

**Name**

Beccy Austin

Current Position

Senior Project Officer

Education and Qualifications

2006 MSc Marine Environmental Protection, Bangor University

2004 BSc (hons) Environmental Science, Bath Spa University

Selected Career Summary

2019 – present: MSDS Marine Ltd, Senior Project Officer

2007 – 2018: Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Deputy Receiver of Wreck, UK

2006 – 2007: Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Certification Officer

Key Expertise

Beccy is a specialist in part IX of the UK Merchant Shipping Act 1995 (Wreck and Salvage) and practised advisor to various UK government departments including contributions to policy formulation by MMO, DfT, MoD and DCMS. Has regularly advised stakeholders including archaeologists, divers, museums, commercial salvors and marine planning. Beccy has considerable experience of all aspects of wreck research.

Sector Specific Experience

Role as Deputy Receiver of Wreck

During her role at the Receiver of Wreck she built up a specialist knowledge of wreck and salvage legislation and has advised on policy formulation for several government departments and on issues such as legacy wrecks and marine planning. This includes providing guidance on Victory 1744 and several other significant and high value wreck sites. Beccy has experience of setting up national initiatives such as the multi-agency law enforcement initiative through NMIC to monitor and enforce maritime heritage crime.

Beccy's key roles as Deputy Receiver of Wreck included

- Administration of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1995 (Part XI - Wreck and Salvage)
- Administration of Protection of Wrecks Act, 1973 (Section 2 - Dangerous Wrecks)
- Responsibility for the Royal Prerogative for Fishes Royal

Appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out all duties of a Receiver of Wreck, including; research, policy development, national incident response together with strategic planning and management of incidents, historical research, law enforcement from investigation to prosecution, preventing wreck crime, all aspects of wreck and salvage law, other wreck related legislation, negotiation and public speaking.

Research

Beccy has extensive experience in identifying and researching marine finds and has carried out detailed research into thousands of different items recovered from hundreds of wrecks around the British Isles covering all historical periods. Using her expertise, she has traced the owners of hundreds of wreck items and has successfully placed finds with museums. Beccy has worked with a range of stakeholders across the public and private sectors and with community groups and individuals. She has acted as an intermediary on many successful negotiations between wreck owners, insurers, museums and salvors.

Awards

Prosecutors' Convention Team of the Year Award

November 2015 (Recognised by the Attorney General - Government Legal Service).

Part of a team that carried out extensive research and intelligence gathering to prove that three Dutch cannon were the property of the Crown. The team were made up of the Receiver of Wreck, MCA Enforcement Branch, Historic England, Kent and Essex Police, 3PB and other experts.