

## British Phycological Society

Winter Council Meeting Tuesday 4th January 2022 by Zoom

Biodiversity & Conservation Committee Report by Martin Wilkinson to the Winter Meeting January 5<sup>th</sup> 2022

(Key to initials used below: JB Juliet Brodie; JW Jo Wilbraham; CY Chris Yesson; FB Francis Bunker; CM Chris Maggs; MK Martyn Kelly; DJ Dave John; CMS Clare Scanlan; MW Martin Wilkinson; NS Nick Stewart; CC Chris Carter.

### Courses and Field Meetings

Almost all field meetings and courses postponed owing to Covid. Online alternative to freshwater course not accepted. FBA lab being investigated for 2022 freshwater course.

Seaweed identification course postponed to 16-20 May 2022 at Plymouth Univ Lab. Introductory and advanced sessions planned.

Freshwater field mtg joint with Quekett Microscopical Society ran well. Hoping to organise another at Betws-y-Coed.

Seaweed field mtg at St Andrews postponed for second time but the generous offer of labs from St Andrews University remains in place for 2022. Dates await Covid developments.

### Publications

British freshwater algal flora reprinted. £152 per copy. DVD no longer included but images now on CUP website, with link to AlgaeVision for 1500 more images. 2800 copies sold. An article detailing taxonomic changes since 2<sup>nd</sup> edition is being prepared.

Long awaited brown seaweed book, *Brown Seaweeds (Phaeophyceae) of Britain & Ireland* by Bob Fletcher, is now expected from Pelagic Publishing on 15 July 2022 at £55 per copy. In BPS 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, this completes the founders' aim of a biological flora of all British seaweeds. Reprints of the other seven parts, previously published over several decades, have been produced by Pelagic Publishing. As well as the author, Bob Fletcher, great thanks are due to Juliet Brodie for much help with this.

Juliet Brodie is collaborating with Ruth Nielsen on an English translation of *Danmarks Havalger*, which will be of great use for identification of some British seaweeds.

European charophyte flora expected May 2022 from Springer.

Seasearch Seaweed guide recently reprinted with some nomenclatural updates.

**Charophyte Red List for UK.** Welsh list published 2020. Scottish and English lists at advanced stage. Irish list about to be started. Independent molecular work at NHM on charophytes should help.

**Seaweed Red List.** A detailed report on vulnerable seaweeds submitted to JNCC. This Quinquennial Review requires IUCN approach for higher land plants to be followed. This is not useful because of data deficiency with seaweeds and different ways of recording from that with land plants. This committee will meet to review approaches to get round this early in 2022. It is important that we devise ways to collect appropriate data on smaller species rather than just relying on headline changes in dominant kelps and rockweeds.

**Conservation actions** introduced for some species can cause problems with conservation of other species. There are no rules to help clarify such situations. B&C committee will watch out for examples of this.

**Freshwater Biological Association.** FBA has vacated Windermere Laboratory. Parts of their archive, which include very valuable algal data, are proposed to be rehoused at NHM. The Fritsch Collection and David Williamson's Desmid Card Index have already been moved to NHM.

**Seaweed Harvesting.** B&C Committee continues to watch reports of use of natural seaweed populations to ensure that best practice is used to both conserve the seaweed resource itself and its natural ecosystem. Although the Scottish Government prohibited any immediate, large-scale harvesting of wild kelp populations in response to public representations (including BPS) a few years ago, there remains a question mark over approval procedures for seaweed harvesting in Scotland which is being followed up.

**Maerl Beds** are a matter of conservation concern and Francis Bunker is following a case where they have been damaged in Milford Haven.