



Sent by email: [REDACTED]

16 January 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

Environmental Information Regulations request: EIR2024/01220

Thank you for your Environmental Information Regulations request received on the 13 December in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Information regarding oceanic CO₂ uptake and ocean acidification. Specifically, I would like to request:

1. *Data and reports on the levels of CO₂ absorbed by the oceans in UK waters and globally from the last 10 years.*
2. *Studies or research projects funded or conducted by NERC on ocean acidification and its effects on marine ecosystems over the past decade.*
3. *Can you provide a PhD research project on Ocean Acidification*
4. *What specific methods or technologies have been used to measure changes in ocean pH in NERC-led projects*

Our response

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) holds some information relevant to your request. Please see the information below.

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) is a funder of research and not a research entity that undertakes research themselves, therefore NERC does not directly hold a lot of the information you are requesting, however we do expect that the projects we help fund have a publication scheme or schedule to help promote innovation and collaboration across the scientific community.

Below we have tried to provide some resources to help you identify all the information available in the public domain regarding the tracking and measuring of the ocean acidity for each question raised in your request.

1. *"Data and reports on the levels of CO₂ absorbed by the oceans in UK waters and globally from the last 10 years".*

Under regulation 6(1)(b) - information is already publicly available and easily accessible the following information you have requested is already available in the public domain:

"Data and reports on the levels of CO₂ absorbed by the oceans in UK waters" can be accessed via The Natural Environment Research (NERC) Data Catalogue Service ([DCS](https://data-search.nerc.ac.uk/geonetwork/srv/eng/catalog.search#/search?facet.q=type%2Fdataset&resultType=details&sortBy=relevance&any=ocean%20acidification&fast=index&content_type=json&from=1&to=100)¹). We have searched NDCA using the term "ocean acidification" which returned 32 different datasets across a large number of studies relevant to ocean acidification.

¹ https://data-search.nerc.ac.uk/geonetwork/srv/eng/catalog.search#/search?facet.q=type%2Fdataset&resultType=details&sortBy=relevance&any=ocean%20acidification&fast=index&content_type=json&from=1&to=100

2. *“Studies or research projects funded or conducted by NERC on ocean acidification and its effects on marine ecosystems over the past decade”.*

Under regulation 6(1)(b) - information is already publicly available and easily accessible the following information you have requested is already available in the public domain:

Summaries of grants funded for oceanic acidification can be accessed via UKRI's Gateway to Research ([GTR](#)²) and NERC's Grants On The Web ([GOTW](#)³).

- We have searched GTR using the term “*ocean acidification*” which returned 4,237 linked funded projects
- We have searched GOTW using the term “*ocean acidification*” which returned 147 grant, fellowship and training grant records, with a total value of £41,063,477.

To aid you in your research, please find attached the GTR search results as a summary in the document, “*FOI2024-01220 - Ocean Acidification - GTR project search*”.

There is a large amount of work involved in this area of environmental science and each funded project is managed by established organisations and leaders in their field of expertise. These project owners routinely publish their findings individually.

3. *“Can you provide a PhD research project on Ocean Acidification.”*

This information is not held by UKRI. We would recommend contacting the relevant Higher Education Institutions if a particular award is of further interest to you.

4. *“What specific methods or technologies have been used to measure changes in ocean pH in NERC-led projects.”*

Under regulation 6(1)(b) - information is already publicly available and easily accessible the following information you have requested is already available in the public domain:

NERC makes world-leading services, facilities and resources available to environmental scientists and UK researchers to support and enable environmental science and research activity.

NERC marine facilities include the RRS Sir David Attenborough operated by the British Antarctic Survey, the RRS Discovery and RRS James Cook operated by the National Oceanography Centre, and the National Marine Equipment Pool (NMEP). Additionally, the NERC Scientific Support and Facilities (S&F) provide a variety of equipment and instrumentation loans, as well as analytical and measurement services at highly specialised laboratories.

Further details and a list of NERC facilities and resources is published on the NERC website, including links to further details about the capabilities available within each facility: [Facilities and resources – NERC – UKRI](#)⁴.

If you have any queries regarding our response please do let us know. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review, explaining which elements of this decision you disagree with and why.

Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of our response and should be addressed to:

Head of Information Governance
Email: foi@ukri.org

² <https://gtr.ukri.org/search/project?term=ocean+acidification#/csvConfirm>

³ https://gotw.nerc.ac.uk/list_short.asp?searchterm=Ocean+Acidification&Submit=Search

⁴ <https://www.ukri.org/councils/nerc/facilities-and-resources/#contents-list>

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: www.ico.org.uk.

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see [UKRI's complaints procedure](#)⁵.

Yours sincerely,



Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org

⁵ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>