



Shoresearch Cornwall

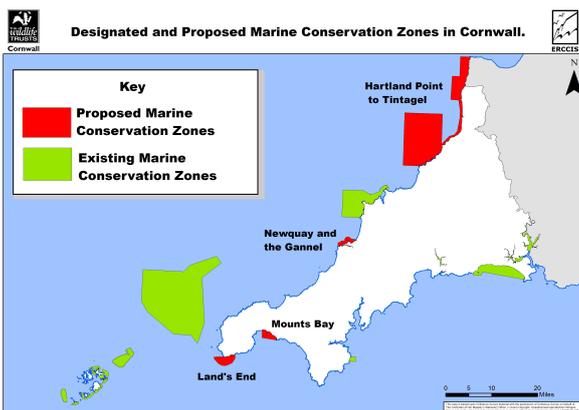
PANACHE End of year report 2013

Shoresearch goes international!

2013 saw Cornwall Wildlife Trust launch an exciting new citizen science programme made possible by the EU Interreg funded PANACHE project. The Shoresearch method was taken and modernised by all 12 partners of this cross-channel project, ensuring that it collects useful and comparable information on the health of our marine environment on both sides of the English Channel. At the same time the project is training volunteers and educating the public on the importance of Marine Protected Areas as a tool to help better protect our marine environment.



Marine Conservation Zones designated!



We were delighted to hear that five MCZ's were designated for Cornwall in October 2013. Data collected through Shoresearch surveys at Looe, Polzeath and the Manacles was submitted to Natural England and helped argue the case for better protection of these valuable sites. We will now focus our efforts on surveying the second tranche of MCZ's that include Lands End, Mounts Bay, Newquay and the Gannel and Hartland Point to Tintagel.



An important part of the PANACHE project is to raise public awareness of the need for Marine Protected Areas. Photo, Marvellous Manacles Marine Day 2013

Surveying Cornwall's VMCA's

Shoresearch Cornwall carried on from Cornwall Wildlife Trust's 'Your Shore' project by continuing to train volunteers within Cornwall's Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas to enable them to survey the shore and lead engaging public rockpooling events. During the equinoxial spring tides of September 2013, five days of back to back surveys were carried out at all five VMCA's. CWT aims to continue to do this each year to create a long term study of the health of these important sites.



Bioblitzing Looe MCZ

In June Shoresearch volunteers carried out a shore survey and a public event as part of the 24 hour bioblitz of Looe Voluntary Marine Conservation Zone organised by the Marine Biological Association, Cornwall Wildlife Trust and Looe Marine Conservation Group. It was a great opportunity to highlight the importance of this area for marine life and it was really inspiring to meet experts from all areas of natural history studies. In total the bioblitz recorded 1142 species of marine and terrestrial organisms living in and around Looe.





Cornish shores never fail to impress!

Compared to rockpooling alone, going to the shore with a large group of volunteer surveyors allows us to make a far more accurate record of all the species present, as we are so time limited by the tides! It is amazing how many weird and wonderful species have been found on the Shoresearch surveys and every survey is a chance to see something new and to continue to improve our identification skills! Waterproof compact cameras have become far more affordable these days and the photos produced by the team have been awesome!



Clockwise from bottom left:
Scarlet and gold cup corals, Irish moss seaweed, star ascidian closeup, decorator crab, *Corralina* sea weed and pink plate sea weed in a rockpool, Celtic sea slug. Photos by Matt Slater.
Visit the Shoresearch blog for lots more photos
www.shoresearchcornwall.blogspot.co.uk

Training in 2013

In 2013 a total of 67 volunteers were signed up and trained to run Shoresearch surveys and to lead public rockpooling events! It has never been more important to tell the public about the incredible marine life found on Cornwall's shores. The volunteer list is continuing to grow as more people find out about the project!



Rockpool forest—with mega biodiversity

Summary of outputs 2013

- 14 surveys carried out
- 6 Training days
- 67 volunteers recruited
- 840.9 hours of volunteer time donated
- 320 species recorded.
- A total of 931 people attended the public events
- Great feedback from the volunteers and public
- Good fun had by all!



2013 saw huge shoals of sprats within coastal areas, often being chased inshore by predatory bass and mackerel, and sometimes jumping out of the water and stranding. This shoal was photographed in the Percuil, but similar sights and stranded dead fish were found all around the coast.



Many of the Shoresearch events were combined with public Rockpool Rambles that were extremely popular and help to raise awareness of Cornwall's fabulous marine life!





Summary of Results

Location	Total number of Species Recorded	Number of Core Species	Number of Non-Natives	Number of FOCI Species
Hannafore, Looe	130	13	6	3
Prisk Cove, Helford	108	16	6	0
Poltesco, Lizard	106	11	3	0
St Agnes	90	13	2	3
Marazion, Mounts Bay	84	5	1	2
Readymoney, Fowey	76	10	2	0
Polzeath	74	16	2	4
Gyllyngvase, Falmouth	63	8	4	0
Porthkerris, Manacles	56	10	2	0
St Mawes, Fal SAC	48	10	3	0
Greenbank, Falmouth	48	3	1	1
Sandways Beach, Cawsands	40	13	3	2
Loe Beach, Fal SAC	39	6	5	2

Shoresearch methodology

The Shoresearch methodology has been devised by the partners of the PANACHE project to be a user friendly method that is engaging and produces data useful in the monitoring of ecosystem health, the effects of climate change and in the spread of non native species.

In Shoresearch surveys we focus on 16 'core species' which include rare BAP species, features of Conservation Interest FOCI, climate change indicator species, and non native species. We then record their abundance using an abundance scale (the SACFOR scale)

The methods we use are:

- Timed Species search; each volunteer is given a picture card with a specific species and then is given 20 minutes to search the shore for that species. In this way we can quickly ascertain comparable abundance information for all of our 'Core species'.
- Walkover survey; volunteers carry out a directed search looking for rare and significant species and each species recorded is assigned an abundance measure.
- Transect survey and quadrat survey. A transect is taken from extreme low water to high water level and the extent of the zones measured. In each ecological zone (biotope) quadrat surveys are carried out looking for the core species.



Shoresearch volunteers carry out a quadrat survey.

For up to date reports from Shoresearch Cornwall visit www.shoresearchcornwall.blogspot.org.uk

✉ Matt Slater, Shoresearch Cornwall, Five Acres, Allet, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 9DJ

☎ (01872) 273939 ext 214. ✉ matt.slater@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

🌐 www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/shoresearch



More significant and exciting finds from 2013



Stalked jellyfish *Leucernariospis campanulata*.
Found at Hananfore Point Looe and on the rocky shore to the North end of Polzeath beach. Stalked jellies are Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species that are under recorded and can be found on many Cornish shores.



Giant Gobies (*Gobius cobitus*) were found in a Falmouth Rockpool where Matt Slater last found them in the 1980's! Giant Gobies are BAP species and are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside act 1981.



The Kaleidoscope jellyfish *Halyclistus octoradiatus* was found at Polzeath and St Agnes.

This rare form of egg wrack seaweed *Ascophyllum nodosum var makaii* is usually only found in Scottish and Irish sea lochs.

It was recorded for the first time in many years at Percuil estuary within the Fal and Helford SAC.



This colourful, tiny squat lobster was found by Martin Mitchell on the Shoresearch survey of Potesco cove, within the Lizard SAC.

It was identified by Dr Paul Gainey as a juvenile *Galathea strigosa*, the blue striped squat lobster. They are relatively common species subtidally but the juveniles are only rarely seen and seldom found on the shore!



What's next?

2014 looks set to be a really exciting year as we race to gather evidence to support the second tranche of Marine Conservation Zones around our coasts, while trying to build much needed public support for better protection for our incredible marine life. Expect a busy schedule of volunteer training, surveys and public events. Please get your wellies on and get involved!



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