trustee

- To ensure that MCS complies with its governing document (i.e. its memorandum and articles of association), charity law, company law and all other relevant legislation;
- To ensure that MCS pursues its objects as defined in its governing document;
- To ensure that MCS applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects i.e. the charity must not spend money on activities which are not included in its own objects, no matter how worthwhile or charitable those activities are;
- To ensure major risks to which the charity is exposed are reviewed regularly and systems are established to mitigate these risks without becoming risk averse;
- To contribute actively to the board of Trustees' role in giving firm strategic direction to MCS, setting overall policy, defining goals and setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets;
- To safeguard the good name and values of MCS;
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of MCS;
- To ensure the financial stability of MCS;
- To protect and manage the property of the charity and to ensure the proper investment of the charity's funds;
- To appoint the Chief Executive, monitor performance and support them in that role.

General Duties of Directors (Trustees) under the Companies Act 2006

1. Duty to act within powers
2. Duty to promote the success of the company
3. Duty to exercise independent judgement
4. Duty to exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence
5. Duty to avoid conflicts of interest
6. Duty not to accept benefits from third parties
7. Duty to declare interest in proposed transaction or arrangement



Registered Charity No:
Registered Office:

1004005 (England & Wales) SC037480 (Scotland)
Overross House, Ross Park, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 7US