

Seasearch Training 2016

A Seasearch Observer course was held in May and led by Caz Waddell. A total of 6 divers were trained. Through the summer many of last years Seasearch snorkelers were able to get their dives signed off. A programme of dives and snorkels were provided for local volunteers through the summer and a large number of surveys were carried out by surveyors from outside the county.

Number of Events/Seasearch Dives :	94
Number of divers/recorders:	34
Number of species recorded:	487
Number of species records:	4891
Number of biotopes recorded:	59
Number of Biotope records:	291

Seasearch Summary	
Group	Number of species recorded
Arthropods	1
Bryozoans	32
Cnidarians	82
Crustaceans	28
Echinoderms	24
Molluscs	60
Seagrass	1
Seaweeds	96
Sponges	55
Vertebrates	83
Worms	23

Overall it has been a good year for Seasearch in Cornwall with consistent levels of surveys being carried out. The deployment of experienced divers in key areas, particularly the Manacles shows the vital role that Seasearch plays in understanding and protecting our marine habitats, particularly when a threat comes along. I look forward to more great surveys and welcoming lots of new volunteers in 2016.

Matt Slater, Marine Awareness Officer, Cornwall Wildlife Trust

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www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/seasearch



Find us on facebook; Seasearch Cornwall



Other Important Species
Nationally rare sponge – *Adreus fascicularis*

These Survey dives were conducted as part of the national Seasearch Programme. Many volunteers took part in these surveys during 2015 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 visit www.seasearch.org.uk. For details of Seasearch in Cornwall visit www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk.



Cornwall Wildlife Trust



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Protecting Cornwall's wildlife and wild places

Cornwall Seasearch Surveys - Summary Report 2015



Crystal Jellyfish, Matt Slater



Cuttlefish, John Yarrow



Juvenile Pollack, Matt Slater



Plaice by John Yarrow



Snorkellers at Talland, Mickey Channings



Beadlet anemones, Matt Slater

St Ives Bay

Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts sent their dive team to survey St Ives Bay with a view to collecting evidence so support better protection for that area . Its rocky reefs are rich in marine life and the bay is known to be vitally important to bottlenose dolphins, porpoise, and grey seals.



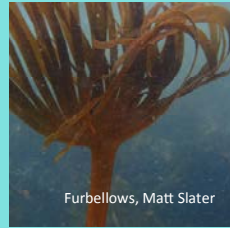
RSWT dive team member, Dom Flint



Mola mola, Peter Mills

Seasearch Snorkel

Three surveys were held in 2015 which allowed those who qualified in 2014 to continue to practice their skills. Surveys were held at Fistral beach, Newquay, Talland Bay near Looe and at Dean quarry. All recorded high number of species. Talland Bay was the site of a fabulous snorkel survey where we were able to record large numbers of stalked jellyfish, a good diversity of seaweeds and bryozoans, and were privileged to watch the fascinating behaviour of a nest building corkwing wrasse displaying vivid colouration.



Furbellows, Matt Slater

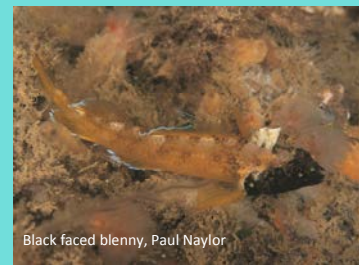
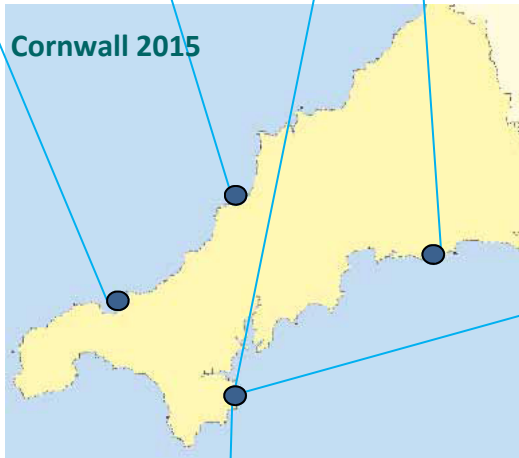


Stalked jellyfish *Halicystus octoradiatus*, Matt Slater



Cowrie *Trivia arctica*, Matt Slater

Cornwall 2015



Black faced blenny, Paul Naylor

Look out for *Discodoris*!

Seasearch surveyor Hazel Selly was incredibly lucky to have found two rare species while shore diving Drawna Rocks, Porthkerris. Despite it being a shallow dive of only 5m max she found vertical

rock covered with sponges, jewel anemones, bryozoans and cup corals, a black faced blenny and a nudibranch with a great scientific name – *Discodoris rosi*. This orange seaslug is generally distributed around the Atlantic coast of France, Atlantic and Mediterranean coast of Spain. It was first recorded in the UK near Penzance on 24th August 2002 by David Kipling, but has also been recorded on the Isles of Scilly in 2008. Hazel's dive confirmed it's now in another location, and also may be laying eggs (from the photo). Trudy Russell also reported seeing four individuals of this species at the same site on the Manacles later in August. This beautiful nudibranch is a colourful addition to our waters, and is one of a growing list of warm water species who's distribution is being recorded moving further northwards. Interestingly the black face blenny has very patchy distribution and they have been living at Drawna rocks for many years but haven't been seen elsewhere on the Lizard or the Penwith peninsula yet!



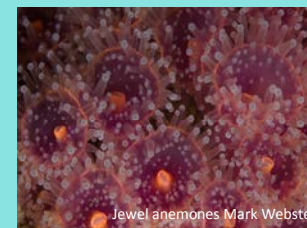
Discodoris rosi, Hazel Selly

Seasearch divers rally to survey the Manacles

Divers from across the UK were involved in detailed surveying of the reefs and current swept channels of the Manacles, a nationally important dive location and one of Cornwall's Marine Conservation Zones, in order to gather information on the potential effects of planned new development of Dean Quarry. The results are being compiled by Dr Matt Whitt of University of Exeter, and Chris Wood of Seasearch.



Crawfish, *Palinurus elephas* Chris Wood



Jewel anemones Mark Webster



Pink seafan, Matt Slater