Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	12	2023	02	12	2024	

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	FATHOMS FREE
Other names charity is known by	N/A

Registered charity number (if any)	1196183	
Charity's principal address	16 LOWER CLICKER ROAD,	
	MENHENIOT	
	LISKEARD	
	Postcode	PL14 3PJ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	John Kent	Chair of Trustees		
2	Julian Collison	Treasurer		
3	Luke Bullus	Diving Officer		
4	Eleanor Speirs	Secretary		
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CIO
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed on initial creation of charity - any changes by election

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Written Risk assessments in place for diving activities and boat usage with site and conditions specific risk assessments completed at each event.
All personnel suitably trained and qualified for the activities they are engaged in.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To preserve and improve the marine environment around the coast of the United Kingdom & to to conserve, relieve the suffering of and promote the bio-diversity of marine wildlife with the use of volunteer divers and surface supporters by, but not limited to:

1. Locating, documenting, retrieving and responsibly disposing of Abandoned, Discarded and Lost Fishing Gear (also known as Ghost Gear), releasing and where possible returning entrapped marine wildlife to its natural habitat.

	2. Locating, documenting, retrieving and responsibly disposing of underwater, floating and coastal marine litter, focussing on but not limited to Marine Plastics 3. Supporting the local resident population, the significant coastal tourism industry and the resident fishing communities by minimising the litter and ghost gear hazards to make the beaches and coastal seas a safer place to enjoy and minimising unnecessary damage to local fish stocks killed by ghost gear. 4. Collecting and distributing data on the distribution, nature and quantity of marine litter and ghost fishing gear and its environmental impacts 5. Spreading awareness of the presence of underwater marine litter and ghost fishing gear along with the environmental threats it poses 6. Educating water users and the public so as to reduce the input of debris to the sea
Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)	*Our activities for the reporting period can be summarised into three categories.* *1. Retrieval - Retrieving matter from the sea which shouldn't be there, this is our raison d'etre. This was most often done by diving but there was one recovery from a beach.* *2. Awareness - We took multiple opportunities to inform the public of the very serious matter of ghost nets and marine litter. This was done by talks, meeting the public at awareness events, social media and mainstream media eg. TV news. If we can educate people to prevent marine pollution then it makes our retrieval job less arduous.* *3. Maintenance, training and fund raising - These activities are the enabler for the 2 above. The divers become maintenance personnel or teachers/students for these activities. The maintenance work covered activities on; restoring our 'new' rhib (a mammoth task) and rebuilding two boat trailers. For us, fund-raising is dependent upon our exposure in various media forms, without funds no recoveries would take place. We have a website and an integral shop. Many of the goods in the shop are made by our volunteers from recovered ghost nets and ropes. We were fortunate to have a successful crowdfunder to pay for a new rhib, we are grateful to Cornwall Council for their match funding in this project.*

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

All persons engaged with Fathoms Free are volunteers ,including the trustees. The charity has no paid staff.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Last year the Fathoms Free team recovered 1830 kg of marine debris from the seas around Devon and Cornwall. This activity took 1100 man hours, in direct effort. This recovery was accomplished during 10 dives and 1 beach recovery.

Multiple awareness events were participated in during the year. These include a presentation to the Cornwall Wildlife Trusts "Your Shore Conference" and regularly updating the Lostwithiel Environmental Action Forum, to highlight how abandoned fishing gear and other debris becomes a marine issue locally and hence the need for our work. In particular we took action on the issue of street litter, it makes up 75% of marine debris, via drains and rivers.

Our funding has been secured for the forthcoming year by donations from both personal and corporate donors and the sale of goods in our online shop.

We made a conscious decision to expand because we know that we are performing a vital function. One of the limiting factors to our activities has always been the weather; it is not safe to dive when the wind exceeds 16 knots. Therefore to take advantage of every available opportunity we decided to try to acquire another boat. This will enable multiple teams to work when conditions permit..
A suitable boat was located in West Cornwall named Stingray, a 6.4metre Tornado Viking 640 with 200HP Mercury Outboard and trailer. Although not used for a number of years, incomplete and in poor state cosmetically, key parts like a sound hull and recently replaced tubes meant it was a potential cost effective way of sourcing a boat. A deal was made with the previous owner to purchase for £1000 in sold as seen condition but we knew it would take many thousands to fully restore, estimating a total investment circa £10000

We did not have these extra funds available as well as funding our ongoing operations so we launched a crowdfunder appeal (Stingray Revival) and have applied to Cornwall Council Grown Nature fund for match funding which looks to be forthcoming. Since purchase work has been ongoing as weather permitted by one of our trustees and so far we have a new electrical system fitted and the engine running. We are looking forward to securing the funds to finish the project and have two operational boats for the 2025 season.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	The charity does not currently have a policy on reserves since it was created from very humble beginnings. The trustees realise that the charity is growing and whilst at the moment it is in a comfortable financial position, the trustees will during the next financial year develop a reserves policy in order to prepare for unexpected and schedules repairs or replacement to key assets, namely the boats (Casper & Shadow) and pickup truck
Details of any funds materially in deficit	There are no funds in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about: ● the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising); ● how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity; ● investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.	The charity, in common with others operating in the same conservation arena, does not receive any government funding and relies on the generous donation of members of the public and corporate donors. In the tighter financial climate there has been a noticeable drop in ad-hoc personal donations although we have been lucky enough to secure more grant funding than previously The charity does not currently have an investment policy - monies raised are used to fund ghost gear recoveries, fuel and maintenance of charity assets and maintaining a balance available for repairs as and when necessary. The funds of the charity are fairly modest, having raised £8689 in the last financial year (2nd December 2023 to 1st December 2024). This is a significant reduction from the £16717 raised in the previous financial year and very reflective of the cost of living crisis being faced by the country. Of these £3964 were raised by personal donations, £50 by corporate donation, £3500 from grant funding (including match funding) and £1175 from gift aid Expenditure for the year was £17082 with the largest expense being £9214 on boat, trailer and truck maintenance, followed by £2032 on Insurances and vehicle tax. Clearly this is a less than desirable financial situation for the year and not sustainable, however we had raised a healthy sum in the previous year which allowed us to absorb these losses. All expenditure has been directly connected to the ongoing objects of the charity, particularly the ghost gear recovery.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	John Kent	Julian Collison
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	10/08//25	

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Fathoms Free	1192613

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	02/12/2023		01/12/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Personal Donations	3964	-	-	3,964	7662
Company ./ Sponsor Donations	50	-	-	50	822
Sales of items in web shop	-	-	-	-	33
HMRC Gift Aid Payments	1,175	-	-	1,175	1,510
Grant payments	3,500	-	-	3,500	6,690
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	8,689	-	-	8,689	16,717
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
NONE	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	8,689	-	-	8,689	16,717
A3 Payments					
Boat, Truck & Trailer Storage	1,560	-	-	1,560	1,560
Hardboat charter	-	-	-	-	660
Insurance & Vehicle Tax	2,032	-	-	2,032	1,866
Truck & Boat repair & upgrades	9,214	-	-	9,214	5,042
Fuel	1,233	-	-	1,233	1,513
Gear recovery equipment	240	-	-	240	2,936
Gas system	2,194	-	-	2,194	3,901

Training	219	-	-	219	1,389
Charity admin (website etc)	390	-	-	390	605
Sub total	17,082	-	-	17,082	19,472
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
NONE	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	17,082	-	-	17,082	19,472
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 8,393	-	-	- 8,393	- 2,755
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	17,177	-	-	17,177	19,932
Cash funds this year end	8,784	-	-	8,784	17,177

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	**NatWest Bank Account**	8,784	-	-
	Soldo prepaid debit card balance	-	-	-
	PayPal Account	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	8,784	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	NONE	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
NONE		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
6.5m Humber RHIB with engine,trailer & electronics	**Unrestricted**	-	**14,000**
Mitsubishi L200 Pickup Truck	**Unrestricted**	-	**7,000**
Twin axle van trailer	**Unrestricted**	-	**1,000**
Gazebo & display equipment	**Unrestricted**	-	**2,500**
Ghost gear recovery equipment	**Unrestricted**	-	**6,000**
Compressor and gas filling panel	**Unrestricted**	-	**4,500**
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
None		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		**Julian Collison (Treasurer)**	**21/01/2025**
		John Kent (Chair)	**21/01/2025**