

Seasearch Cornwall 2020

An untypical year! A global pandemic put a stop to our plans, however once the first lockdown ended many of our volunteers made up for lost time and completed a good number of dives and snorkels! Sadly we had to cancel an observer course but thanks to zoom we were able to create online talks and events to keep our volunteers learning and enthused! This summer we had a spectacular run of Atlantic bluefin tuna in SW waters and Andy Grants picture is the best encounter by a diver we have seen yet!

| Group | Number of Species |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| cnidarian | 44 |
| red alga | 33 |
| mollusc | 38 |
| sponge | 33 |
| bryozoan | 9 |
| tunicate | 22 |
| crustacean | 21 |
| bony fish | 46 |
| brown algae | 23 |
| annelid | 15 |
| echinoderm | 17 |
| cartilaginous fish | 4 |
| sea spider | 3 |
| green algae | 3 |
| fungus | 0 |
| marine mammal | 0 |
| flatworm | 0 |

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Number of Seasearch forms: | 57 |
| Number of divers/recorders: | 14 |
| Number of species recorded: | 316 |
| Number of species records: | 1738 |
| Number of biotopes recorded: | 30 |
| Number of biotope records: | 126 |

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!

Matt Slater, Cornwall Wildlife Trust
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Facebook group
 Seasearch Cornwall



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
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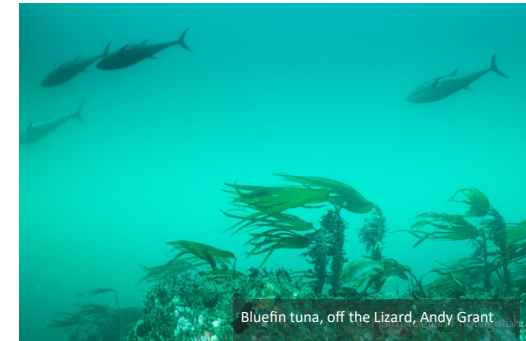
Cornwall Wildlife Trust
 Protecting Cornwall's wildlife
 and wild places



Seasearch Cornwall - Summary Report 2020



Seagrass seeds, Durgan, August 2020



Bluefin tuna, off the Lizard, Andy Grant



Solar powered seaslug *Elysia viridis*, Matt Slater



Colonial squirt *Sidnyum turbinatum*, Matt Slater



Placida cremoniana, Shannon Moran



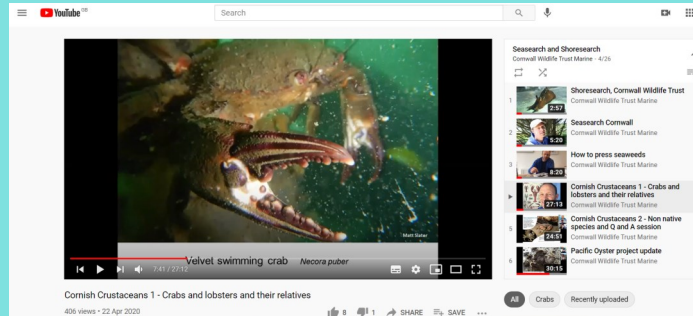
Blue jellyfish over kelp forest Matt Slater

Seasearch goes online!

During the coronavirus lockdown we were forced to modernise and embrace technology, most notably the use of Zoom. Online talks were recorded and put up on the CWT Marine Team You tube channel giving far more people a chance to develop their marine knowledge during this difficult time when many were unable to access the sea.

Talks included—Cornish Cnidarians (Matt Slater), Nudibranches of Cornwall (Heather Buttivant, blog Cornish Rockpooling), Seaweeds for Rockpoolers (Matt Slater), Photographing seaweeds (Michiel Vos—blog; An Bollenessor), ReMEDIES project introduction (Fiona Crouch) and Seagrass Restoration and advanced moorings by (Mark Parry, OCT), Cornish Crustaceans (Matt Slater), Pacific Oyster project (Matt Slater) and many more. All can be found on the CWT marine You tube channel. Zoom is now being used for online training courses and meetings and going really well.

<https://bit.ly/3alj0hT>

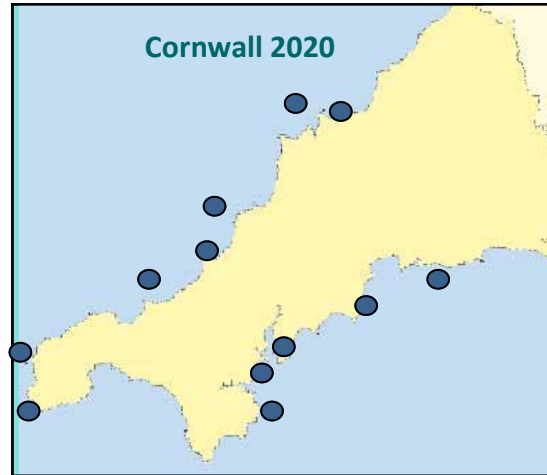


Crawfish are back but lets not forget to record them!

This year crawfish continued to be a common sight on our reefs and wrecks all around Cornwall. However the commercial fishing industry are logging a massive increase in landings of crawfish each year. We are very worried that without better protection they may become a rare sight once more. To enable us to track the situation we really need divers to continue reporting the crawfish they encounter, including numbers seen and approximate sizes of each. My personal highlight was diving on a reef in Falmouth bay that was teeming with Crawfish – a total of 22 crawfish were counted on one small area of reef approx. 20m long! If you haven't already please sign our pledge that you wont collect crawfish on your dives and if you run a boat please sign up too—we will provide stickers to display on your boat and dive cylinders!



Cornwall 2020



Exciting discoveries of the Nudi kind

Of course when Seasearching we all know to pay proper attention to the entire habitat, all the species and physical features that make up the biotopes we explore. However every now and then our volunteers attention is captivated by a tiny mollusc or two! This year we have had lots of nudi discoveries including more sightings of the awesome *Discodoris rosi*, by Yvonne Oates and Tamsyn Mann, but the highlight of the year was the incredible discovery of the sap sucking nudibranch *Placidia cremoniata* (no common name sorry!) a new discovery for the UK – found by eagle eyed volunteer Shannon Moran! Well done Shannon it was only approx. 2mm long!

Mark's shore dives



Fabulous volunteer Mark card offered to run some informal shore dives for Seasearchers through summer 2021. Using a Whats app group he coordinated and organized some lovely opportunities for people who have done a Seasearch course to dive with other Seasearchers and to put their findings down on a Seasearch form! We are looking forward to seeing this continue and Mark who is also a keen Freediver is very keen to organize some snorkels too looking for seagrass!



Placidia cremoniata—at Silver Steps Falmouth, by Shannon Moran



Discodoris rosi, at Porthkerris by Yvonne Oates