

SCHEME	ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION	WHO IS SCHEME AIMED AT?	CONTACT DETAILS
BASKING SHARK WATCH	Marine Conservation Society	Gathers information on basking sharks visiting UK waters.	Public, fishermen, boat operators ...all sea users and visitors to the coast	http://www.mcsuk.org 01989 566017
MARINE TURTLES	Marine Conservation Society	Collects information on turtle sightings and strandings in UK.	Public, fishermen, boat operators ...all sea users and visitors to the coast	http://www.mcsuk.org 01989 566017
SEASEARCH	Marine Conservation Society	Involves volunteer divers in the collection of marine data (habitat mapping and species).	Recreational divers	http://www.seasearch.org 01989 566017
UK MARINE FISH RECORDING SCHEME	National Marine Aquarium	Aims to build comprehensive source of information on marine and estuarine fish around UK (both unusual and common records).	Anglers, fishermen, divers, boat operators, fishing trip operators, rockpooling enthusiasts...all sea users and visitors to the coast	Fishreports@national-aquarium.co.uk 01752 275216
SEALIFE SURVEY & SHORE SURVEY	MarLin	Collates information on underwater and shore marine life (both unusual and common records).	Public, fishermen, boat operators...all sea users and visitors to the coast	http://www.marlin.ac.uk 01752 633336

MARINE WILDLIFE SPOTTING



Stakelocks anemone *Anemonia viridis* © P. Brazier



Octopus *Eledone cirrhosa* © M. Jones

Have you ever spotted a dolphin, turtle or basking shark at sea or dead on a beach, wondered what it was or whether it was important? Have you ever caught a species of ray or indeed a skate when fishing or seen a sunfish? Have you ever wanted to record what you saw on a scuba dive or trip to the beach?



Japweed *Sargassum muticum* © M. Jones



Ray egg case © Shark Trust



Honeycomb worm reef *Sabellaria alveolata* © P. Brazier

Bioamrywiaeth Cymru



Biodiversity Wales

WALES BIODIVERSITY WEEK 2003

MARINE WILDLIFE SPOTTING

There are many initiatives now underway which involve the gathering of information on marine wildlife by enthusiastic individuals on a voluntary basis, either through organised surveys or casual observations.

Most importantly, these reporting schemes don't require years of identification training, lots of time or money. In some cases training is provided by a co-ordinating organisation in the form of identification prompt sheets or training courses.

Many of these schemes have been established for years, and have been instrumental in providing essential basic information on the existence and distribution of marine wildlife in Welsh waters and elsewhere in the UK. Information gathered in this way has been extremely valuable:

- ★ It directs more detailed future marine survey work.
- ★ It provides information on species which are temporary visitors to our coast, and as such would not necessarily be recorded on organised surveys, e.g. basking sharks, killer whales
- ★ It provides information on marine wildlife which existing funding can't facilitate.
- ★ In some cases, it has stimulated management action.

I'M INTERESTED, WHAT'S NEXT?

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT DIFFERENT SCHEMES LISTED OPPOSITE
 SPREAD THE WORD KEEP A WATCH EYE OPEN FOR ANYTHING UNUSUAL
 MAYBE ORGANISE YOUR OWN SURVEY BE SAFE AND ENJOY YOURSELF
 AND FINALLY, REPORT YOUR FINDINGS!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

- ★ website address of the co-ordinating organisation. (See table.)
- ★ your Local Biodiversity Action Plan partnership. See www.ukbap.org.uk for details.
- ★ Visit the Learning Zone on the MarLin website www.marlin.ac.uk for information on marine issues, marine life identification, images and lots more!

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WHALE & DOLPHIN SIGHTINGS	Sea Watch Foundation	Survey and monitoring of whale & dolphin populations.	Public, fishermen, boat operators... all sea users and visitors to the coast	http://seawatchfoundation.org.uk 01865 717276
WELSH STRANDING S PROJECT & TURTLE SIGHTINGS	Marine Environmental Monitoring	Collects information on strandings and co-ordinates investigations into cause of death. Also collects information on turtle sightings in Wales.	Public, fishermen, boat operators ... all sea users and visitors to the coast	http://strandings.com 01239 682405
SKATES AND RAYS IN WALES	National Museums and Galleries of Wales / The Shark Trust	Collects information on past and present catches of skates and rays to improve knowledge of distribution and population trends.	Anglers, fishermen, fishing trip organisers	http://www.sharktrust.org 0870 128 3045 National Museums and Galleries of Wales 029 02573233
THE GREAT EGG CASE HUNT	National Museums and Galleries of Wales / The Shark Trust	Collects information on the identification and distribution of skate and ray egg cases with aim of identifying nursery areas and improving knowledge of species distribution.	Divers, fishermen, public (egg cases in strandline)	http://www.sharktrust.org 0870 128 3045 National Museums and Galleries of Wales 029 02573233