

## Seasearch Training 2018

This year we carried out an Observer course in April led by Matt Slater and Caz Wadell, and Surveyor development course in June led by Sally Sharrock, Well done to all that took part especially those who officially qualified as observers! Well done! We also held some informal evening talks including: seaweeds for divers and Crustaceans for divers. We held a sponge social (with several species of sponge cake and a Seasearch specialist course on sponges in Autumn (see next page)

Number of Seasearch forms:	108
Number of divers/recorders:	36
Number of species recorded:	465
Number of species records	3941
Number of biotopes recorded:	49
Number of Biotope records:	296

It has been another amazing fantastic year. Massive thanks to our sponsors this year. Tesco bags for life, the Fishmongers company and Cornwall Councillors.

Lets hope 2019 is as good!

Matt Slater, Marine Awareness Officer, Cornwall Wildlife Trust



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Find us on facebook; Seasearch Cornwall

Group	Number of Species
coelenterate (cnidarian)	70
alga	54
mollusc	55
sponge	52
bryozoan	23
tunicate	33
crustacean	38
bony fish	48
chromist	29
annelid	18
echinoderm	22
cartilaginous fish	4
sea spider	1
foraminiferan	0
fungus	0
marine mammal	1
flatworm	1



These Survey dives were conducted as part of the national Seasearch Programme. Many volunteers took part in these surveys and we would like to thank all involved. 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](http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/seasearch) Please sign up to our mailing list via the website!



**Cornwall Wildlife Trust**



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Protecting Cornwall's wildlife and wild places

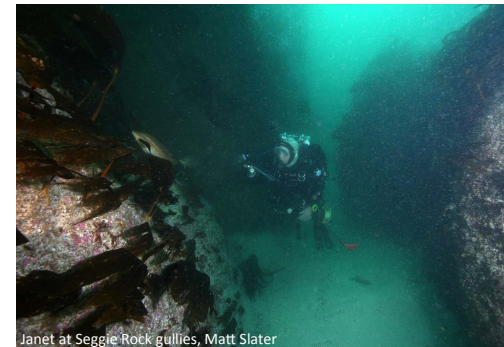
## Seasearch Cornwall - Summary Report 2018



Curled Octopus, *Eledone cirrhosa*, Mike Etheredge



Bass at Lamorna, Constance Morris



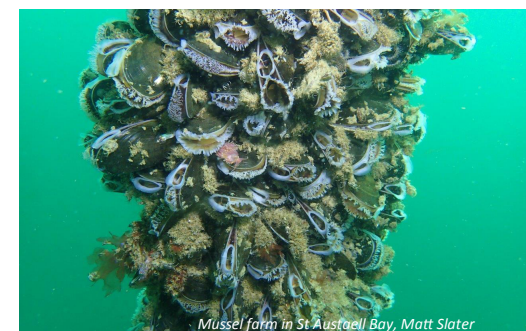
Janet at Seggie Rock gullies, Matt Slater



Red Blenny, Matt Slater



Overhangat logans gullies, Keith Hiscock



Mussel farm in St Austell Bay, Matt Slater

## Crawfish colonisation continues

Early in the season we were privileged to join Cornwall IFCA to carry out a crawfish survey of the wreck of the Volnay, just off the Manacles. We were astounded to record 20 crawfish many of which were juveniles living in the old boiler tubes. Through the year we have had more and more records and Falmouth Bay once again is a hot spot. The crawfish are growing with moulting being recorded in both summer and winter and we are concerned that many will reach the minimum landing size soon. We urge people to continue to report crawfish sightings using the Seasearch Crawfish reporting form or a seasearch form.



Crawfish Janet Dallimore

Crawfish are extremely vulnerable to fishing and over-collection by divers and we hope that sensible management will ensure that they don't get over exploited again

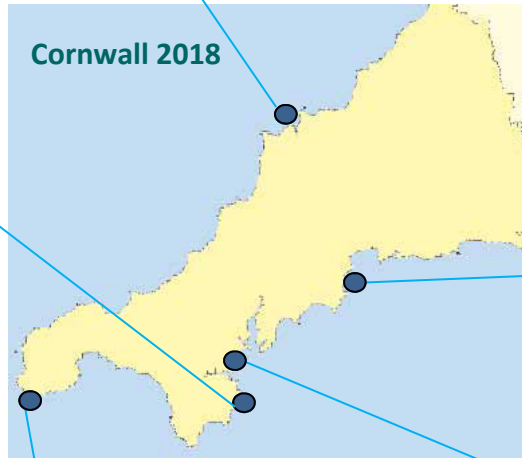
## North coast discoveries

Diving in Padstow MCZ is not easy to organise but well worth the effort. Diving with Hutch of Harlyn Divers aboard his rib 'Pressure seeker' which launches at Rock we surveyed the amazing Newlands Reef—bristling with hornwrack, Dead mans fingers and giant seafans. *Tubularia* were everywhere with large numbers of nudibranches feasting on them. Our second dive of the day was in the beautiful Perleze reef off Harlyn bay. Crumpled duster sponges were present in the gullies along with crawfish and scarlet and gold cup corals. Thanks to the enthusiasm of North Coast Diving duo Becky Gill and James Gregory we have had more forms than ever from this part of Cornwall which is rarely studied, including some of tecky James very adventurous deep dives, one carried out on a wreck within the Bude and Hartland point MCZ.



Scarlet and Gold Cup coral John Yarrow

## Cornwall 2018



## Lovely Logans rock and surrounds

Carrying out dives on the far south west tip of the Penwith Peninsula is always exciting and the underwater landscapes with their distinctive granite rock faces and gullies did not disappoint this year during our two days of diving from Penzance, within the Runnelstone MCZ with skipper Charles Hood. Incredible gullies at Loggans reef were home to feather stars and jewelled anemones as well as large shoals of bass. Highly mobile shell sand dominated the seascape on our exploratory dive to the west of Gwennap head, surgey and kelpie but still beautiful. The rugged rock faced and huge granite boulders at Seggie rock were full of life with the highlight being the record of a red blenny spotted by new seasearch observer Joe Gurney. (photo on front cover!)



Seascorpion by Sean Dixon

## Mussels and maerl in St Austell Bay

We enjoyed two great Seasearch Sunday events diving with skipper Hutch of Harlyn Divers, the first being a day of diving in St Austell bay. Our first dive saw buddy pairs dropped under the Westcountry Mussels of Fowey mussel farm. It was fascinating to see the mussel ropes themselves which were thick with new growth of mussels and huge amounts of *Jassa* amphipod tubes, and we also were able to study the cages used for the National lobster Hatchery lobster grower project which were covered with life (which feed the juvenile lobsters inside).



## Sponge Course

An eager group of Seasearchers were given a crash course on sponges by Welsh expert Jennifer Jones. This fascinating group of sessile animals are simple in form but complex when it comes to identification which in many cases has to be carried out by inspecting the tiny spicules that the sponges use as structure within their colonies. Thanks to Angus Jackson of Cornwall College we borrowed some amazing microscopes and for some of our divers this weekend was the start of a learning adventure which looks set to take some time yet! Several divers refused to dive because they wanted to spend more time with the lovely microscopes!

