



East Anglesey Weekend

3rd – 4th August 2002.



Some fine weather on the 3rd and 4th August provided ideal surface conditions for the East Anglesey Seasearch. Twelve divers took part over the weekend, and all the diving was carried out from the hardboat 'Julie Ann', skippered by Elfyn Jones.

The focus of this weekend was to survey sites on the limestone bedrock reefs on the south east side of Anglesey. These limestone bedrock reefs are part of the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay candidate Special Area of Conservation. We also surveyed the east side of Ynys Dulas, an island further north along the east Anglesey coast.

The water in the Menai Strait area is generally not very clear, and underwater visibility during the Seasearch weekend averaged a silty 2-4m, improving to 5-6m at Ynys Dulas. Despite this, we found a variety of different and interesting marine life.

The limestone bedrock reefs were quite silty, but supported very interesting communities of sponges, including the globular *Suberites carnosus* and *Suberites ficus*, branching sponges such as *Raspailia hispida* and the chocolate-coloured *Raspailia ramosa* as well as colonies of breadcrumb sponge *Halichondria panicea* and the orange-coloured *Esperiopsis fucorum*. A low turf of hydroids and bryozoans covered other parts of the limestone and patches of the delicate-looking horseshoe worm *Phoronis* sp. and the yellow-coloured boring sponge *Clionia celata* – both species that bore into the relatively soft limestone – were also recorded. Dense red seaweed were found growing on the limestone in the shallower parts.

At Ynys Dulas, a variety of attached, burrowing and mobile animals were recorded on the boulder, cobble and mixed seabed. Several pairs of divers followed a line in towards the island – the mixed ground gave way to bedrock reef supporting short and tall animal turf and, in shallow water, mixed seaweed communities and kelp.

The data from this survey has been entered into the CCW database and will be available through the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) in due course. Thank you to everyone who took part and the skipper.



Plumose anemones *Metridium senile* were abundant on bedrock at Fedw Fawr. © Lucy Kay.



The sun star *Crossaster papposus* on cobbles and pebbles around Ynys Dulas. © Lucy Kay



Figure 1: Map of survey areas.

Names of surveyors on the trip:

Chris Pirie	Alison Bessell	Lucy Kay	Tom Stringell
Lorraine Holdstock	Brod Mason	Paul Kay	Bill Sanderson
Mandy McMath	Catherine Hall	Kate Smith	Gwen Edwards

Many thanks to you for all the useful data that you have collected!

Phylum	Description of Phylum	Number of Species Recorded
Porifera	Sponges	17
Cnidaria	Anemones, hydroids, etc.	24
Annelida	Segmented worms	8
Chelicerata		1
Crustacea	Lobsters, crabs, barnacles	18
Mollusca	Topshells, Dogwhelks, Limpets	8
Bryozoa	Bryozoans	9
Echinodermata	Starfish, urchins etc.	11
Subphylum Tunicata	Seasquirts	17
Subphylum Pisces	Fish	41
Mammalia	Mammals	1
Rhodophycota	Red seaweeds	43
Chrysophycota	Diatoms	1
Chromophycota	Brown seaweeds	21
Chlorophycota	Green seaweeds	4

Table 1: List of the number of species recorded from each Phylum.

Produced by Ian Saunders for the Countryside Council for Wales on 25 February 2003
Introduction written by Lucy Kay