

Seasearch Training 2019

It has been another great year for Seasearch Cornwall, led by Cornwall Wildlife Trust. This year we trained 10 new Seasearchers and 6 of them qualified as fully fledged Seasearch Observers. A total of 10 days of diving were organised by CWT and a total of 16 dives carried out. On top of this our volunteers submitted a huge number of forms from personal recreational dives. Also popular this year were our informal talks on anemones and our anemone specialist course. We had a brilliant promotional film made by Falmouth University student Nina Powell and fellow student Shannon Moran won our prize for submitting the most Seasearch foms! A total of 17 !!! Well done Shannon.

Group	Number of Species
cnidarian	62
red alga	52
mollusc	46
sponge	47
bryozoan	16
tunicate	30
crustacean	29
bony fish	46
brown algae	29
annelid	18
echinoderm	19
cartilaginous fish	4
sea spider	0
green algae	7
fungus	0
marine mammal	0
flatworm	1

Number of Seasearch forms:	110
Number of divers/recorders:	31
Number of species recorded:	421
Number of species records:	3924
Number of biotopes recorded:	47
Number of biotope records:	283

It has been another great year!

Massive thanks to all who are involved, our volunteer divers, Seasearch tutors, boat skippers, underwater photographers, supporters and funders. we cant do all this without you!

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Facebook group
 Seasearch Cornwall



Seasearch Cornwall 2019 was Funded by: **Tesco's bags for life**, **The Fishmongers Company** and **Sea-Changers**.

These Survey dives were conducted as part of the national Seasearch programme. Seasearch is a volunteer underwater survey project for recreational divers to actively contribute to the conservation of the marine environment. . For details of Seasearch in Cornwall visit www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/seasearch



Cornwall Wildlife Trust



Cornwall Wildlife Trust 

Protecting Cornwall's wildlife
 and wild places

Seasearch Cornwall - Summary Report 2019



Happy Seasearchers at Udder rock, by Matt Slater



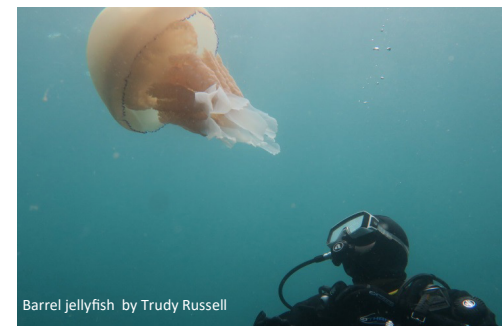
Red blenny by Yvonne Oates



Butterfly blenny by John Yarrow (Falmouth Bay)



Octopus vulgaris by Kennack Divers



Barrel jellyfish by Trudy Russell



Anemone shrimp, Silver Steps Falmouth by Fiona Crouch



Return of the bass

All around Cornwall shoals of bass have been spotted by Seasearch divers and snorkelers. We hope that this is a sign that EU wide bass management measures including an increased minimum landing size (42cm), a ban on pair trawling for bass in area VII and closed seasons for angling and commercial fishing are starting to work. Additionally, local fisheries byelaws such as the ban on netting in the estuaries will also help bass stocks. Snorkelling or free diving is a great way to see bass. Just hide in the kelp and let them come to you. They were also spotted in large numbers by Seasearch divers when we surveyed the Quies, and Runnelstone reefs this summer.

We made it to The Runnelstone!

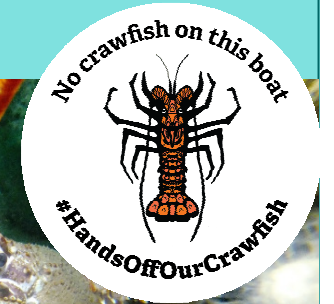


Jewel Anemones by Matt Slater

Thanks to some lovely weather and a great skipper (Charles Hood) we finally made it out to dive on the Runnelstone! This offshore reef, due south of Gwennap Head, is an awe inspiring dive site. Right out in the open ocean, with huge granite pinnacles covered in jewel anemones and elegant anemones, and brilliant visibility it was an exhilarating dive! Mark left his camera there sadly (by accident of course!).

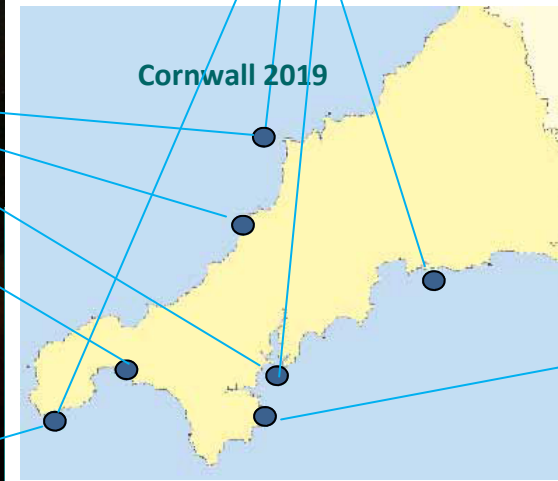
#HandsOffOurCrawfish

In spring 2019 we launched our campaign (funded by Sea-Change) to educate and encourage divers to set a good example and not to collect crawfish. This year has seen another good year for crawfish sightings with large animals being seen on both coasts, as well as large numbers of small crawfish around which is encouraging. We repeated our annual survey of the SS Volnay and SS Mohegan boilers and carried out crawfish searches on the Quies, off Trevoze Head, and in St Austell bay. Crawfish seem to be here *en-mass* but they could very quickly be over fished, which is why we set up our campaign to highlight the issue to divers. Hands off our crawfish stickers are now appearing on dive boats all around the UK and in Ireland and the Channel Isles. Lets hope these creatures are here to stay after their long absence. If you haven't pledged not to take crawfish on your dives please visit our website to do so! **Leaflets and stickers are still available for dive clubs, schools shops etc.**



Crawfish Janet Dallimore

Cornwall 2019

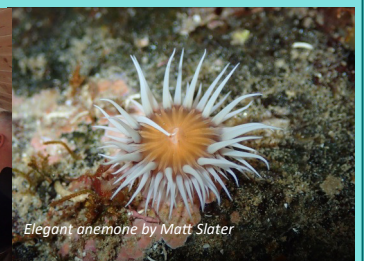


Polyp pointers

Chris Wood led a well attended Seasearch specialist course at Porthkerris, subsidised by our Tesco bags for life funding. This brilliant weekend saw some excellent dives on the Manacles reef at Carn-du, off Drawna rock, and in a very different habitat in Helford Pit, a deep water channel in the middle of the Helford estuary, which was gloomy but full of life! Top finds were pink fingers (front cover) and scarlet & gold cup corals both found on Drawna rock and pink sea fan anemones found on Carn-du.



Pink fingers at Drawna Rocks - Shannon Moran



Elegant anemone by Matt Slater