

Marine Policy Unit of the FCO visit the NOC

On 6 November the Marine Policy Unit of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) visited Southampton. They were here to be briefed on activities relating to the Law of the Sea.

The FCO is the lead government department on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The FCO Maritime Policy Unit, a team of three, supervised by Chris Whomersley, Deputy Legal Adviser, is responsible for policy on maritime issues that include shipping, the environment, scientific research, whaling, major maritime powers and underwater cultural heritage.

Alan Evans of the Marine Geoscience Group hosted the meeting and presentations were given by **Ian Wright**, **David Billett**, **Trevor Guymer** and **Geraint West**. They highlighted how NOC activities impact on marine policy, International Seabed Authority

(ISA) activities, on the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and marine scientific research.

There has been a long-standing relationship between the NOC and the MPU. Activities such as the work undertaken by the NOC on the definition of the UK's Continental Shelf, provision of representatives for the Legal and Technical Commission of the ISA, research expedition diplomatic clearances and

advice on marine scientific research date back many years. In a letter of thanks, Louise Savill expressed her appreciation and recognition of the variety and quality of the activities undertaken at NOC.



*(L – R back) David Billett, Senior Visiting Research Fellow; Roland Rogers, NMFSS; Steve Hunt, MPU; Trevor Guymer, Head UK-IOC Office; Geraint West, Head NMFSS
(L – R front) Jane Thompson, NMFSS; Ian Wright, Director DST; Louise Savill, Head MPU; Alan Evans, Marine Geoscience Group; Mina Patel, MPU*