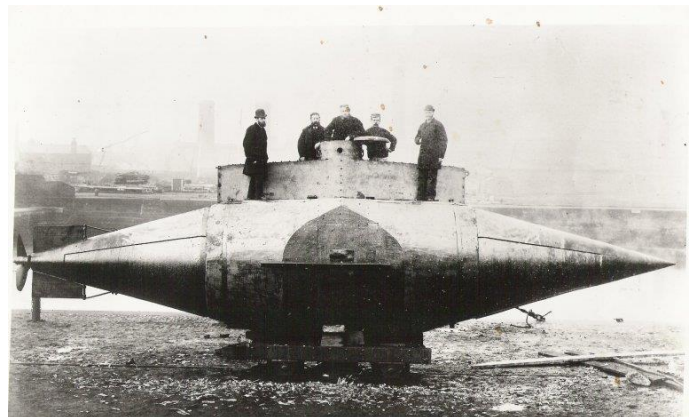


Resurgam II Survey 2018

This report summarises the results of a survey carried out in August 2018 by Seasearch divers from Chester SAC. The Resurgam II was a three-man Victorian steam powered iron submarine. She sank in high winds in February 1880 whilst being towed to her new home, lying at rest in Colwyn Bay. She is a protected wreck and a licence is required to dive her.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-19146040>



<https://content21.wordpress.com/2013/03/03/resurgam-voyage-to-the-bottom-of-the-sea/>

Survey Dive Details

Six tutor-led Observer dives, 1 Observer dive and 1 Surveyor dive were carried out on the Resurgam II in August 2018. In total 7 Observation forms and 1 Survey form were completed. The data was compared to a survey carried out in 1998 by the Sub-Map project. Absence of species in 2018 does not necessarily infer they were absent, just not observed.

Metridium dianthus (plumose anemones) was the most predominant species recorded on wreck, which covered the upper structure. Towards the seabed, *Polydora* sp. and *Cirripedia* were dominant on the outside of the hull. A large shoal of *Trisopterus* sp. - both bib and poor cod - surrounded the wreck forming a heavy curtain. There were also sightings of *Conger conger*, *Parablennius gattorugine* (tompot blenny). Crustaceans were also seen - *Necora puber* (velvet swimming crab) *Cancer pagurus* (edible crab) and *Homarus gammarus* (lobster) and interestingly *Maja brachydactyla* (large spider crab).

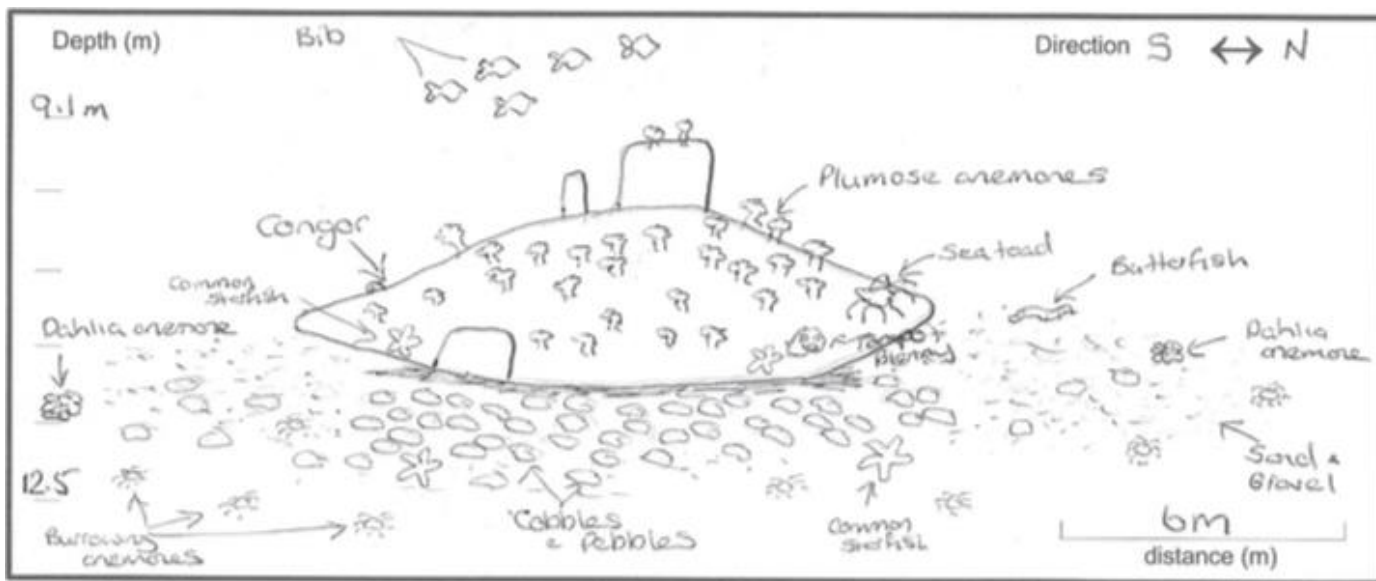
The area surrounding the wreck was very interesting providing a wealth of life. The ground composed of cobbles; pebbles and coarse sand were teeming with *Asterias rubens* (common starfish), *Psammechinus miliaris* (green urchin) and *Callionymus* sp. (dragonet). There were plenty of burrowing anemones, *Cerianthus lloydii*. Bivalves were also plentiful - empty shells from *Ostrea edulis* (European oyster), razor clams, *Aequipecten opercularis* (queen scallop), *Buccinum undatum* (common whelk) and Icelandic cyprine (*Artica islandica*) were all seen with bivalve siphons also evident.

Most of the species observed in 1998 were also seen again in 2018 but noticeably a number of new species were also recorded - a conger eel had found a hole in the front section and had been spotted on earlier dives throughout the season. A lobster had also made the wreck his home being spotted by several divers. The colony of *Asterias rubens*

seemed to have grown. Several new records of fish were also found around the wreck - *Scyliorhinus canicula* (cat shark and her eggs) and *Pholis gunnellus* (butterfish).

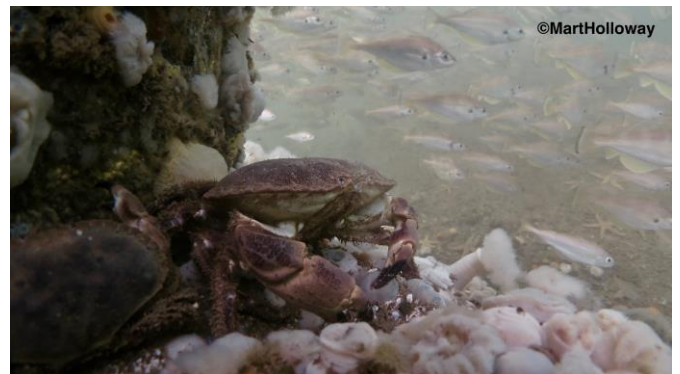
Both the wreck and the surrounding ground are showing a healthy variety of marine life, it would be interesting to extend the survey further around the wreck as the sand dominates the seabed to see the life there. It is hoped the survey will be at least an annual occurrence and it would also be interesting to see the difference in life over the course of a year.

Dive site profile



Photos





Species list

The abundances given in this report and on the recording forms relate to the SACFOR (Superabundant, Abundant, Common, Frequent, Occasional, Rare) abundance scales¹. Separate records were made of the wreck of the submarine and of the surrounding seabed. The species found were as follows, in taxonomic order:

Species found on the wreck

Name	Common Name	1998	2018
Cnidarians			
<i>Tubularia indivisa</i>	Oaten pipe hydroid	Occasional	
<i>Diphasia rosacea</i>		Frequent	
<i>Obelia</i> sp.	Kelp fur	Frequent	
<i>Metridium dianthus</i>	Plumose anemones	Superabundant	Superabundant
<i>Sagartia elegans</i>	Elegant anemone	Common	
	Feathery hydroids		Common
Worms			
<i>Polydora</i> sp.		Superabundant	Common
Crustaceans			
<i>Cirripedia</i>	Barnacles	Superabundant	Common
<i>Amphipoda indet.</i>	Amphipods	Occasional	
<i>Hyas araneus</i>	Sea toad	Rare	
<i>Cancer pagurus</i>	Edible crab	Occasional	Rare
<i>Necora puber</i>	Velvet swimming crab	Occasional	Rare
<i>Maja brachydactyla</i>	Spiny spider crab		Rare
<i>Homarus gammarus</i>	European lobster		Rare
Molluscs			
<i>Doris pseudoargus</i>	Sea Lemon	Occasional	
<i>Aeolidia papillosa</i>		Frequent	

¹ See <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2684>

Name	Common Name	1998	2018
<i>Hiatella arctica</i>		Occasional	
Echinoderms			
<i>Asterias rubens</i>	Common starfish	Common	Frequent
Fish			
<i>Trisopterus luscus</i>	Bib	Common	Superabundant
<i>Trisopterus minutus</i>	Poor cod	Common	Superabundant
<i>Taurulus bubalis</i>	Long-spined Sea Scorpion	Common	Rare
<i>Labrus bergylta</i>	Ballan Wrasse	Occasional	
<i>Pholis gunnellus</i>	Butterfish	Frequent	
<i>Callionymus</i> sp.	Dragonets	Occasional	
<i>Conger conger</i>	Conger eel		Rare
<i>Parablennius gattorugine</i>	Tompot blenny		Rare

Species found on the seabed

Name	Common Name	1998	2018
Cnidarians			
<i>Corymorpha nutans</i>	Nodding hydroid	Rare	
<i>Tubularia indivisa</i>	Oaten pipe hydroid	Rare	
<i>Hydrallmania falcata</i>	Helter-skelter hydroid	Frequent	
<i>Sertularia argentea</i>	Squirrel's tail hydroid	Occasional	
<i>Sertularia cupressina</i>	Squirrel's tail hydroid	Occasional	Rare
<i>Alcyonium digitatum</i>	Deadmen's Fingers	Occasional	Occasional
<i>Cerianthus llyodii</i>	Burrowing anemone	Common	Common
<i>Urticina felina</i>	Dahlia anemone	Rare	Rare
<i>Metridium dianthus</i>	Plumose anemones	Occasional	Rare

<i>Sagartia elegans</i>	Elegant anemone	Rare	
	Feathery hydroids		Common
<i>Sagartia troglodytes</i>	Mud Sagartia		Rare
<i>Nemertesia antennina</i>	Antenna Hydroid		Rare
Worms			
<i>Chaetopterus</i> sp.	Parchment worm	Frequent	
<i>Lanice conchilega</i>	Sand mason worm	Occasional	Occasional
<i>Spirobranchus</i> sp.	Keel worm	Rare	
Crustaceans			
<i>Cirripedia</i>	Barnacles	Frequent	Common
<i>Hyas araneus</i>	Sea toad	Occasional	Rare
<i>Hyas coarctatus</i>		Occasional	
<i>Cancer pagurus</i>	Edible crab	Rare	Rare
<i>Necora puber</i>	Velvet swimming crab	Rare	Frequent
<i>Pagurus bernhardus</i>	Hermit crab		Rare
Molluscs			
<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	Common whelk	Rare	
<i>Doto</i> sp		Occasional	
	Bivalve siphons		Rare
<i>Mytilis edulis</i>	Common/blue mussel		Rare
<i>Modiolus modiolus</i>	Horse mussel		Rare
Bryozoans			
<i>Alcyonidium diaphanum</i>	Finger bryozoan	Rare	
<i>Electra pilosa</i>	Frosty sea mat	Frequent	

<i>Flustra foliacea</i>	Hornwrack		Rare
<i>Bugula</i> sp.			Rare
Echinoderms			
<i>Asterias rubens</i>	Common starfish	Common	Abundant
<i>Ophiura albida</i>	Brittle star	Rare	
<i>Psammechinus miliaris</i>	Green urchin		Abundant
<i>Ophiura ophiura</i>	Sand brittle star		Rare
Fish			
<i>Trisopterus minutus</i>	Poor cod	Common	Occasional
<i>Taurulus bubalis</i>	Long-spined Sea Scorpion	Occasional	Common
<i>Labrus bergylta</i>	Ballan Wrasse	Occasional	Rare
<i>Callionymus</i> sp.	Dragonets	Occasional	Abundant
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Frequent	
<i>Pholis gunnellus</i>	Butterfish		Frequent
<i>Agonus cataphractus</i>	Pogge		Rare
<i>Limanda limanda</i>	Dab		Rare
<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i>	Cat shark		Rare

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Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Chester SAC for inviting me to join their dives and to add a new and exciting site to the map of the North Wales. Thanks to photographers Martin Holloway and Marion Dykes for allowing me to use their photos in this report and thanks to Toni Jenkins for her fabulous schematic diagram of the dive site.

This report has been compiled by Wendy Northway, based on Seasearch Survey records made by Wendy Northway, and Seasearch Observation records made by Steve Clarkson, Marion Dykes, Dave Hodgson, Martin Holloway, Toni Jenkins, Colin Mee and Denis Mahar.

Seasearch is a partnership between the Marine Conservation Society (MCS), The Wildlife Trusts, statutory nature conservation bodies and others, co-ordinated nationally by MCS and co-ordinated and delivered locally in England by Wildlife Trust and MCS local co-ordinators. For more information on Seasearch and to see all of the partners involved nationally, please visit www.seasearch.org.uk or email info@seasearch.org.uk

