

ETNewsletter



ISSUE 07, 2026-10-27 - *Special Symposium Issue*

ETN IN NUMBERS



01

THE BIGGEST ONE YET

150 attended the 2026 ETN Symposium.

In mid-October, folks from the tracking community met in Copenhagen, Denmark, to chat science, tracking, conservation, and so much more at this year's ETN symposium.

This year, we had six sessions ranging from brand new methods for analysing telemetry data, the data to digital twins pipeline, giving some well-deserved attention to understudied and overlooked species, the role of telemetry in informing policy, and so much more. We had a whopping 40 oral presentations, and 51 posters, making the symposium the perfect place to generate new ideas and meet new folks from the community. We've also published this year's [Book of Abstracts](#)!

This year we also tried a few different things. Given the large number of attendees, we reduced the duration of oral presentations to 10 minutes, which meant we could have more presentations. It also meant that presenters had the difficult task of really distilling their work down to the important bits: it's a great exercise, and keeps the audience fully engaged!

We also really wanted to create more opportunities for folks to talk 'to' each other (rather than 'at' each other), so we scheduled fun! Fun at the ETN symposium comes in various formats, but for us this year included

discussions on the future of telemetry, and of course, a (not at the) pub quiz! We are thrilled so many members of the community engaged with us, and that the symposium was such a success.

The ETN symposium is held every two years, and the next edition will be held in Faro, Portugal in 2028!

02

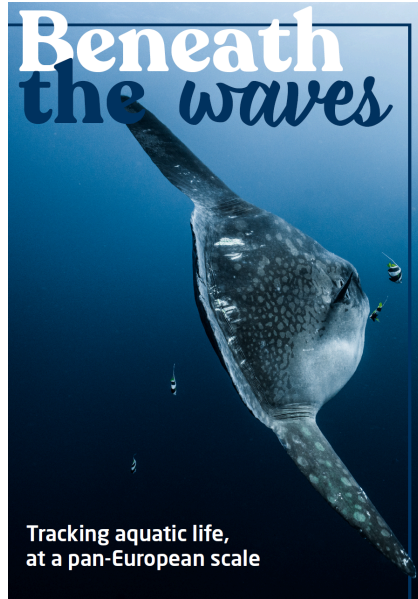
FAREWELL TO STRAITS

A farewell to the STRAITS project - but it's only the beginning.

This year, the ETN symposium also served as the final event for the STRAITS project, where results of the four-year EU-funded infrastructure project were presented. Nearly 2 million detections amassed from thousands of animals, including some unexpected movements! The STRAITS data showed its potential for stock assessments and population modelling for animals like Atlantic salmon and bluefin tuna. Aside from the detections of animals tracked within the STRAITS project, the STRAITS arrays also collected data from animals tagged in 21 external projects, and nearly 500 unmatched animals!

We also discussed the necessity of having permanent tracking infrastructure to track animals as a means of monitoring, but also the need for this infrastructure to be taken under the wings of governmental bodies (for example) so that scientists can focus on the tagging and the tracking rather than the maintenance of arrays. Our dear [Sarah McLean](#) (current STRAITS coordinator) shared some words of wisdom, putting this entire project into perspective.

You can find a whole lot more information about the project by reading our final magazine, [here](#). We promise it's a light and fun read, but full of science, impact and of course, beautiful imagery!



03

MANUFACTURER TABLE-ROUND

Full house for the second manufacturers forum

At the ETN symposium, we hosted our second manufacturers' forum. This session gave the ETN Community a chance to ask leading manufacturers their burning questions. The discussion focused on three core topics: innovation, ethical telemetry, and compatibility, and attendees submitted questions in advance via email and a questionnaire. [Danielle Orrell](#) chaired the session, joined by representatives from [ATS](#), [Innovasea](#), [Lotek](#), and [Thelma Biotel](#). We heard about ATS's ELAT tag, which weighs just 80 milligrams, and they are also aiming to make it even smaller. Innovasea revealed they are developing a new VR4 receiver with a modem for remote offload, which is suitable for long-term offshore and deepwater deployments. Lotek shared they are working on a combined acoustic and DST tag, and Thelma revealed they are developing a new type of receiver. ETN would like to thank the manufacturers' representatives for joining this panel: Antonio Brookman (Advanced Telemetry Systems Inc.), Amy Brookman (Innovasea), Hilde Johannesen (Thelma Biotel), and David Gambin (Lotek). We are currently writing up the minutes from this session, which will be available for download on the [ETN website](#). Watch this space!



04

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Steps towards ensuring everyone feels safe and welcome in our community

Earlier this year, ETN launched its first [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\) survey](#). The survey aims to better understand participation, access to opportunities and resources, and experiences of inclusion within the ETN community. The survey results will support ongoing efforts to strengthen equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) within ETN and set goals to improve participation and inclusion within the network. Inge van der Knaap provided an update on the (ongoing) results at the ETN symposium. Of the 48 survey respondents so far, 71% were male, 40% were aged 35-44, and 49% were on permanent contracts. Of the 24 responses to the question "Reasons for not participating in ETN training activities and/or symposium", 54% (13 respondents) cited travel/funding constraints, and 33% (8 respondents) said they were unaware of opportunities. To help us identify the best next steps to improve EDI within ETN, we encourage the community to take the survey. **The [survey](#) is open and takes only 10 minutes to complete!**

05

ETN COREGROUP & WORKING GROUPS

Want to take a more active role within ETN - we'd love to have you!

We recognize that the ETN Core Group's activities and decision-making need to be more transparent. We don't yet have a formal document setting out how the Coregroup is formed and managed, including members' terms, conditions, or expectations. We're aware of this gap and are working toward clearer guidance and greater transparency. Please keep an eye on our communications for updates.

But, for the moment, we'd also like to highlight the new [Working Groups page](#) on our website, which explains how to get involved, and the goals of each working group.

06

SHARK TANK, BUT MAKE IT TRACKING

Ideas were flowing

As part of the ETN Theoretical and Applied Research Working Group's workshop, a number of suggestions were made for collaborative projects and analyses. Check out the ideas below, and get in touch with the responsible PIs if an idea piques your interest or if you're itching to get involved!

- How can the ETN community help turn animal movement data into indicators by collaborating with [Move BON](#) working groups on [Mortality Metrics](#), [Essential Biodiversity Variables](#), [Connectivity](#) and [MoveTraits](#) (Jan Reubens, jan.reubens@vliz.be)
- Low-activity sites: site fidelity and navigation within water bodies (Marie Prchalova, marie.prchalova@hbu.cas.cz)
- A cross-network estimate of natural mortality (Bradley Howell, bradleyhowell@trentu.ca)
- Evaluation of false detections in acoustic telemetry (Pieterjan Verhelst, pieterjan.verhelst@inbo.be)
- What drives tracking decay (loss of animal detections over time) and can we improve on it? (Jordan Matley, jordanmatley@gmail.com)
- Trusting telemetry: How sensitive are ecological conclusions to analytical decisions in aquatic telemetry? (Riwan Leroux, riwan.leroux@france-energies-marines.org)
- How does space use differ among fish species within offshore wind farms? (Lotte Pohl, lotte.pohl@vliz.be)

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- Behaviour of the thornback skate across its geographical range (Sebastian Kraft, sebakraft@gmail.com)
 - Macroecological analysis of thermal ecology and behaviour of fish (Barbara Köck, barbara.koeck@wcl.ac.at)

07

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Animal movement data, but make it easy to share

Move BON (the Animal Movement Biodiversity Observation Network) is working to make animal movement data easier to share and use for protecting biodiversity. For those of us in the ETN community, it's a great way to make sure the acoustic telemetry and bio-logging data we collect on animals (fish and others) in our oceans and rivers actually helps shape global conservation policy. We'd love to see more of you get involved, so head over to the [Move BON website](#) to learn how to register and join a working group!



08

KEEP AN EYE OUT

Two (!!) Special Issues relevant to the community

- Special issue on **"Telemetry technologies for marine and freshwater species"** in *Scientific Reports*. Deadline for submissions: May 2027. Find out more [here](#).
- Special issue on **"Connectivity across water realms for ecosystem resilience"** in *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*. Deadline for submissions: March 2027. Find out more [here](#).

International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC)

- The 8th International Marine Conservation Congress will be held at the Edinburgh International Conference Center (EICC) November 13-17, 2026. Researchers working alongside policymakers, ocean users, and resource managers come together to share research, tools, and lessons learned that advance marine science, policy, and practice. Find out more [here](#).

World Conference on Marine Biodiversity (WCMB)

- The 7th edition of the World Conference on Marine Biodiversity will be organized in Bruges between November 17th and 20th 2026. The WCMB 2026 will fly the UN Ocean Decade flag, as it has been endorsed as a UN Ocean Decade Event. The overall theme of the Conference is “The marine biodiversity insights we need, for the ocean we want”. **There is a [session](#) on animal movement, behaviour and biologging!** Find out more [here](#).

International Conference on Fish Telemetry (ICFT)

- The 8th ICFT will be held in Hull, England, from 19-23 July 2027, hosted by the University of Hull. The theme of the conference is “Tracking Fish in a Changing World”. Find out more [here](#).

The 9th International Bio-logging Science Symposium (BLS9)

- The 9th BLS will be held in Sevilla, Spain, from 18-22 October 2027. BLS9 will bring together an interdisciplinary community working on the development and application of bio-logging technologies across a wide range of species and environments: terrestrial, aerial and aquatic. Find out more [here](#).

European Elasmobranch Association Annual Conference 2027 (EEA)

- The EEA 2027 will be held in Bergen, Norway, in September 2027 and bring together scientists from all over Europe that are working on sharks, rays and chimaera. Exact dates to be confirmed!

Stay updated; follow us everywhere!

