

Influx of Portuguese Man O War and By-the-Wind-Sailors into UK waters 2003-2017

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Photo: Lloyd Jones @KrakenDiving

MailOnline

Storm Ophelia washes up Portuguese Man o' War jellyfish on UK beaches

- Britain faces surge in numbers of killer jellyfish being
- Lethal Portuguese man o' war with 12ft-long tentacle
- Marine conservation experts have also told of eight
- Coastguard warns beachgoers to stay safe and not

By MARK DUILL FOR MAILONLINE
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BBC NEWS

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Deadly Portuguese on south coast beach

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The Argus

BRITAIN is being swarmed by thousands of these killer jellyfish with tentacles as long as 12ft.

12 hrs ago

Man took deadly sea creature home and planned to serve it up for lunch

Emily Walker
Chief reporter



A Portuguese man o' war found by Peter Bennett during his daily walk along the beach near his home in Saltdean

Mirror

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of deadly men-

Jellyfish off our coastlines

NEWS

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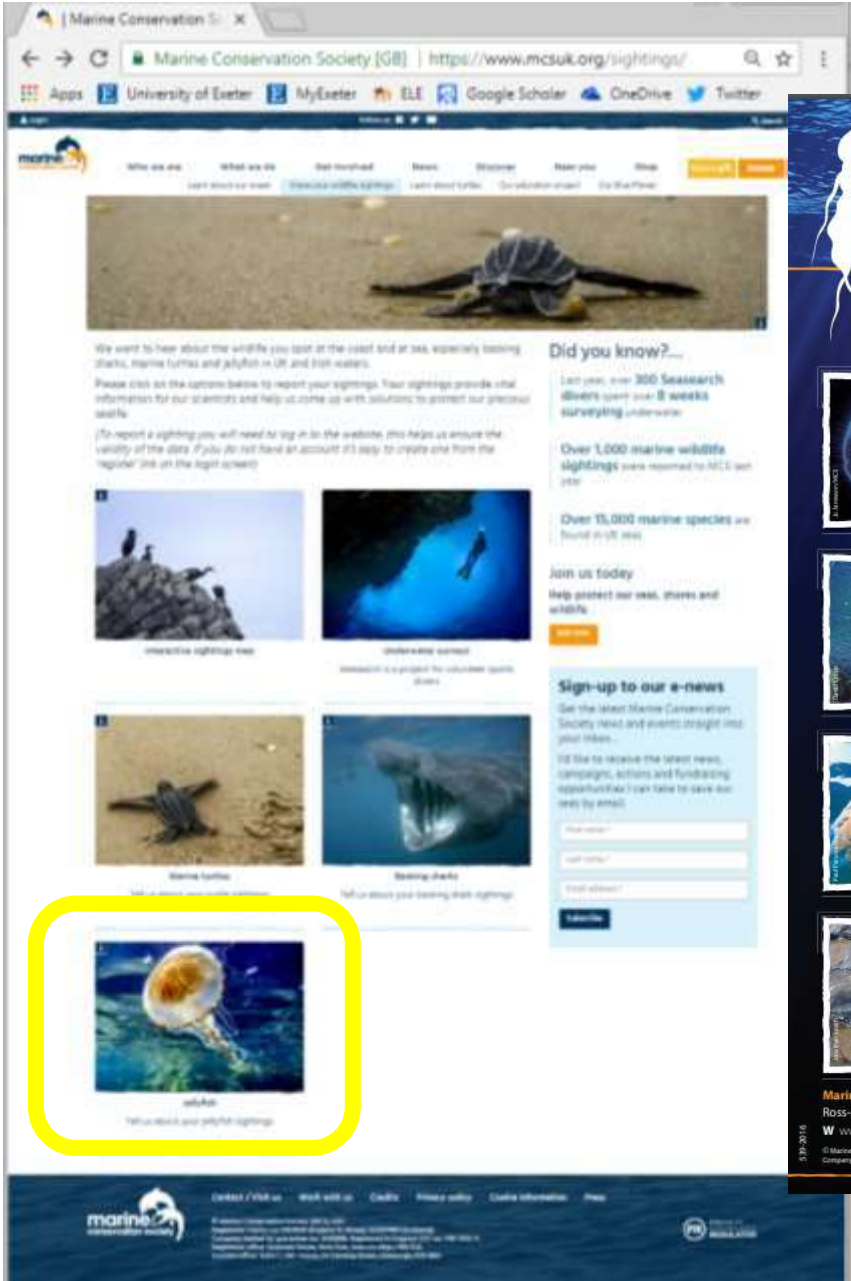
n in by storm

washed up on south coast beaches The
touching them can cause a reaction, which in

PLUS

REDDIT

Data Source:



Jellyfish ID Guide

While some jellyfish are harmless or have a very mild sting, others have a painful and even dangerous sting. MCS would therefore recommend that, for your own safety, you do not touch jellyfish.

Species	Characteristics	Sting Severity
Aurelia aurita <i>Moon jellyfish</i>	Up to 40cm in diameter. Transparent, umbrella-shaped bell edged with short hair-like tentacles. Recognised by the four distinct pale purple gonad rings in the bell. Manubrium (mouth and arms, underside and centre of bell) bears 4 short, frilled arms. Mild sting.	Mild
Chrysaora hysoscella <i>Compass jellyfish</i>	Typically up to 30cm. Colour variable, but usually has pale umbrella-shaped bell with diagnostic brownish V-shaped markings, 32 marginal lobes and 24 long, thin tentacles, four long, thick, frilled arms hang from the manubrium.	Painful
Cyanea capillata <i>Lion's mane jellyfish</i>	Large, usually 50cm but can reach 2m in diameter. Large reddish brown, umbrella-shaped bell with a mass of long, thin hair-like tentacles as well as short, thick, frilled and folded arms.	Painful
Cyanea lamarckii <i>Blue jellyfish</i>	Up to 30cm, similar shape to C. capillata but smaller with a blue bell through which radial lines can be seen. Mild sting.	Mild
Pelagia noctiluca <i>Mauve stinger</i>	Up to 10cm. Has a deep bell with pink or mauve warts, 16 marginal lobes and eight marginal, hair-like tentacles. Manubrium bears four longer frilled arms with tiny pink spots.	Painful
Physalia physalis <i>Portuguese man-of-war</i>	Not a jellyfish, but a floating colony of hydrozoans. The oval-shaped, transparent float with crest is characteristic. Blue-purple in colour, with many hanging 'fishing polyps' below that may be tens of metres long. Extremely dangerous to humans due to their powerful sting. Rare in the UK but if found in numbers should be reported to the local authorities.	Extremely dangerous
Rhizostoma octopus <i>Barrel jellyfish</i>	Up to 1m in diameter. Robust with a spherical, solid rubbery bell, which can be white or pale pink, blue or yellow and fringed with purple markings. The bell lacks tentacles but eight thick, frilled arms hang from the manubrium. Mild sting.	Mild
Velella velella <i>By-the-wind-sailor</i>	Not a jellyfish, but a floating, solitary hydranth. Up to 100cm long and blue-purple in colour. Upright sail and chitinous float are diagnostic, with a mass of small tentacles surrounding the mouth on the underside. Occurs in vast swarms.	Mild

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Protecting our seas, shores and wildlife



www.mcsuk.org/sightings

Register with observer details

Data Source: www.mcsuk.org/sightings

The screenshot shows the 'Report a jellyfish sighting' page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'Who we are', 'What we do', 'Get involved', 'News', 'Discover', 'Near you', 'Shop', 'Give a gift', 'Donate', and 'Join'. Below the navigation bar, there's a section titled 'Report a jellyfish sighting' with a sub-header 'Please click the location of your sighting on the map'. The main area is a map of the United Kingdom and Ireland, with a blue cursor icon positioned over the English Channel. The map shows various geographical features like coastlines, rivers, and towns.

Location

Where and when was the sighting?

Where were you and where was the animal?

How far away was the animal?

Species and how many

The screenshot shows the 'Please give further details of the sighting using the form below.' section. The form is titled 'When and where did the sighting take place?' and contains several input fields: 'Exact location of sighting' (text input, example: 'e.g. John's Bay'), 'Nearest town' (text input), 'County' (text input), 'Region' (dropdown menu), and 'Date of sighting' (text input, example: '12-04-2018 09:15'). Below this, there's a section titled 'Where were you and where was the animal?' with two dropdown menus: 'You were' and 'The animal was'. The next section is 'How far away was the animal?' with a sub-header 'Please only enter digits (0-9) into these fields.' and two text inputs: 'From you' (distance in metres) and 'From shore' (distance in metres). The following section is 'Tell us about the animal itself' with a sub-header 'How many of each type of Jellyfish did you see?'. It contains several checkboxes for different jellyfish species: 'Barrel', 'Compass', 'Moon', 'Lion's Mane', 'Blue', 'By-The-Wind-Sailor', 'Mauve Stinger', 'Portugese Man-Of-War', and 'Other'. The final section is 'Finally, is there anything else that you want to add?' with a 'Notes' text input field.



Data

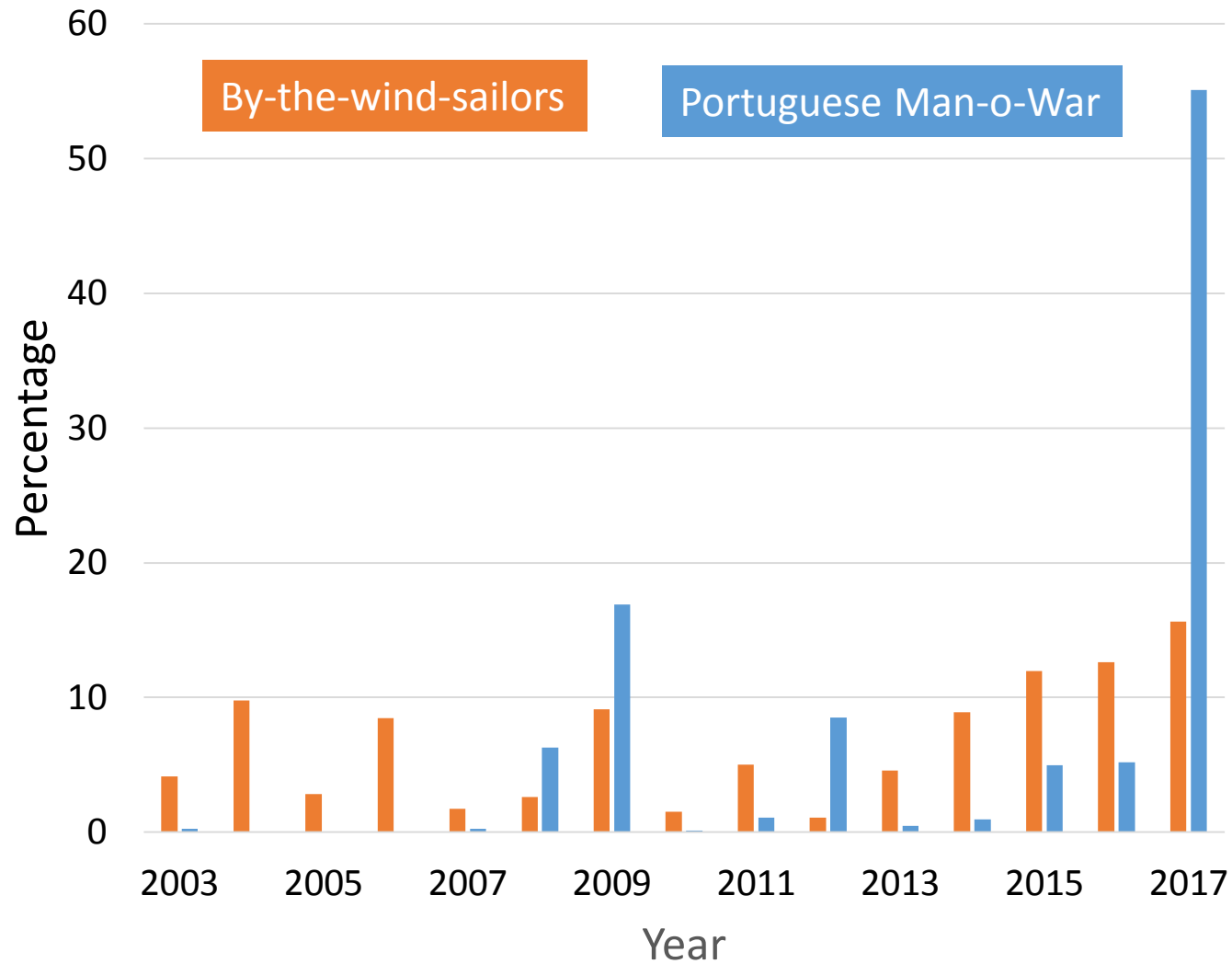
In 2017

1696 jellyfish sightings

466 were PMoW

72 were BTWS

Sightings



2013-2017

850+ PMoW

450+ BTWS

2017

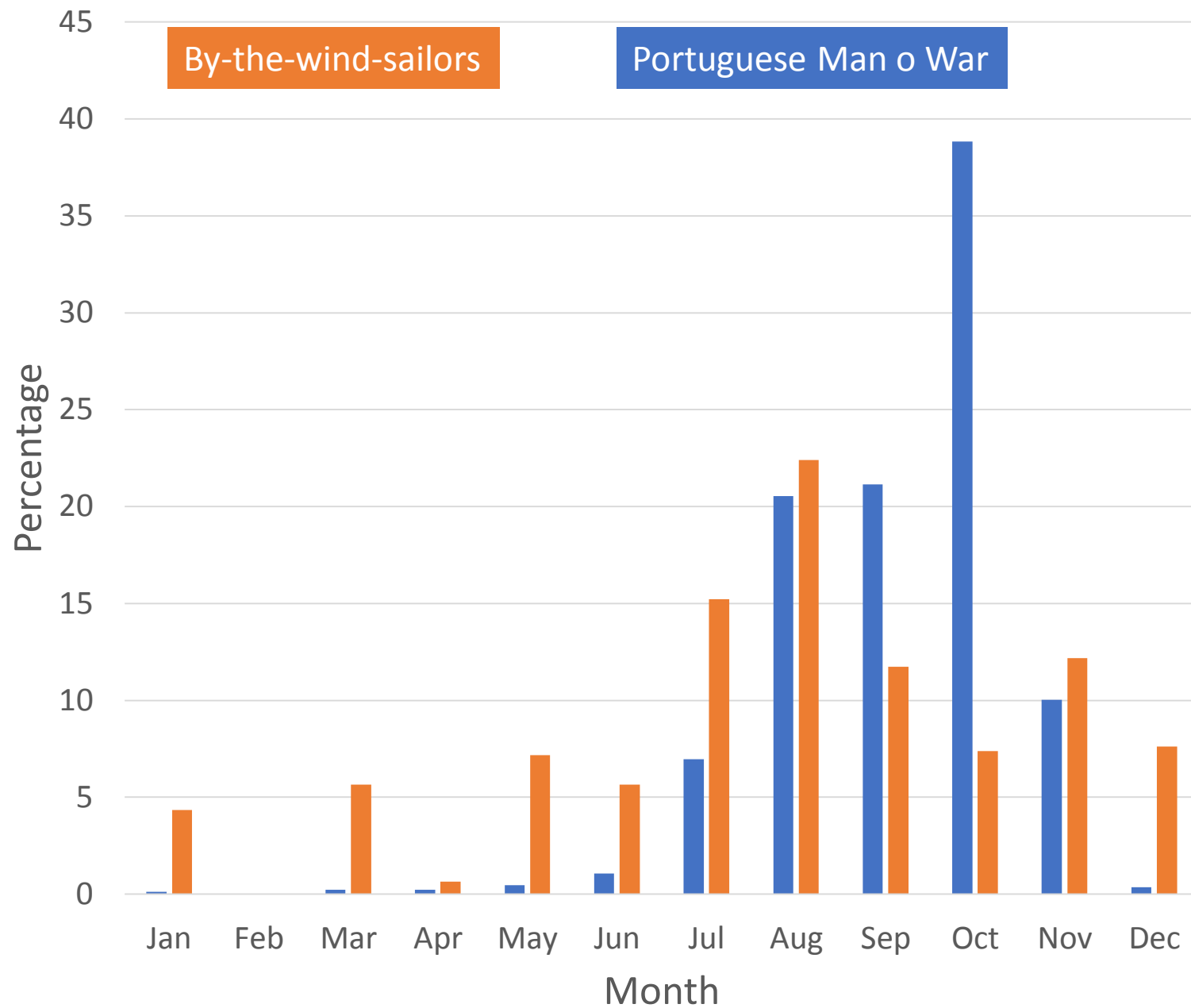
466 PMoW

72 BTWS



Seasonal

Photo: Delia Webb

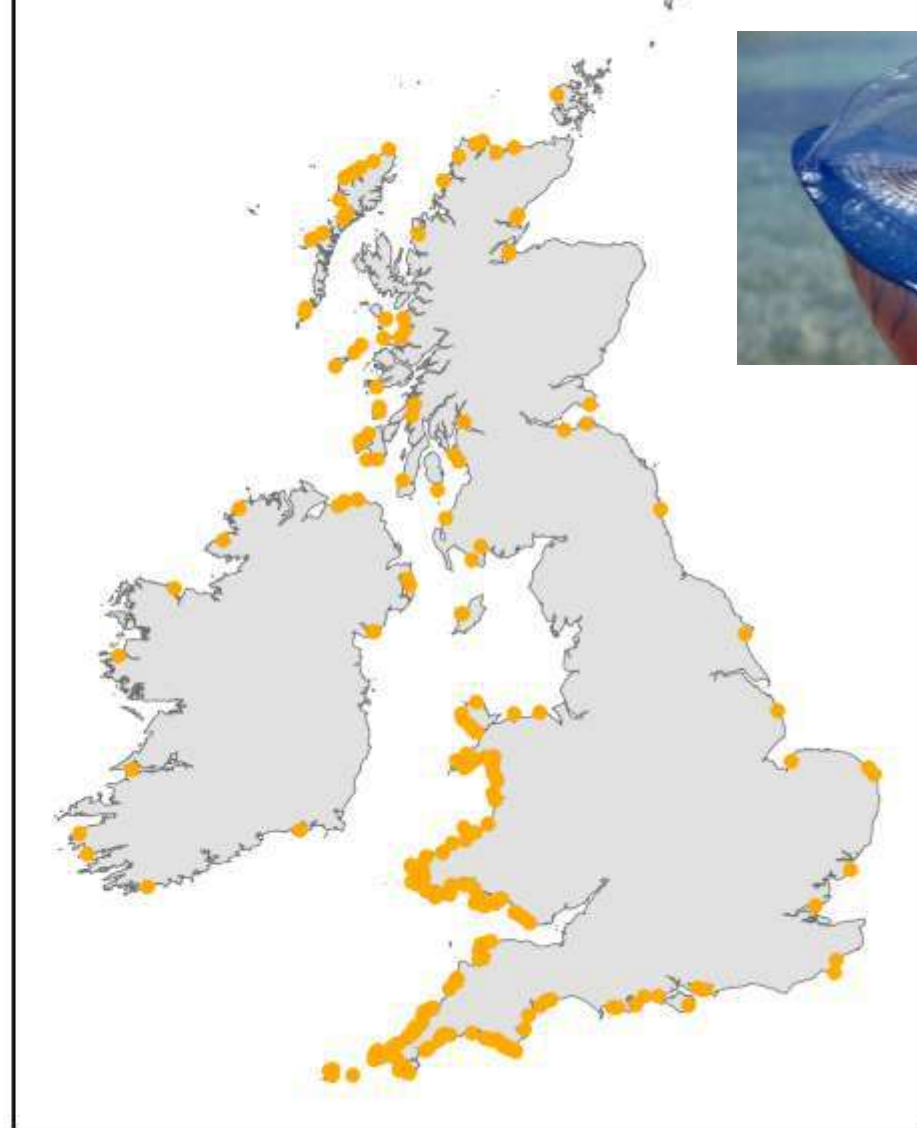


2003-
2017

Portuguese Man-o-War



By-the-wind-sailors



2017

Portuguese Man-o-War

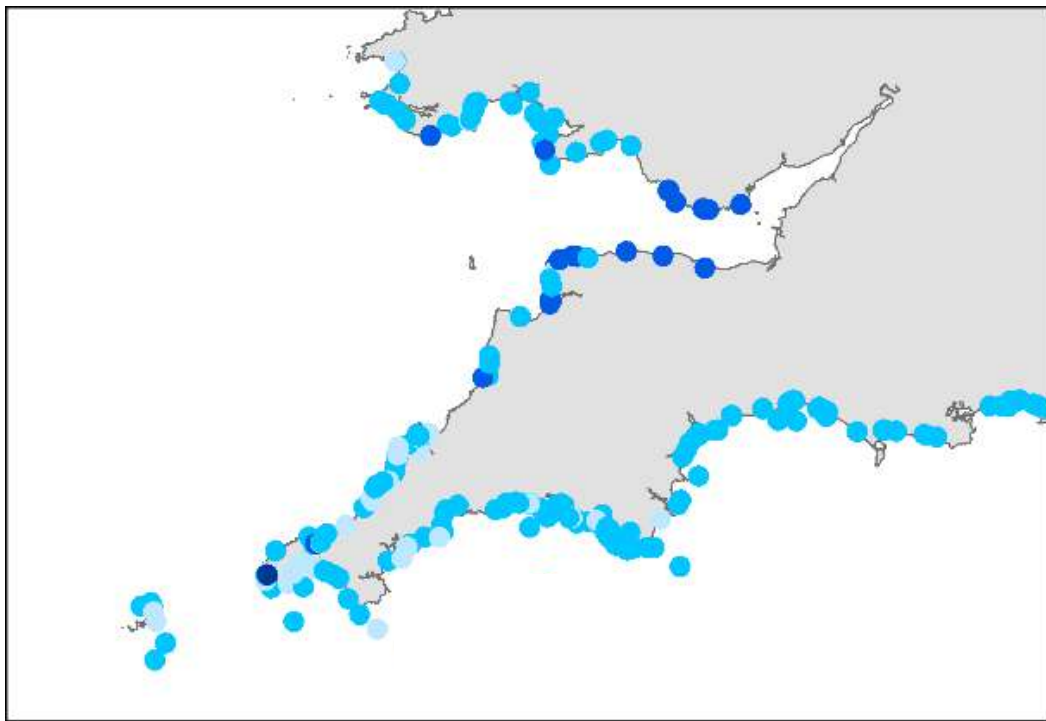


By-the-wind-sailors



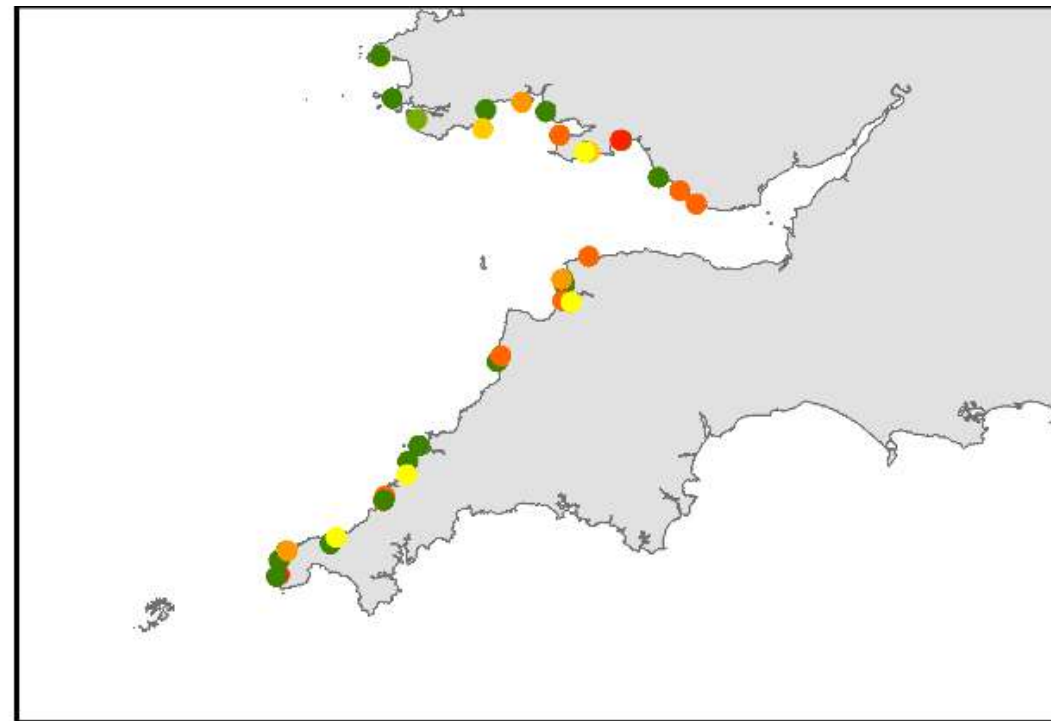
2017

Portuguese Man-o-War



- Sept
- Oct
- Nov
- Dec

By-the-wind-sailors



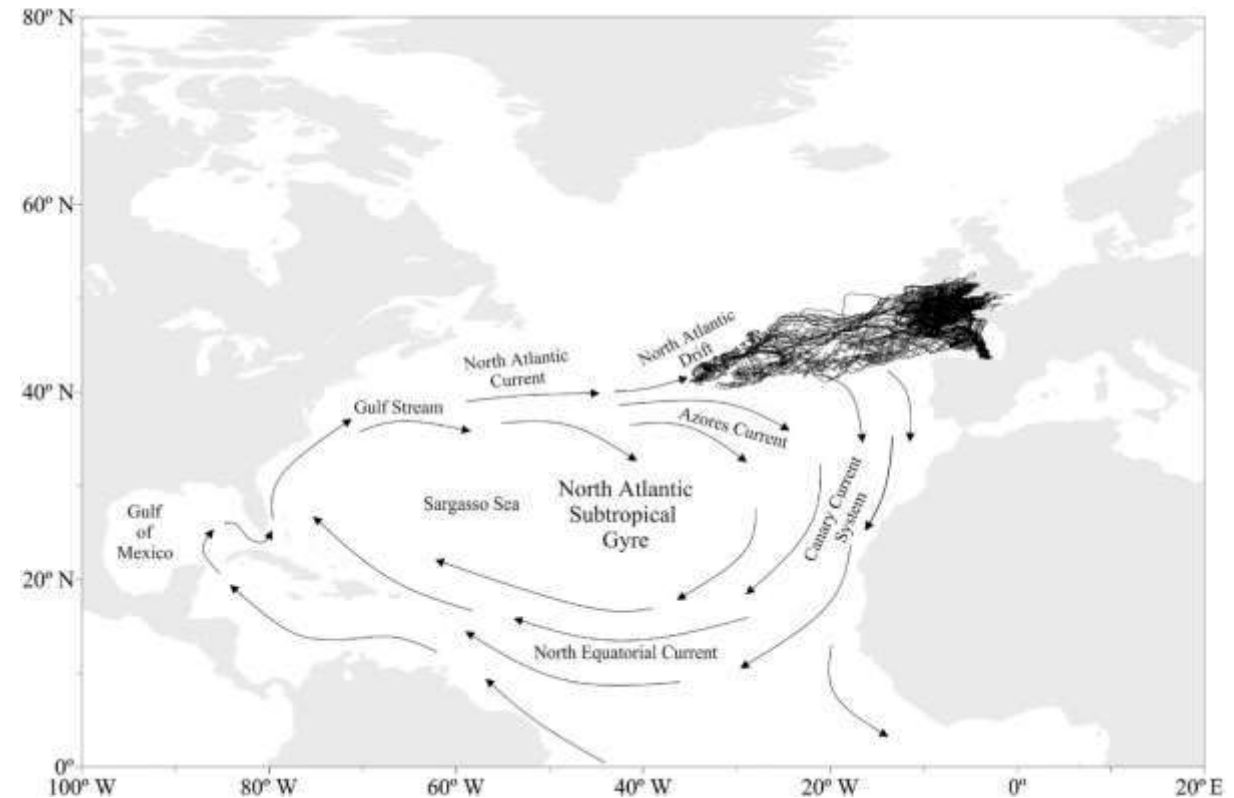
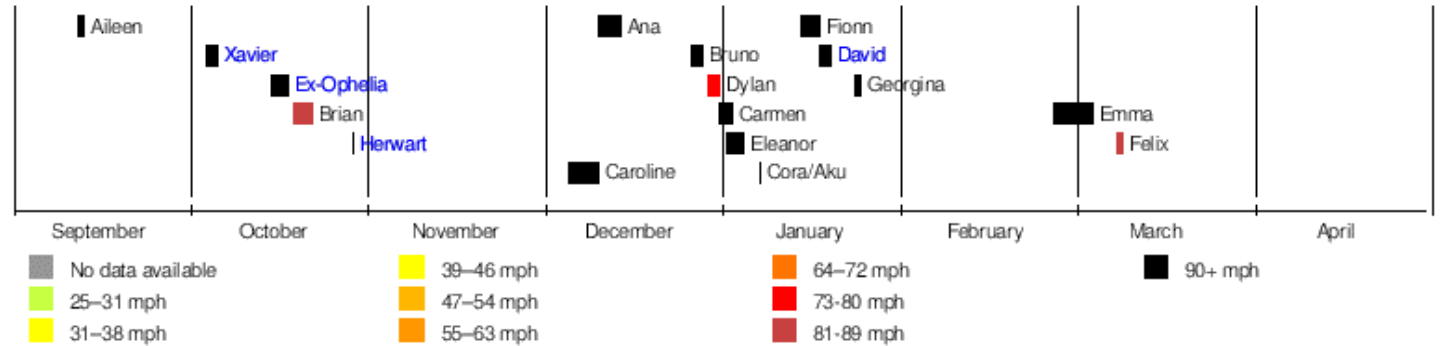
- | | |
|-----|-----|
| Jan | Aug |
| Mar | Oct |
| Apr | Nov |
| Jun | Dec |
| Jul | |

Where do they come from?

Wind?

Ocean currents?

Can we predict?



Ferrer *et al.* 2017

Marine Conservation Society [GB] | <https://www.mcsuk.org/sightings/>

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We want to hear about the wildlife you spot at the coast and at sea, especially basking sharks, marine turtles and jellyfish in UK and Irish waters.

Please click on the options below to report your sightings. Your sightings provide vital information for our scientists and help us come up with solutions to protect our precious sealife.

(To report a sighting you will need to log in to the website, this helps us ensure the validity of the data. If you do not have an account it's easy to create one from the 'register' link on the login screen)

Did you know?...

Last year, over 300 Seasearch divers spent over 8 weeks surveying underwater

Over 1,000 marine wildlife sightings were reported to MCS last year

Over 15,000 marine species are found in UK seas

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Jellyfish

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Please continue to report:
www.mcsuk.org/sightings

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