

Seasearch Training 2017

This year we carried out an Observer course in April led by Matt Slater and Caz Wadell, and a Surveyor course in June led by Sally Sharrock and Charlotte Bolton. Well done to all that took part and special note to those who officially qualified as surveyors and observers! Well done!

Number of Seasearch forms:	101
Number of divers/recorders:	27
Number of species recorded:	377
Number of species records:	3239
Number of biotopes recorded:	37
Number of Biotope records:	180

It has been a fantastic year—our busiest yet, with over one hundred forms filled in including a record number of surveyor forms! Well done all who help out with this amazing project. Big thanks to Sea Changers for a grant which subsidised our two MCZ dive expeditions. It is great to work with so many amazing and dedicated divers and underwater photographers! Keep up your great work all of you!

Matt Slater, Marine Awareness Officer, Cornwall Wildlife Trust



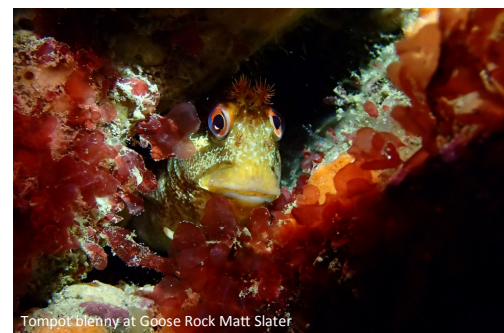
seasearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

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Group	Number of Species
coelenterate (cnidarian)	57
alga	53
mollusc	51
sponge	37
bryozoan	32
tunicate	28
crustacean	23
bony fish	23
chromist	21
annelid	19
echinoderm	17
cartilaginous fish	2
sea spider	2
foraminiferan	1
fungus	1
marine mammal	1
flatworm	1



Seasearch Cornwall - Summary Report 2017



These Survey dives were conducted as part of the national Seasearch Programme. Many volunteers took part in these surveys during 2017 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/seasearch



Cornwall Wildlife Trust



Rare Nudibranches Reported

Des Glover of Kennack Divers found this beautiful pair of nudibranches while shore diving at Drawna Rocks Porthkerris. The species was identified as *Felimida krohni*, the first record of this species in UK waters. Since then one specimen has also been found on the Eddystone reef.



Newquay MCZ Dive Expedition

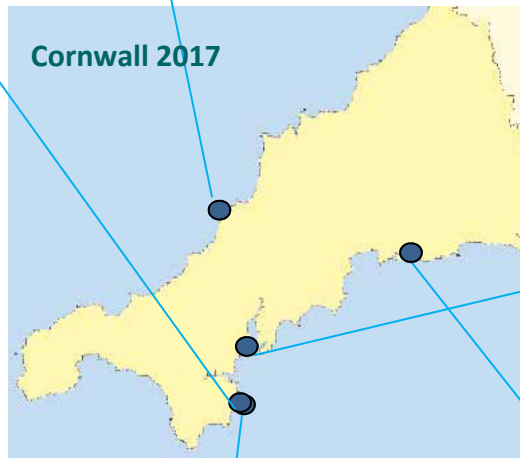
Thanks to funding from Sea-changers and a discounted charter price from Atlantic Diving, we organised a weekend of fabulous subsidised seasearch dive surveys within and around Newquay and the Gannel MCZ in May. The highlights of the weekend included recording 10 juvenile crawfish on Poltexas reef just to the north east of the MCZ. Seasearchers Mark Parry and James Wright were visited by a grey seal – identified by Cornwall Seal group as Pebbles, a female rehabilitated by National Seal Sanctuary in 2007 and released at Porthtowan. A huge diversity of marine life was recorded by an expert team of volunteer seasearchers. Full report is available on www.cornwallwildlifetrust/seasearch



Crawfish Sighted 2018 was an amazing year for sightings of *Palinurus elephas*, the crawfish or spiny lobster. Huge numbers were seen by divers, all around Cornwall but particularly in and around Falmouth Bay. We urge people to continue to report crawfish sightings using the Seasearch Crawfish reporting form. Please email Seasearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk for more info. Crawfish are extremely vulnerable to fishing and over-collection by divers and we hope that this recent welcome population explosion which has brought them back from virtual extinction results in them becoming permanent visitors and they don't get over fished again.



Cornwall 2017



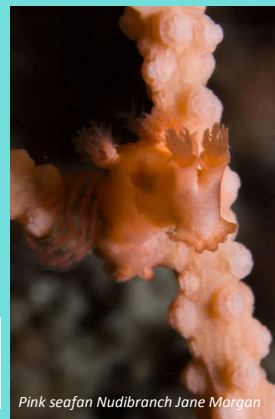
Surveyor Course

In June we carried out a surveyor training weekend for those observer divers who wanted to take their Seasearch to the next level. We had a total of six trainees and we all learned loads from National Seasearch coordinator Charlotte Bolton and Sally Sharrock sea search tutor. We had a very interesting dive on the oyster beds off Penarrow Point aboard Stingray with Mark Milburn.



Manacles MCZ Dive Expedition

Thanks to Sea-changers we carried out a two day expedition recording marine life within the Manacles MCZ. Huge populations of the rare sea fan anemone were found living around Gwinges reef, crawfish were spotted to the South of the MCZ at Lowlands point and Puskys reef. It was a fabulous weekend and a full report of our findings can be downloaded at www.cornwallwildlifetrust/seasearch



Squirt Course

Seasearch divers were treated to a highly informative weekend learning about the world of seasquirts. Course leaders David Kipling and Sarah Bowen shared some amazing facts and information and we had a great field trip to Falmouth marina which is home to a wide diversity of squirts both native and non-native.

