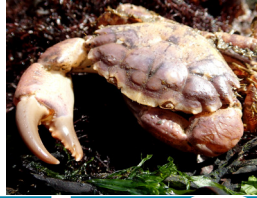




**Cornwall
Wildlife Trust**



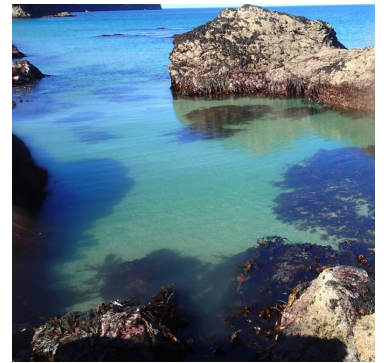
Shoresearch Cornwall

End of year report 2015

Exploring the shore

It has been another excellent year thanks to some great weather, some massive low tides and all our fabulous volunteers! Shoresearch surveys are run by Cornwall Wildlife Trust as part of a national volunteer programme which has helped us increase our knowledge on our local marine environment, helped us argue the case for better marine protection, helped us monitor the effects of climate change and the spread of non-native species. Shoresearch is great fun, rewarding and educational and all are welcome to join in, to learn about marine life and help gather data which is vital for our conservation work!

Matt Slater Marine Awareness Officer, Cornwall Wildlife Trust.



Au revoir PANACHE!



After two fabulous years the PANACHE project finished in spring 2015. A three day conference was held at the Imperial Hotel Torquay and it was great to hear about all the work that was carried out during this epic project. Thanks to PANACHE we were able to ramp up our Shoresearch and Seasearch programmes at Cornwall Wildlife Trust and share best practice with other marine conservationists from along the English and French Channel coast. For all the reports of the PANACHE project visit the website www.panache.eu



Shoresearch week day 2 , Hannafore point Looe., perfect weather and the largest spring tide of the year!!

Matt's highlight of the year!



My personal highlight of this, my 4th year running Shoresearch Cornwall, was catching a conger eel on the shore at Hannafore point, Looe. It may have just been a baby but I was so excited! I never seem to grow out of rockpooling! It's this excitement that keeps me and all the volunteers going!

Well done David!

It is brilliant news that David Fenwick Senior, top local biological recorder has been awarded The David Robertson Award for Marine and Coastal Wildlife Recorder of the year by the National Biodiversity Network. The CWT marine team nominated him for this prestigious award in recognition for his commitment to local marine recording and his willingness to share his knowledge through his excellent website www.aphotomarine.com - A fabulous resource for anyone interested in Cornwall's marine life. Keep up the excellent work David!



What is Shoresearch?

Shoresearch is a user-friendly and fun method of exploring the shore and recording the species and habitats found there.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust provide Shoresearch training at specific events and on each survey. Volunteers are welcome to come along to organised events but are also encouraged to carry out their own Shoresearch surveys and to send in their findings.



What happens to the information collected?

The information collected is vital for Cornwall Wildlife Trust's marine conservation work. The data is submitted to the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS) and from there it is shared to the National Biodiversity Network database. The information helps us monitor change on the shore and provides biological information to counter potential threats. It has been particularly useful in gathering information on areas being considered as Marine Conservation Zones by the government in recent years and will be vital in monitoring these areas in future.

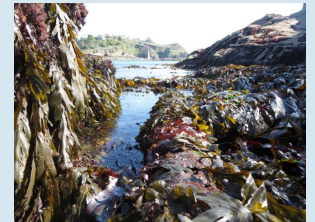
Who can take part?

Anyone and everyone. If you are keen to learn and happy to give up a few hours of your time you are welcome. Prior knowledge of marine life is not necessary, but it is still great for those that do already have a good level of knowledge. The shore can be slippery and hard to access so you do need to be fit and mobile to take part. We also ask that under 18's are accompanied by an adult.



What happens on a survey?

We meet up either on the beach or at a nearby carpark and after an informal briefing we go down onto the shore. We will carry out one or more of the survey methods (see below) and have plenty of time for rummaging and exploring the shore. Everything we find is photographed and if it can't be identified in situ it can be done at a later date. At the end of the survey we will usually have a sit down and talk about what was found and make sure all the recording forms are properly filled in.



What Should we bring?

You need to bring sensible rockpooling footwear and clothing. No flip flops or bare feet! Wellies or wetsuit boots are best. Bear in mind it can get cold if it's a windy or wet day, and it can get very hot if the sun is out!

Bring food.. big low tides usually happen at lunchtime! Bring sun screen, a sun hat and some drinking water. If you have one a digital camera is very useful (even better if it is waterproof and has a GPS capability) many smart phones are ideal! I always try to bring some cake to share too. Shoresearching is sociable!

Independent surveying



Once trained you are welcome to carry out your own surveys. The instructions are available online and you can always contact us for help! This is particularly suitable for students who want to carry out a project or build up volunteer hours. And it is great for local marine group volunteers. Don't forget though that the shore can be dangerous. Always check the forecast and the tides. And never survey alone. And please do email us with your findings and photos!

Survey Methods

We use 4 different survey methods. Not all are used at every survey but we always try to incorporate a walkover survey which is the best fun!

Timed Species Search. 20 minute search of an area of shore looking for a small number of key species. Using photo cards. This method creates useful, comparable data. (submitted to Marine Biology Association Shore Thing project)

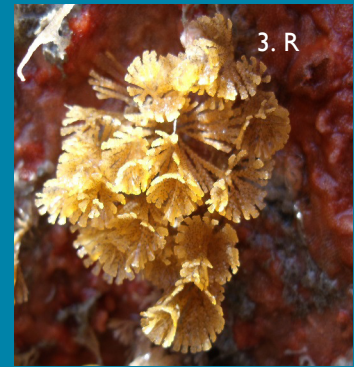
Walkover Survey. A targeted, informal search of an area of the shore with particular interest (usually the lower shore). All findings get recorded.

Biotope Transect Survey. This is carried out when monitoring over a long time scale. We take a tape measure and walking from the low water to high water mark we record the position of biological zones across the shore.

Quadrat survey. 50cm² quadrats are used to survey each biotope along the transect.

Cool species to look out for which we would like you to report, can you name them?

If you get them all right please email / facebook me and you will be included on the Shoresearch Cornwall wall of fame! (answers on the back page)



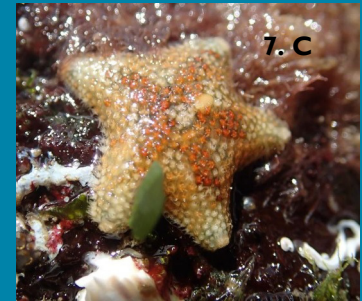
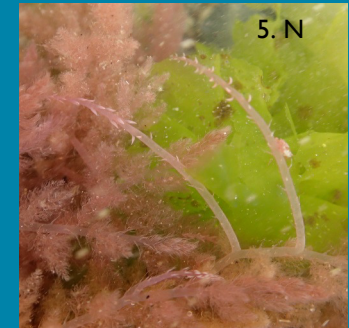
**What should you do if you see one,
Or anything else unusual?**

Take lots of photos!

Share them on Shoresearch Cornwall
Facebook site.

Get them identified.

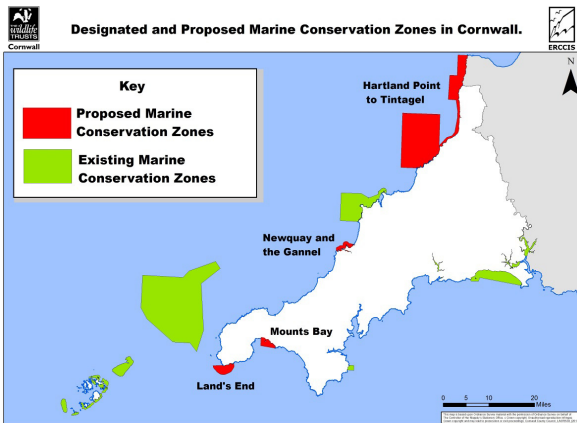
Record them via www.orks.org.uk



R = Rare or under recorded

N = Non-native

C = Climate change species



Marine Conservation Zones Update

In 2015 we continued to survey within MCZ's partly to continue to learn about what's there but also to build local appreciation of marine life within these areas. Following a consultation in spring 2015 we are expecting to hear from the Government any day now on their decisions on the second tranche of MCZs including Newquay and the Gannel, Hartland Point to Tintagel, Mounts bay and Lands End. During the past year management has been discusses for some of the 1st round of MCZs and one of the roles of Shoresearch will be to continue to monitor to check that the health of the marine life in these area is being maintained. It is hoped that there may be a third tranche of MCZ's designated and Shoresearch data will help in that process too.

Outcomes and Achievements; 2015

A total of 12 surveys were carried out in 2015 as organised survey/training days. Additionally three surveys were carried out by independently working volunteers. A staggering 552 species were recorded on the surveys this year. It is interesting to note the huge numbers of molluscs, seaweeds, and crustaceans recorded!

Significant numbers of species which are considered as features of conservation interest (FOCI) and are important in the designation and management of Marine Protected Areas were recorded. These include stalked jellyfish species, maerl, giant gobies, honeycomb worm, European eel, native oyster, sea grass. Additionally many non-native species were recorded (NNS).

A total of 231 volunteers are now on the Shoresearch volunteer mailing list and 30 new volunteers were trained in 2015.

Event	Number of Species	Number of NNS	Number of FOCI
Hannafore Point	114	5	1
Polzeath	105	3	1
Trevaunance Cove	95	1	0
Prisk Cove	93	2	0
Porthcurnick, Porthscatho	79	3	2
Readymoney Cove	76	2	0
Swanpool beach	73	2	3
Trevone Bay	71	2	0
Talland Bay, Looe	56	2	2
Godrevy Point	53	2	0
Bammaluz beach, St Ives	40	0	0
Castle Beach, Falmouth	36	1	1
Portnadler beach	33	3	0



Taxa Group	Number of species
Blue green algae	2
Brown algae	40
Green and red sea weeds	91
Lichen	8
Flowering plants	1
Sponge (Porifera)	23
Sea mats (Bryozoa)	21
Cnidarian (Anemones etc)	34
Worms	52
Molluscs	103
Crustaceans	77
Sea spiders (Pycnogonida)	2
Insects - bristletail (Archaeognatha)	1
Springtail (Collembola)	1
Echinoderms (starfish etc)	17
Ascidians (Seasquirts)	22
cartilagenous fish (sharks and rays)	2
bony fish (Teleosts)	52
Grand Total	552



Non-native species spreading

While at the PANACHE conference at Torquay it was fascinating but shocking to see how much wakame, (*Undaria pinatiffida* – Japanese kelp), is growing on the shore there and in the harbour. We also found loads of *Corella eumota* the orange tipped seasquirt. Both are species that can be found in Cornwall but in far smaller amounts. During Shoresearch surveys in Cornwall we found that distribution of *Corella* is spreading. It was found in St Ives in 2014 and was recorded at Polzeath in September 2015 for the first time. It was also found in Fowey and Helford. Wakame is found in the Fal and the Tamar Estuaries but as yet has not been recorded outside of this area in Cornwall.

Keep a look out for creeping seasquirt *Pterophora japonica* and for a seaweed that is taking over the Fal *Chrysmenia wrightii* (see in quiz). Asian shore crabs could arrive any day too.

Sadly the ERCCIS Marine Science project on non-native species run by Lisa Rennocks ran out of funding in November 2015. This is a massive shame and we really hope that the project can be revived if funding is found. The Marine Science project newsletter will soon be available on the ERCCIS website.



Wakame covering shore Torquay



Corella eumota



Pterophora japonica

A Shoresearch year in photos.....



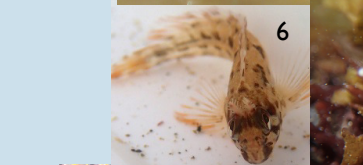
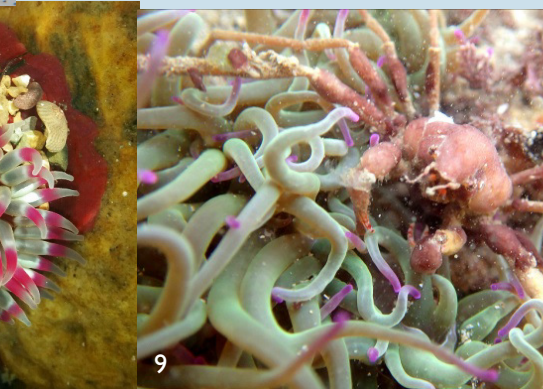
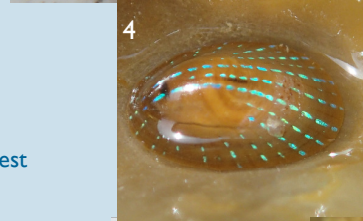
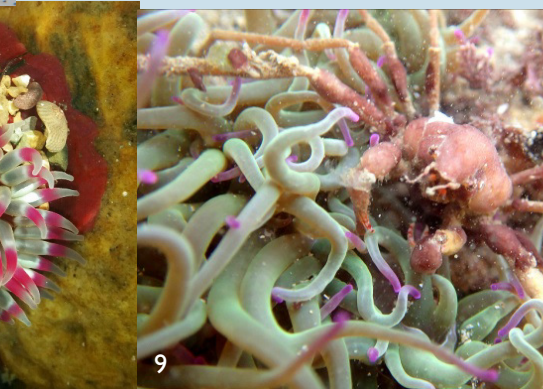
1. Juvenile shore crab at St Agnes
2. Nudibranch *Okenia elegans* at Talland Bay
3. Fan worms *Branchiomma bombyx* found at Conger hole, St Agnes
4. Blue rayed limpet, *Patella pellucida* at Prisk Cove
5. Cocks comb *Plocamium cartilagineum*
6. Juvenile Tompot blenny found at St Agnes by Annarosa Edwards
7. Stalked jellyfish, *Lecernaryopsis campanulata*
8. Extreme low tide at Polzeath exposes a kelp forest
9. Scorpion spider crab in snakelocks anemone at Polzeath
10. Dahlia anemone at Hannafore photo by Kieran Graves
11. Montagus sea snail at Polzeath
12. Tallana with tiny sea star *Asterina phylactica*



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Volunteer of the year

Patrick D'Arcy Evans

Patrick has been volunteering now for Shoresearch for four years and during this time his knowledge has dramatically increased. And he now sees stalked jellyfish, everywhere! He is friendly and helpful to new volunteers and is always a great laugh when out on surveys. Well done Patrick (and wife Julie and daughter Aspen who are both awesome rockpoolers too!)

Here are a few words from Patrick:

'As a wannabe marine scientist and general outdoorsman-by-the-sea, having moved to Cornwall just a few years ago, I heard about Shoresearch volunteering through my local Marine Conservation Group (Helford).

Never one to be a bystander, what better opportunity could there be to develop knowledge that not only improves my own experience of the amazing marine world around us, but also to contribute to the formal need for data and tracking to justify the conservation zones which will mean future generations will still have an awe-inspiring marine environment on their doorstep.

Cliché as it might be, I've met inspiring people (Matt and Abby are not average people), learned plenty enough to be able to guide other newbies, enriched my own life and that of my family, used anemones to de-stress, seen and done things that never would've happened otherwise (have you shone a torch on a cuttlefish at St Michael's Mount in the middle of the night recently?), and made a difference (I don't care how small, it's a difference).'



EXTREME ECO events 2016



Paving the way for an exciting new project, we are running some more adventurous Shoresearch surveys and public events next year. Extreme ECO events will be coming to a coastline near you!! Look out on the CWT website and of course you can expect emails from me about these events!

- **Extreme Shoresearch** Polzeath with Cornwall Rock Tours April 6th
- **Eco Coasteering** at Newquay with Newquay Activity Centre May 8th
- **Evening Eco Stand up paddle boarding**, explore the upper reaches of the Helford estuary 6th July with Ocean High SUP
- **Explore the caves of Whipsiderry** Shoresearch 4th August
- **Eco stand up paddle boarding and snorkelling session** in Mounts bay 3rd August, with Ocean High

What's next?

2016 is set to be another important year for marine conservation in Cornwall.

Shoresearch 2016 will focus on exploring some of the harder to reach sites around our coast. We will be running lots more training with a particular focus on engaging with young people in areas in and near Marine Protected Areas and areas which need better protection. The 2016 programme will be published soon! Watch this space! Please let me know if you would like to join the Shoresearch email list. Also please like the **Shoresearch Cornwall** Facebook page and use it to share your photos and ask questions!

Thanks to all of you for volunteering and here's to a great 2016! Matt

Answers 1. Stalked Jellyfish *Lucernariopsis cruxmellitensis* 2. Celtic Sea Slug *Onchidella celtica* 3. Spiral bryozoan *Bugula turbinata* 4. Landladies wig *Desmarestia ligulata* (winter form) 5. Harpoon weed *Asparagopsis armata* 6. Scarlet and Gold Cup coral *Balanophyllia regia* 7. Tiny cushion star *Asterina phylactica*, 8. flat velvet fingers *Codium adhaerans* 9. honeycomb worm *Sabellaria alveolata* 10. Nudibranch *Polycera faerøensis* 11. Hermit crab *Pagurus forbesii* 12. Seaweed *Chrysmenia wrighii* (from Korea now common in the Fal) 13. Gibbs spider crab *Pisa amata*

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

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