



**MARITIME UK**  
**SOUTH WEST**

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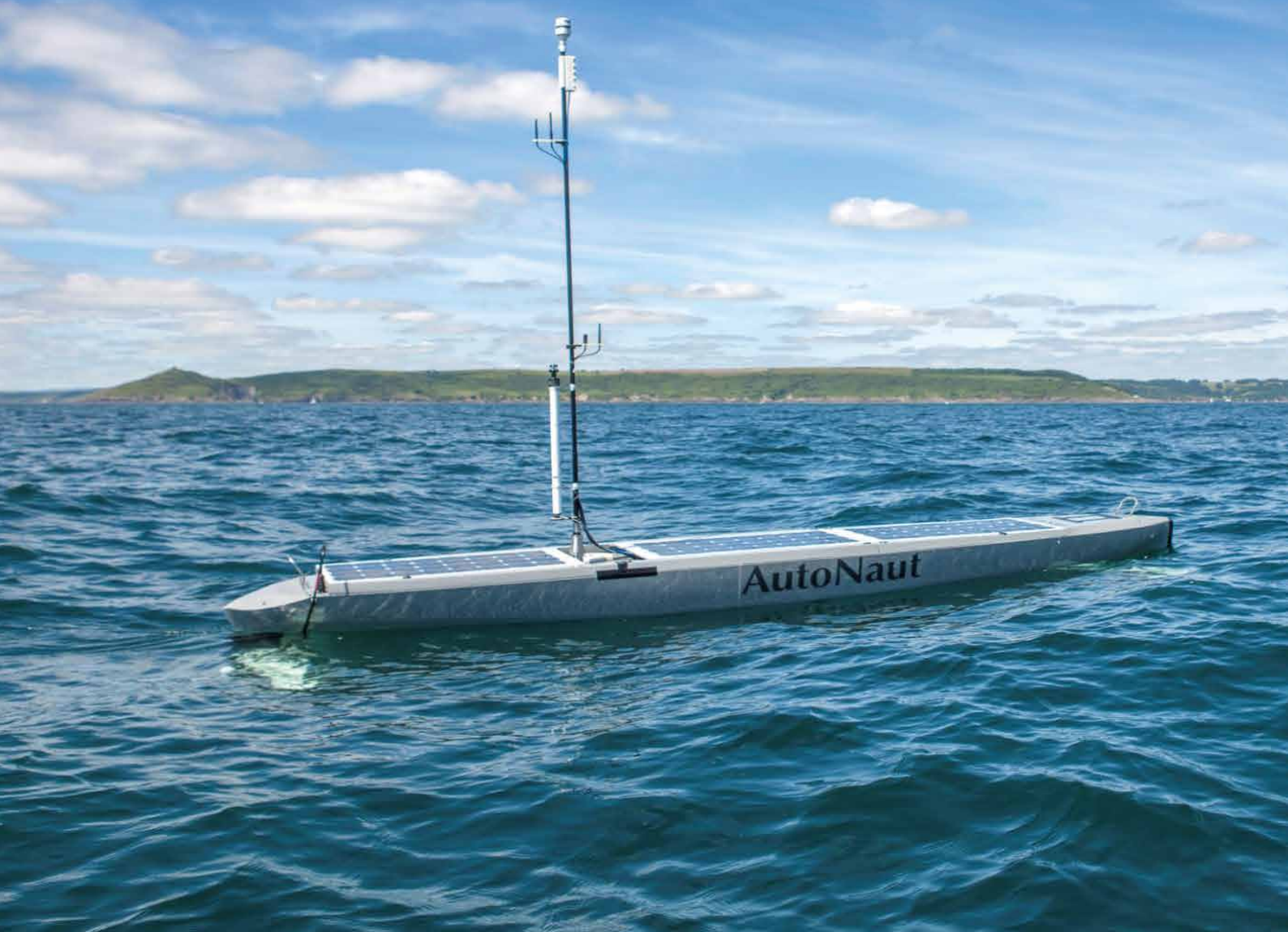
## **2026 Action Plan**



## Maritime UK South West 2026 Action Plan

Every year the Maritime UK South West board produce a shared business plan. The funds and wider support that are invested in Maritime UK South West by our Strategic Partners and Sponsors effectively enable this plan.

We encourage (but don't mandate) participation from our partners to help deliver the plan via: coordinated lobbying, co-hosting, strategic advice or other pro-bono support. Our plan is created and delivered by our partners in a true cross sector regional partnership, to benefit our members, the sector, the region and the environment.







# Our mission:



Maritime UK South West brings together the breadth of our ocean economy, working in partnership to **champion, grow, and clean the sector.**

## Our Strategy:

1. Champion and promote our sector, within the Southwest, nationally, and abroad.
  - Create evidence based strategy, profile, and lobbying.
  - Promote excellence within our membership and of the wider sector in the Southwest.
2. Drive clean growth by fostering collaboration between business, research, and government, and brokering access to support and funding.
  - Drive collaboration, investment in R&D, and clean growth.
  - Work with partners to deliver a skills, careers, and diversity programme to increase access to talent across the sector, with a focus on marketing careers with our partners and in the Southwest sector.
  - Enable the delivery of clean skills to enable the shift to a low a carbon economy.
3. Harness our assets to create growth across our centres of excellence to maintain regional competitive advantage in a clean, prosperous maritime future.
  - Build and promote supply chain and skills capability in offshore renewables and bring forward investment in floating offshore wind.
  - Create a world leading centre for marine autonomy and geospatial data innovation through support for the Future Autonomous at Sea Technology cluster (FAST).
  - Drive growth in maritime decarbonisation and the high-value sustainable ocean economy, developing Green Corridors to drive the shift to a net zero sector.
  - Support the South West Aquaculture Network to drive a vibrant aquaculture sector.
  - Drive investment in skills delivery to enable the shift to a low carbon economy, and mitigate the current skills crisis in the sector.





## 2025 achievements

- Established MUKSW Ltd as a not-for-profit to serve members efficiently.
- Grew membership by 15% year on year for 4 years.
- Secured the only £7M Innovate UK Launchpad fund for the maritime sector for regional businesses.
- Delivered an extensive events and marketing programme, including the Clean Tech Expo.
- Created a skills, careers, and diversity partnership across colleges and universities.
- Led national maritime innovation initiatives, positioning the Southwest at the centre of maritime innovation by partnering with the Society of Maritime Industries, The UK Clean Maritime Hub and MarRI-UK.



# Priorities for 2026

## 1. Events & Business Support

- Run events across Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, and West of England.
- Quarterly newsletter – 3,500 circulation.
- Quarterly Clean Maritime and Offshore Wind drop in events.
- Deliver and promote member expertise via our Adviser Network, Business Directory, and Skills portal.
- Deliver focussed project management consultancy.

## 2. Funding & Investment

- Support regional and partner bids into the £448m UK Shore fund.
- Drive South West port infrastructure investment.
- Conduct local workshops to support the creation of regional collaborative bids.
- Partner with Hydrogen South West and regional partners to drive investment in zero carbon pilot projects.
- Support the delivery of the Plymouth Defence Deal working with Team Plymouth & the development of the National Centre for Marine Autonomy.

## 3. Advocacy & Policy

- Push for investment in maritime skills & supply chains (24,000 new jobs from major SW projects).
- Secure continued port infrastructure & decarbonisation investment.
- Unlock regulation for marine autonomy.

## 4. Skills, Careers & Diversity

- Quarterly peer-to-peer skills & careers network.
- Launch Women in Maritime network.
- Promote a careers mentor networks (Inspiring the Future & STEM Futures).
- Promote the use of our own and partner developed careers resources as a one stop shop for careers support in the sector:
  - Distribute the MUKSW “Navigator” careers magazine via schools & careers hubs.
  - Deliver a program of careers events via our college partners.
  - Expand our collection of regional online business careers case study videos.
  - Create new digital/webinar content for schools to provide real life examples of regional careers.

## 5. Innovation Support

- Deliver 8+ innovation events across SW.
- Host Ocean Tech Expo (June 2026, 300 delegates, 2 days).
- Exhibit with partners at Oceanology International 2026.





## Partners:



## Sponsors:



## Contact:



If you would like to speak about involvement in any of our work, please email [sheldon.ryan@maritimeuksw.org](mailto:sheldon.ryan@maritimeuksw.org)

**Sheldon Ryan**  
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Maritime UK South West



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