

PROGRESS REPORT 2024

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Governance

We are grateful to our board members for their continuing support.

This year we have also gathered and moved all of our sampling and litter picking equipment into a storage container located outside of the Chatham Maritime Watersports Centre. Thank you to everyone who came to help us with the cleaning and organization.

How did we do?

We carried out 8 clean ups; 4 Fish & Chip cruises with speakers; 13 surveys and a pilot for the water quality monitoring project. This was possible due to the total of £2,713 donations we have received since last year.

We worked with volunteers, local businesses, local artists, researchers and students from Brunel University and North Kent College (Hadlow).

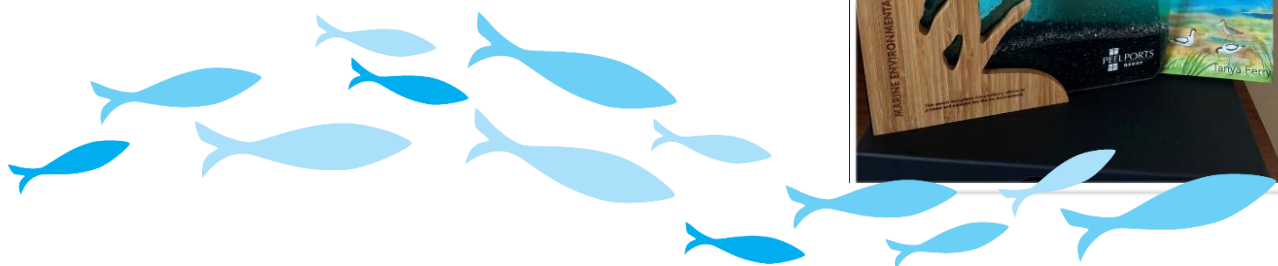
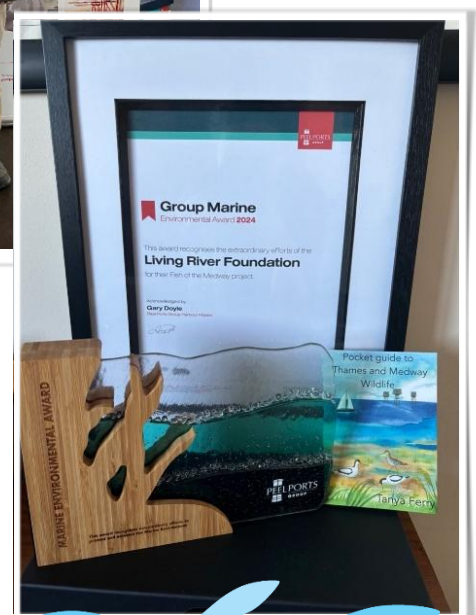
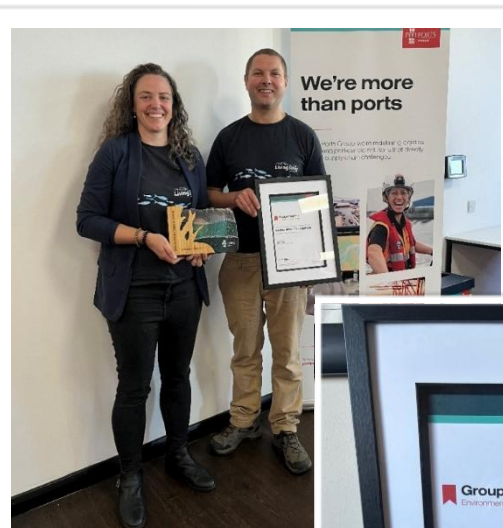
We are grateful for support from Panthalassa Ltd, Jetstream Tours and Chatham Maritime Trust. We would also like to thank our volunteers, Meteor Communications, Peel Ports Group, North Kent College and Brunel University for ongoing collaboration.

This year's progress

Living River Foundation is committed to advancing improvements of marine estuaries and tidal rivers across Medway. Working towards this goal, we have continued pioneering several projects across 2024 and a new achievement!

Our First Award!

We are excited to announce that we have received an Environmental Award 2024 from Peel Ports Group, presented by Lisa Reilly in October for the effort in Fish of the Medway project. It is awarded once a year to a project within the waters managed by Peel Ports Group. This is the first time it was awarded to a project on Medway. The trophy itself is made from sustainable materials. We are very grateful to Peel Ports Group for the recognition of the Foundation's volunteers' efforts.



Get involved!

We are continuously working on improving our existing projects and contributing to better marine environment for everyone. If you are interested in participating in our events, please fill out the newsletter form linked below. The calendar of the events is also linked at the bottom of the page!

[Calendar of the events](#)

We are happy to get involved with new projects or participate in related workshops as well. Please contact us using this email if you have any questions regarding events:

@: info@living-river.co.uk

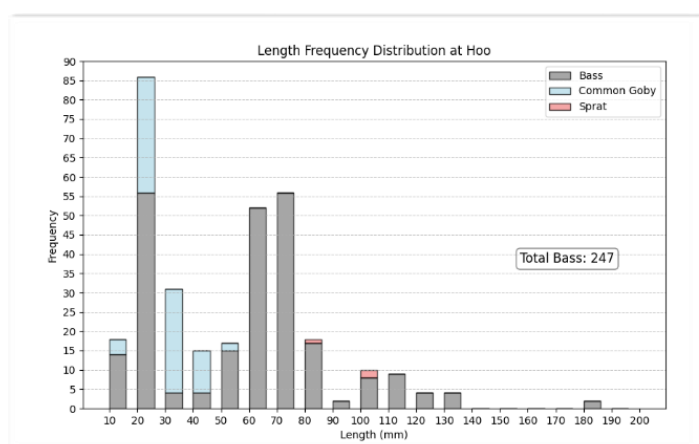
We are looking forward to meeting you at our events in 2025!

[Newsletter sign up form](#)

Fish of the Medway

Fish of the Medway focuses on the effectiveness of the Medway no-take zone (NTZ) and support and preservation of its local species and its nursery area. Volunteers have been carrying out fish surveys since 2020 to understand recruitment of young fish using the saltmarshes, that are protected against those that are not. This is because intertidal areas are an important refuge and feeding areas for the juvenile fish to help them survive to adulthood.

In 2024, we continued surveying to build on our analysis. This year has showed a significant influx in seabass count in spring in comparison to other years, which is the species we are hoping to find. The detailed data of the project is published on the project pages of our website for each year.



Litter Free Maritime. In 2024, Litter Free Maritime project first stage has been concluded and the second created, which included a clean-up around the estuary edge of St Mary's Island where the project is based. With help from the Chatham Maritime Trust, the December cleanup collected more than 750 plastic items, 600+ polystyrene items and 150+ other items, including cigarette butts, canes, vapes etc.

Thames Manta. In 2024, the samples previously collected continued to be analysed by students and teaching staff at Brunel University. The collected samples showed significant presence of microplastics in both Medway and Thames, with 5 categories identified: paint, polypropylene, polyethylene, polyethylene (HD) and polystyrene. The final results for the first five years will inform a relaunch of surveying with Brunel in an improved and targeted sampling programme.

Island Clean ups. This year we have conducted 8 successful clean ups on the Medway estuary islands. Again, supported by Peel Ports Group small groups of volunteers (2-4 people) filled two skips to ensure a cleaner, safer river habitat.

