



Capturing CASUAL observations: the SWME Annual Report (2017)

‘Every year is different!’

Keith Hiscock

For the SWME Annual Meeting on 12th April 2019

LOGBOOKS

14/11/2017 - Canada Goose seen on Landing Bay Beach. It stayed for a while and then flew back across the channel.
Sian S.

14/11/17 - 1. Great Skua flew S of the E side, midway Tong Tong
1. Bullfinch around the NW corner of Bridge
Tong Tong

15 Nov

Mid morning on Rat Island
8 birds seen. Several small flocks of 4 to 8
Common Seals in less than 5 mins about
40 birds total.

The Seals were mixed Gulls.
12 Gannets as on Mon and Tues about 2 km due
east.

Water Rail seen and heard from Millcombe Lane.
South.

6 Common Dolphins. More common Seals.
A Grey Heron flew North being mobbed by 2 GBs.
A Great Skua flew round the South Side & disappeared
out of view off the Old Light.

Back at the Vagly at dusk another Great Skua.
Maybe same individual moved North.

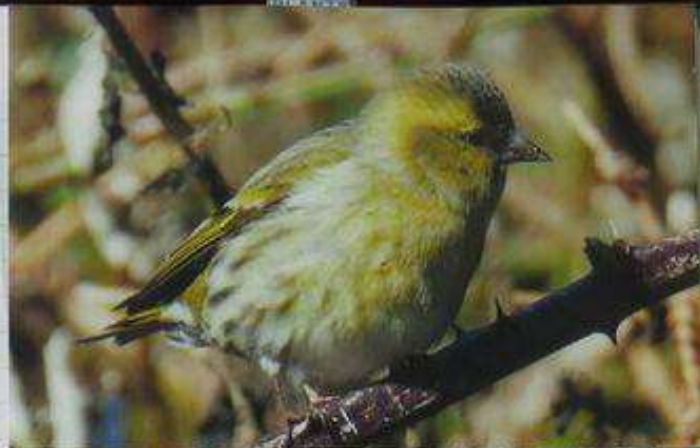
Lots of Bramblings by the Stone Crusher.

16th Nov

The feeding flock of Mixed Gulls/Kittiwakes
have increased in number to 500+.

M Thorne

Siskin
Millcombe
24th Oct



Firecrest
St Johns



Prob Ringed
by Rob Duncan

Portuguese
Man o' War
Jetty



A photograph of a grey seal resting on a pebbly beach. The seal is lying down, facing away from the camera, with its head turned slightly to the right. The beach is composed of many smooth, grey and blue pebbles. The background shows a rocky shore with some green algae.

Lundy Field Society Annual Report 2017

Harvest significant records
from other publications.
(Here, the LFS Annual Report which
includes records from MARINELife
observations.)

SEALS

Compiled by Keith Hiscock

Grey Seal *Haliochoerus grypus*

The following records are from the logbook. A separate paper by Dean Jones describing the results of systematic surveys undertaken in 2017 appears on page 131. Grey seals are observed frequently and are considered always present. Those records which include counts or are of behavioural or injury observations or of pups are included here.

28 Jan – one in Jenny's Cove with severe neck injury caused by monofilament net (Martin Thorne).

Turtle caught in fishing gear crosses Atlantic

A turtle trapped in "ghost" fishing gear has washed up on a Cornish beach after a 4,750-mile trip from Texas.

Photographer and marine conservation student Dave Hudson found the rare Kemp's Ridley Turtle while out walking his dog on Holywell Bay Beach.

The turtle, from a species listed as being critically endangered, was not moving and Mr Hudson feared it might be dead.

Mr Hudson said this type of turtle should not be seen in British waters, but must have drifted across the ocean as it got hit by the cold and seized up.

He said: "This guy is really lucky. When turtles get cold they go into cold shock and become much more passive and just go where the current takes them.

"He's very lucky to still be alive and still very poorly now."

He added: "There used to be loads of them but then we as humans started commercially fishing them for turtle soup and turtleshell goods, but that was stopped in the 1960s I think and through a concerted conservation effort their numbers are increasing."

Mr Hudson took the juvenile turtle, which is about 12 inches long, to Blue Reef Aquarium in Newquay, where it is now receiving round-the-clock treatment.

A recent report from marine biologists at the University of Exeter Penryn campus found

that hundreds of marine turtles die every year after becoming entangled in rubbish in the oceans.

A worldwide survey of 106 marine experts by the university found that 91% of the entangled turtles are found dead, with many having suffered serious wounds which have amputated limbs or choked them to death.

Others that survived were forced to drag huge mounds of discarded rubbish or debris with them until they die.

Professor Brendan Godley, professor of conservation science and director of the Centre for Ecology & Conservation at the University of Exeter's Penryn campus and the lead author, said: "Plastic rubbish in the oceans, including lost or

discarded fishing gear which is not biodegradable, is a major threat to marine turtles.

"We found, based on beach strandings, that more than 1,000 turtles are dying a year after becoming tangled up, but this is almost certainly a gross underestimate. Young turtles and hatchlings are vulnerable to entanglement."

Newspapers and other media



A Kemp's Ridley Turtle from the United States was washed up on Holywell Bay beach and is now being nursed back to health

Observant observers (especially those with cameras)

Seasonal variables: cuttlefish eggs on 9 April 2017 – much earlier than usual



Blogs. Here: <https://cornishrockpools.com/blog/> (Heather Buttivant)

Cornish Rock Pools

WELCOME TO CORNISH ROCK POOLS


LATEST NEWS

HOW TO ROCK POOL ▾

BEACHES ▾

WILDLIFE ▾

FO



WILDLIFE

FINALLY! PORTUGUESE MAN O' WAR IN LOOE

🕒 OCTOBER 15, 2017 💬 6 COMMENTS

I'm always pleased to hear about interesting things other people have found around Cornwall especially from readers of this blog. I've been more than a touch jealous these last few weeks, however, of all the people finding Portuguese man o'war. They turn up occasionally

Twitter



Sealife Survey
@SealifeSurvey

Home

About

Photos

Events

Videos

Posts

Comm

Info and

Liked

(copied from Facebook link)

 **Sealife Survey**
1 November 2017 · 🌐

These have been popping up all over the place - have you found one yet? It's a "Portuguese Man O' War".
This was found in Wadebridge, Cornwall on the Canal estuary way up the river by Jonny Falconar. Thanks, Jonny!



73 views

 **Devon & Severn IFCA**
@DevonSevernIFCA

Follow

Free, downloadable mobile app Epicollect5 to record recreational fisher's ray catches as part of [#LymeBay](#) [#Fisheries](#) and Conservation Reserve's ongoing study. bit.ly/2SLK2de



11:51 PM - 7 Jan 2019

5 Retweets 5 Likes



 **Falmouth Marine Conservation**
@FMConservation

Follow

[#Humpback](#) [#Whale](#) filmed in [#Falmouth](#) Bay yesterday - just a week after we celebrated [#WorldWhaleDay](#)! Can you believe it?! Click the link below 📲 to see epic video: facebook.com/Falmarineconse ...

[#HumpbackWhale](#) [#Marine](#) [#Ocean](#)
[#MarineMammal](#) [#Cornwall](#) [#VisitCornwall](#)
[#MarineLife](#) [#FalRiver](#)



Verified Marine records from Indicia-based surveys

MARINE BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

DESCRIPTION

Data include a subset of iSpot records: www.ispotnature.org, those submitted to the iSpot scheme: www.mba.ac.uk/recording. Records are verified by organisations including the Marine Biological Association and the Conchological Society.

GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION

UK wide but consists of ad hoc reports so geographic coverage coverage

PURPOSE

Collected voluntarily, iSpot records are recorded by members of the public. Records submitted to the MBA Recording scheme are reported sightings from a wide range of recording schemes.

DATA QUALITY

All data has been verified using the iRecord verification system, by relevant experts.

METHODS

Records captured using Indicia-based surveys.

CITATION

Verified Marine records from Indicia-based surveys by Marine Biological Association under licence CC BY.

Released under DASSH terms and conditions – See <http://www.dassh.ac.uk/terms-and-conditions>

RIGHTS

CC-BY

Records from verified and standardised recording schemes, e.g. iRecord, iSpot

(Indicia is a toolkit that simplifies the development of recording websites by providing ready-made components required to build online recording websites.)



Est. 1884
Incorporated by
Royal Charter 2013

10,538 records

Data access

View records

Download usage stats

Alert me about new records

Alert me about annotations

100% records have verified identifications

Citations

doi:10.15468/yfyeyg

8 citations for these data

Licence

Creative Commons with Attribution 4.0 4.0

Temporal scope

1844-06-01 - 2016-11-27



DASSH

The archive for marine species and habitats data

DASSH

The Archive for Marine Species and Habitats Data (DASSH)

Images © Keith Hiscock



DASSH is the UK Data Archive Centre for marine biodiversity data for both species and habitats.



Submit Data

DASSH can accommodate a wide range of electronic data types and file formats, and data can be submitting by post (on suitable media), by email or by File Transfer Protocol (FTP).

[Read more...](#)

Data Policy

DASSH is part of the UK's network of marine data archive centres, and works in collaboration with MEDIN. DASSH aims to safeguard marine benthic survey data (past and future) and to make that data available as a national information resource

[Read more...](#)

Data Management

DASSH manages data in a secure environment with a range of procedures in place to secure information from damage and unauthorised access and ensure that data quality and integrity is preserved.

[Read more...](#)

Accredited through the [MEDIN partnership](#), and core-funded by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Scottish Government, DASSH provides tools and services for the long-term curation, management and publication of marine species and habitats data, within the UK and internationally.

DASSH is a flagship initiative of the [Marine Biological Association \(MBA\)](#), and builds on the MBA's historic role in marine science. Through partnerships with other UK and European data centres DASSH contributes to data portals including the [NBN Atlas](#), [EMODnet](#), [EurOBIS](#) and [GBIF](#).

DASSH Partners



Quick Navigation

[Top of this Page](#)
[Submit Data](#)
[Search Catalogues](#)
[Contact DASSH](#)
[Data Access](#)

Interrogate NBN records on the NBN Atlas – this one is ‘rare’ ‘marine’ species in ‘2017’

Trouble is: records not getting through in reasonable time, some organisations withhold records, the ‘touchstone’ list of nationally rare and scarce species is from 1996!

Occurrence records

species_list_uid:dr653

Quick search

Download

120 results for Data resource: Nationally rare marine species

Some of the displayed records may not be available for commercial use. Please check the licence conditions and non-commercial use guidance here

Selected filters: Year: '2017'

Narrow your results

Selected filters

Year: '2017'

Taxon

Scientific name

☐ *Amphianthus dohrni* (24)

☐ *Suberites massa* (24)

☐ *Caryophyllia (Caryophyllia) inornata* (17)

☐ *Polysyncrator lacazei* (13)

☐ *Dysidea pallens* (10)

choose more...

Attribution

Identification

Identification verification status

☐ Accepted (33)

☐ Accepted - considered correct (77)

☐ Not Reviewed (2)

☐ Unconfirmed (8)

choose more...

Occurrence

Month

☐ January (2)

☐ March (7)

☐ April (6)

☐ May (15)

☐ June (14)

choose more...

Records

Map

Charts

Record images

View in spatial portal

Download map

Map type: Variable grids

Size: 4

Opacity: 0.8

Outline: ☐

Map of the British Isles showing occurrence records for the species *Amphianthus dohrni* in 2017. The map displays the distribution of records across the British Isles, with a focus on the English Channel and the North Sea. The records are represented by yellow squares, indicating the locations where the species was observed. The map includes labels for major cities and regions, such as London, Cardiff, Plymouth, and Guernsey. The map is interactive, allowing users to zoom in and out, and to download the map data.

Lat: 50.7610 Lng: -3.7161

Leaflet | Map data © OpenStreetMap, imagery © CartoDB

Marine natural history groups on Facebook:

- UK Cephalopod reports
- Porcupine MNHS
- Marine Life News (Glaucus)
- Seasearch identifications
- IoS Wildlife Trust
- Lundy Marine Sightings
- Crustacea of the NE Atlantic and NW Europe
- British Marine Mollusca
- Seasearch Cornwall
- Shoresearch Cornwall

There are more!

Facebook post from the group **UK cephalopod reports**.

UK cephalopod reports
Public group

About
Discussion
Units
Chats
Announcements
Members
Events
Videos
Photos
Files

Search this group

Shortcuts

- UK Viz Reports 3
- Plymouth Sound Divers 7
- UK cephalopod reports
- Lundy Island 20+
- Seasearch south and... 1

Philip Shinton
6 June 2018

first uk octopus in 30years diving- 10m, daytime, dorset



Chris Rickard, Julie Hatcher and 54 others
5 comments 9 shares

‘Hidden treasure’:
significant
observations in
posts by divers and
rockpoolers

Facebook interface showing a post from Keith Hiscock in the UK Viz Reports group.

UK Viz Reports
Closed group

About
Discussion
Chats
Announcements
Members
Events
Videos
Photos
Files
Recommendations



Search this group

Shortcuts

- UK Viz Reports
- Plymouth Sound Divers 1
- UK cephalopod reports 5
- Seasearch south and... 1

Keith Hiscock
2 January

Eddystone North reef with Plymouth Sound Divers - about 10 m visibility and water temperature 11.9 deg.C. A positively tropical feel capped-off by seeing a Mediterranean **Common octopus**.



Kirsty Andrews, Christine Ingram and 120 others
14 comments

Providing context

'Return' of crawfish to extinction sites in south-west Britain.
2014 onwards.



Interviewing 1960s crawfish divers at Newlyn on 21
December 2018

Ensuring that casual and systematic observations contribute to the 'big picture'

Improving how it used to be done and should be done now (ongoing work):

THE PLYMOUTH MARINE FAUNA ONLINE

Octopus vulgaris
Common octopus



Octopus vulgaris.

Image: David Nicholson / Marine Biological Association of the UK

- Phylum Mollusca
- Class Cephalopoda
- Habitat Information
 - Found on rocky coasts, shallow sublittoral. Has adapted to live in very different habitats
- Species description
 - A medium to large sized octopus with a distinctly warty body.
 - The arms are thick and stout bearing two rows of longitudinal suckers.
 - The colour varies from grey-yellow-brown-green and can change according to the situation.
- PMF archive information
 - Unavailable
- Species name is listed in the PMF at the following locations:
 - >Shores of Salcombe Harbour
 - The Salstone

[View /fact/1/ Basic Information for this species.](#)

OCTOPUS VULGARIS Lamarck [Jeffreys, 1869, V, p. 144]

On the shore and from lobster-pots; generally only a few specimens are obtained during the summer months, but it varies greatly in abundance in different years (E.J.A.): exceptionally plentiful in 1900 (W.G.) and in 1951 (D.P.W.; Rees, 1950b; Rees and Lumby, 1954)

SALCOMBE. Three specimens were found nested on the southern end of the Salstone (Aug. 12th); also taken in the dredge, and with seine nets (tucknet) in Salcombe Harbour (Todd in Allen and Todd, 1900, p. 212)

Breeding: spawned in aquarium, March 1947 and in April 1951 (D.P.W.): teapot containing spawn and small female trawled Middle Grounds, July 1952; eggs hatched at various times during the first three weeks of Aug.; larvae survived one week after hatching (G.R.F.): one planktonic larva off Looe, August 1950 (Rees and Lumby, 1954, p. 519)

www.mba.ac.uk/pmf

J. Mar. biol. Ass. U.K. (1954) 33, 515-536
Printed in Great Britain

515

THE ABUNDANCE OF *OCTOPUS* IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL

By W. J. Rees and J. R. Lumby

(Text-figs. 1-5)

During 1950, the Common Octopus (*Octopus vulgaris* Lamarck) was to be found along the south coast of England in greater numbers than at any time since Garstang (1900) reported on the 'plague' on the coasts of Devon and Cornwall in 1899-1900.



MarLIN
The Marine Life Information Network

Information on the biology of species and the ecology of habitats found around the coasts and seas of the British Isles



Species

Habitats

Sensitivity

Evidence

Traits

Search



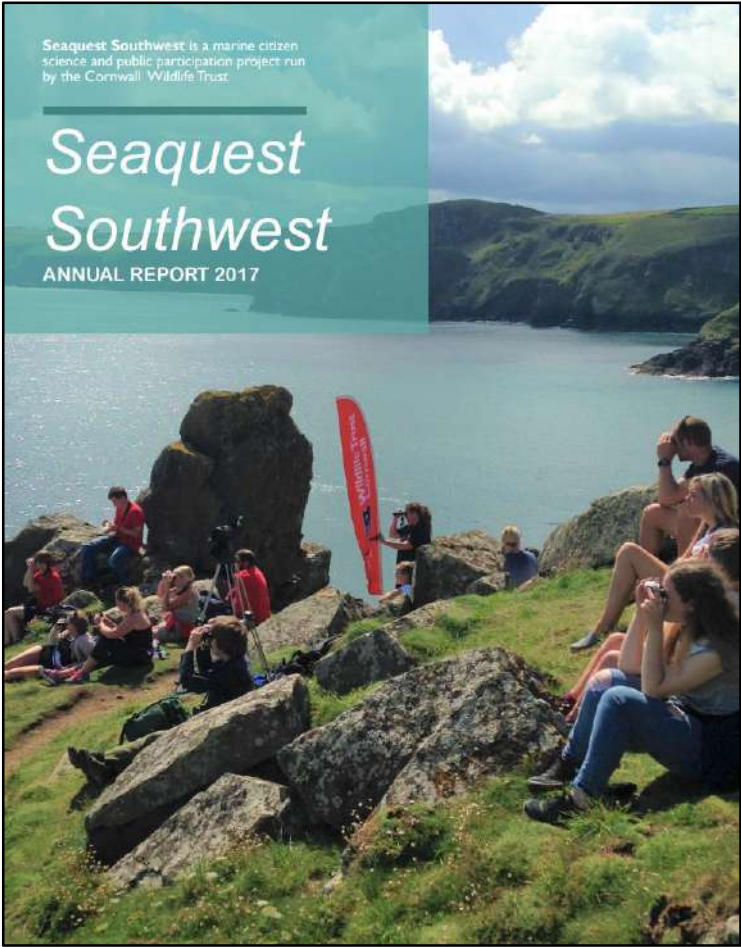
‘Mega’ problem (to my mind):

There is no ‘place’ to record ‘events’ and ‘trends’ for particular species.

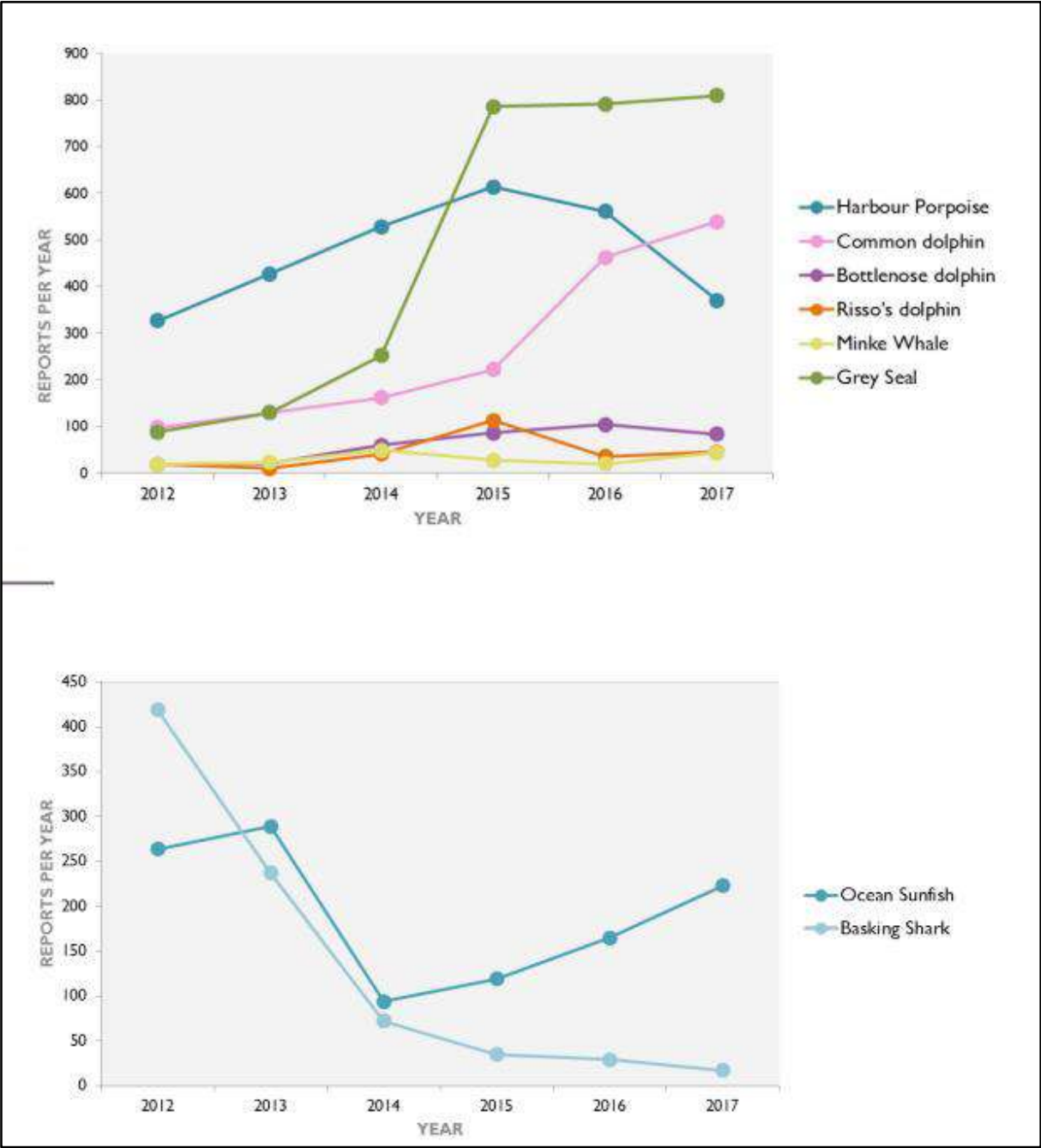
For instance:

- When reproduction of a species occurs;
- Seasonal change (occurrence, abundance, condition etc. of species);
- Persistence of a species;
- Unusual abundances;
- Unusual mortalities;
- Disease events.

Revealing trends (where casual observations contribute)



www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/seaquest



How should it be done now?

Enter your record to a scheme that contributes to the National Biodiversity Network. For instance:



Contribute your records to the
SWME annual meeting and report