BAP species were recorded as follows:

- **Sunset cup coral** was verified at a new site at South Menawethan having been reported earlier in the year by another Seasearch diver and was also recorded at Gap Point and Wingletang Ledges.

- **Stalked jellies** were plentiful on the eelgrass in Tean Sound and at least two eelgrass beds in Tean Sound were thick and healthy despite a coating of sea squirt.

- **Pink sea fans** on many leaves. The eelgrass gave shelter to many small fish including 15 spined stickleback, clingfish and short-spined sea scorpion.

- **BAP species** were especially targeted - pink sea fan, sunset cup coral and eelgrass sites in particular. The team also recorded several south western species and some rare species.

- **Recorders** were Seasearch tutors, experienced Surveyors and Observers with one trainee Observer. Their varied marine biological expertise dictated to some extent the species noted. Most had underwater cameras which proved an invaluable tool in identifying certain species. The table on page 4 shows totals of species recorded.

**Surveys** from recent years have covered a total of 31 sites. In 2008 forms were received from the Seasearch survey week (September) and from individual divers from two other weeks (May & July). This report is compiled using the results from 12 Surveyor forms and 24 Observer forms covering 25 different sites, 11 of which were previously unsurveyed by Seasearch. Sites reflect the prevailing westerly winds with most on the south, east and north of the islands. Underwater habitats were mixed, with rocky reef, boulders, sediments and wrecks all represented.

BAP species were especially targeted - pink sea fan, sunset cup coral and eelgrass sites in particular. The team also recorded several south western species and some rare species. **Recorders** were Seasearch tutors, experienced Surveyors and Observers with one trainee Observer. Their varied marine biological expertise dictated to some extent the species noted. Most had underwater cameras which proved an invaluable tool in identifying certain species. The table on page 4 shows totals of species recorded.

**Survey sites in 2008** are listed here with a brief description and many species recorded.

- **South Glastone**
  - vertical walls & gullies - one pink sea fan, many football sea squirts, nudibranch *Doris sticta*

- **Peter’s Rock**
  - sloping & vertical reef - red blenny, nudibranch *Discodoris rosi*

- **Team Sound**
  - shallow sedimentary site - eelgrass, stalked jellies, many anemones (photo above), clingfish, 15 spined stickleback (photo front page), short-spined sea scorpion

- **Gap Point**
  - silt covered bedrock & boulders - sunset cup corals, scarlet & gold cup corals, Devonshire cup corals

- **Ridge High Corner**
  - sheer bedrock wall with boulders at base - football sea squirts, yellow cluster anemones

- **Menawethan**
  - bedrock & boulders - scarlet & gold cup corals, Atlantic grey seals

- **Tenemene**
  - Stepped ledges & steep gullies - jewel anemones abundant

- **Plympton**
  - wreck site - pink & white sea fans, sea fan anemones

- **Trinity Rock**
  - walls & gullies - pink sea fans

- **Flat Ledges**
  - steep sided walls, ledges & deep gullies - anglerfish

- **King Cadwallen**
  - wreck site - 5 species of nudibranch

- **North Chapel Rock**
  - wreck & reef - wide range of species including white sea fan

- **Men-a-var**
  - surge gully - wide range of species

- **Wingletang**
  - walls & blocks with gullies & crevices - sunset cup corals

**New sites**

- **Black Rocks**
  - rocky reef - range of algae

- **Golden Ball**
  - rocky reef - varied species

- **Westward ledge**
  - rocky reef - many cnidarians

- **South Menawethan**
  - vertical wall with crevices & boulders at base - golden kelp, sunset cup corals, nudibranch *Doris sticta*

- **Scilly Reef**
  - wreckage with vertical walls & gullies - red blennies, many species of nudibranch, Atlantic grey seal

- **Deep Ledge**
  - walls & pinnacles - golden kelp, 10 species of sponge, cod, red blenny, long gill net set along the reef

- **Gall’s Stone**
  - rocky reef, sandy gullies & ledges - pink sea fans, sea fan anemones, 14 species of sponge

- **Dry Ledge**
  - rocky reef with walls & flat ledges - nudibranch *Discodoris rosi* (the first British record), snakelocks anemone at depth of 25m, 20 varieties of sponge

- **J S Wall**
  - walls, ledges & gullies - nudibranch *Favorinus bilanus*, sea fan, sea fan anemone, slime sponge, red blenny

- **Spanish Ledges**
  - steep-sided bedrock pinnacle - large sea fans, sea fan anemone, red blennies, many large potato crisp bryozoans

- **Miniha**
  - steep wall with deep, narrow gully - scarlet & gold cup coral, 6 species of nudibranch

**Other species**

- **Seaweeds** being seasonal were recorded mostly in May and July. By September they were beginning to die off and identification was more difficult. However golden kelp, *Laminaria ochroleuca*, (a SW species) was recorded on many sites where there was kelp.

- **Many sponges** had a covering of juvenile brittlestars and seven-armed starfish recently settled, many of these tiny starfish also being evident in the water column whilst divers carried out safety stops. The hedgehog sponge *Polymastia boletiformis* with juvenile starfish was recorded (at two sites) for the first time in the British Isles, previously only known as far north as France. Nationally rare *Doris sticta* was also recorded at two sites. In total 23 nudibranch species were recorded.

- **Crustacea**, as in previous years, were not frequently recorded.

- **Fish** were recorded on most sites as occasional or rare. The red blenny *Parablennius ruber* was more plentiful than on previous trips and recorded from 4 sites (picture front page).
The table below shows the number of species together with some of the most common, the Biodiversity Action Plan, rare and uncommon species recorded in each phyla.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Number of species recorded</th>
<th>Common species</th>
<th>Nationally rare &amp; scarce, BAP &amp; uncommon species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Porifera Sponges</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Hedgehog sponge, Staghorn sponge, Polymastia boletiformis, Axinella dissimilis</td>
<td>Sinne sponge, Yellow sponge, Nemerobesia spp, Alcyonium digitatum, Stylommatophora glutinosa, Madoniella senile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cnidaria Anenomes, corals, hydroids</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Sea beard, Dead man's fingers, Red fingers, Plumose anemone, Elegant anemone, Jewell anemone, Decorative cup coral</td>
<td>Pink sea fan, Sea fan anemone, Sunset cup coral, Stalked jelly, Stalked jelly, Scarlet &amp; gold cup coral, Yellow dustier anemone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annelida Segmented worms</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Keelworm, Pomatoscolex spp</td>
<td>Discodoris rosii, Doris actea, Favorinus ilicans, Favorinus branchialis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crustacea Crabs, lobsters, barnacles</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Velvet swimming crab, Amphipod, Necora puber, Jassa galatia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mollusca Shells, sea slugs</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Nudibranchs, Coryphella browni, Polyena berenosinesis</td>
<td>Nudibranchs, Discodoris rosii, Doris actea, Favorinus ilicans, Favorinus branchialis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryozoa Sea mats</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Potato crisp bryozoan, Sea mat, Collaria, White claw sea moss</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echinodermata Starfish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Brittlestars (juveniles), Seveiri starfish, Seven armed starfish, Marthasterias glacialis, Luidia ciliaris</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunicata Sea squirts</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Orange sea squirt, Pink sea squirt, Stolotonica socialis, Sydnum elegans, Football sea squirt, Diazona violacea</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Piscia Fish</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pollack, Cowfish wrasse, Goldenbinnacle, Podobius podobius, Labrus mixtus, Clenotubus rupetrostris</td>
<td>Cod, BAP, Short-spined sea scorpion, Red blenny, Dallid morhua, Lophioderma labradus, Myxostoma acuta, Parablennius ruber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mammalia Mammals</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Atlantic grey seal, Halichoerus grypus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algae Seaweeds</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Cuvie, Laminaria hyperborea, Golden kelp, Laminaria ochroleuca</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angiospermae Eelgrass</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Eelgrass, Zostera marina</td>
<td>Eelgrass, BAP, Zostera marina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total species</td>
<td>206</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seasearch is a volunteer underwater survey project for recreational divers to contribute to the conservation of the marine environment. Financial support for the project during 2008 and for the production of this report has been given by Natural England and The Environment Agency.

Surveyors and recorders were Angie Gall, Mark Warren, Ken Questel, Dawn Watson, Rob Spray, Vicky Cartwright, Sally Sharrock, Alan Shuttleworth, Mike Woolf, Winter Dotto, Jayne Szekely, Tim Allsop, Anna Cawthray and John Ives.

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