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**PROGRAMME AND ABSTRACTS  
OF PRESENTATIONS**



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## Theme : Ocean Acidification & Climate Change

P31	<b>Intertidal Seaweed Communities Compared between Azores and Britain - Lessons for Water Framework Directive Monitoring</b>	
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<p>One of the elements for assessment of ecological quality of water bodies for the EC Water Framework Directive (WFD) is the intertidal seaweed community. The United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland have devised an approach based on species richness (corrected for shore physical diversity), functional group composition, colour group composition and presence of nuisance opportunist species. Can a similar approach be applied in the different environment of the Azores over 10° S of the British Isles? To investigate this idea, a comparison is made of the basic composition of Azorean seaweed communities in terms of the features above with British seaweed communities. A problem in devising a monitoring tool is having a range of shores of different ecological quality to study how the community metrics differ along pollution gradients. In the open Atlantic environment of the Azores there are few instances of pollution serious enough to modify seaweed community structure. Therefore a comparison is made of seaweed community response along two parallel types of gradient, one natural and one man-made, each involving metal enrichment and lowered pH. The situations compared are shallow water hydrothermal vents in the Azores and discharges from abandoned coal mines in Britain.</p>		