

Dorset Seasearch and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Seasearch: Annual Summary Report 2020



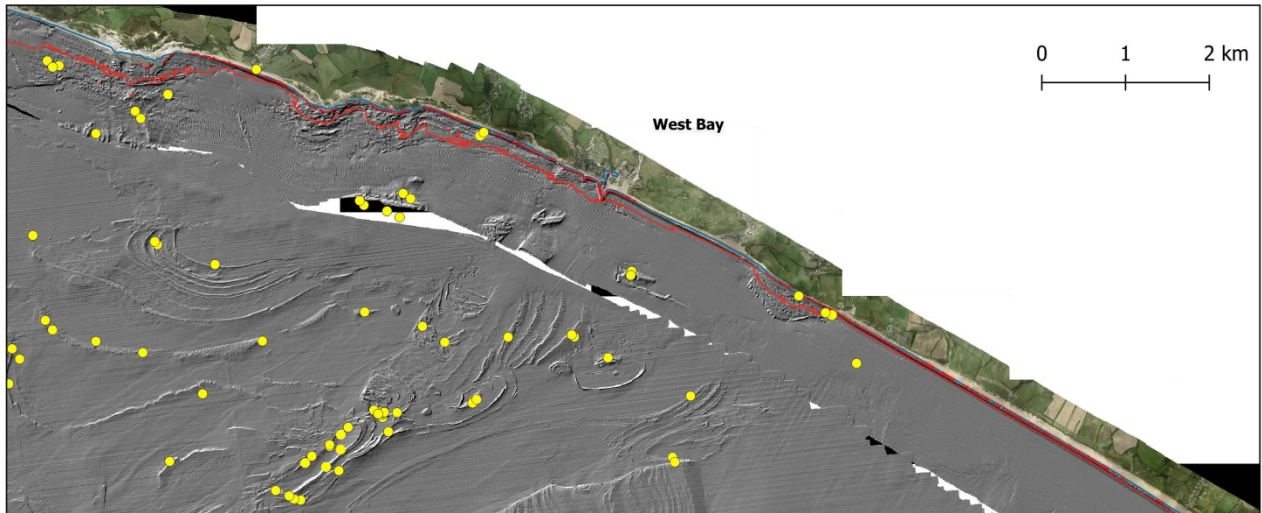
© Lin Baldock, 2020

Brown tuning fork weed (*Bifurcaria bifurcata*) St Aldhelm's Head, Dorset



Dorset

After the traditional New Year's day dive by the usual Dorset suspects the diving year got off to a slow start with Covid-19 lockdown and travel restrictions in place from the last week in March. In June shore diving became practicable and there were a number of Seasearch forms sent in for intertidal walks, snorkel surveys and shore dives. These data are very useful as there is little information on sublittoral fringe habitats apart from the usual honey pot sites such as Swanage Pier, Kimmeridge, Chesil Cove and some sites on shores in Portland Harbour. The map below for the period 1998 to 2020 shows Seasearch records of about shore six dives shallower than 5m BCD for the stretch of coast between Eype and Lyme Regis compared with a good spread of sites on the deeper, offshore reefs.



Seasearch dive locations (●) Lyme Bay (1998-2020) – Eype's Mouth to Lyme Regis
(5m contour – outer red line).

Reefs close inshore are intermittent and those I have seen are often heavily scoured by adjacent mobile sediment, mostly during the winter, but find a day with the right conditions (good underwater visibility, no swell and bright sunshine) and they can look very attractive. The image below showing our dive location at Eype's Mouth demonstrates the value of using a towed GPS to track your dive and then loading the track to Google Earth to show exactly where the reef you dived is situated (thank you Mike for towing the SMB with the GPS!). At the furthest extent of our dive we found a delightful boulder and bedrock reef with a thick turf of mixed seaweeds, the reef clearly showing on the Google Earth image. We also visited several sites on the shallow ledges east of Kimmeridge where there is a fascinating mosaic of short growth kelp forest on limestone outcrops with swathes of bushy wrack seaweeds with a dense understory of red seaweeds on smoother mudstone, more survey data are needed for these varied infralittoral habitats. So please do continue to send in records from shallow dives, snorkel excursions and intertidal sites; you will be filling a data gap. Do not be put off by the sometimes difficult access to these shore sites!

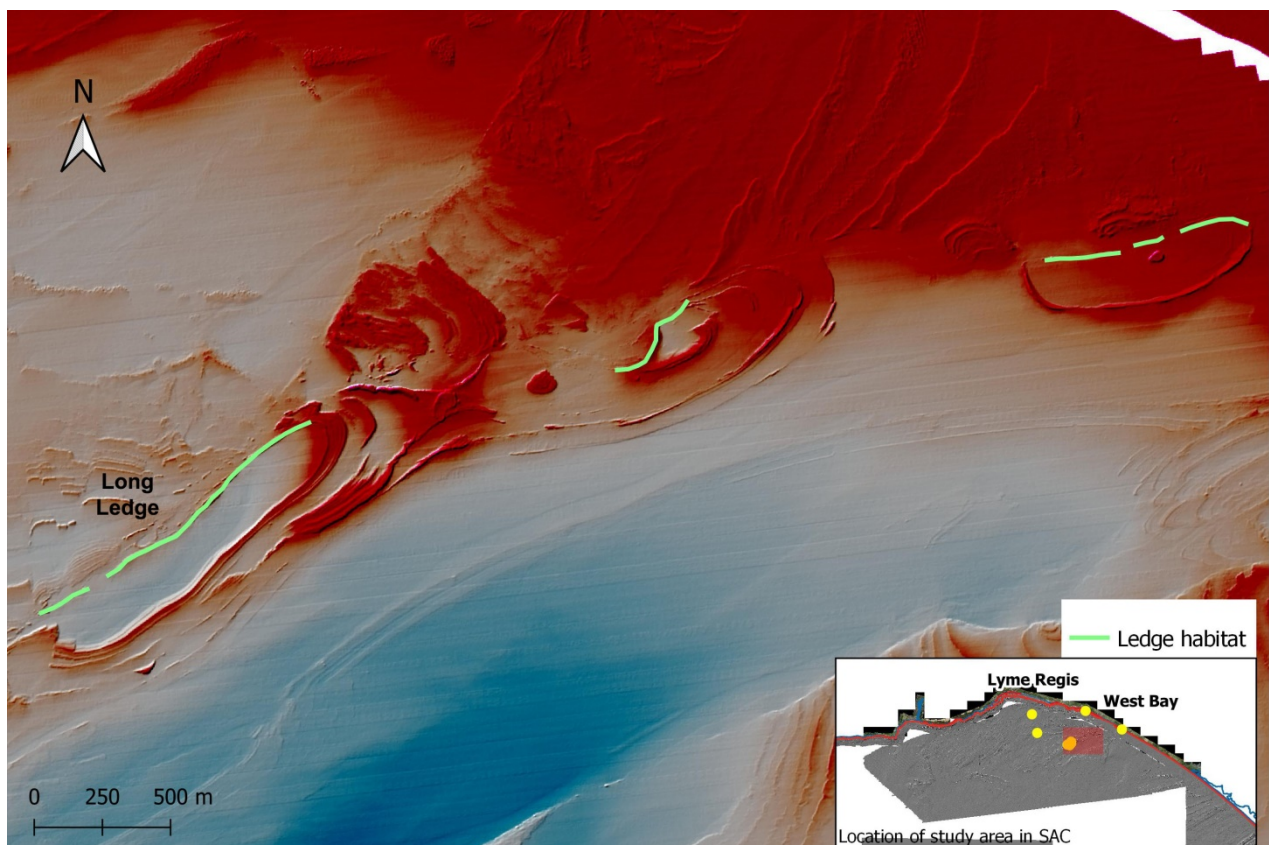


Eype's Mouth dive track



Jania and mixed seaweeds 70m from shore

We continued visits to the extraordinary habitats on Long Ledge in Lyme Bay, squeezing in four dives during the season. The substrate for the habitat along the north ledge is provided by massive sponges such as *Stelletta grubii*, *Stryphnus*, *Pachymatisma* and *Dercitus* in particular. These are overgrown by an astonishing diversity of other sponges as well as hydroids, including the rare *Halecium tenellum*, and bushy bryozoa all interspersed with the nationally scarce trumpet anemone (*Aiptasia couchii*). Other rarities reported from the site include the sponges *Adreus fascicularis* and *Dysidea pallescens* as well as the hydroid *Aglaophenia kirchenpaueri*. To date a total of over 40 sponge taxa have been identified *in situ* in this special habitat and a small amount of funding has been secured from the Porcupine Marine Natural History Society for 2021 in order to progress the study of this sponge community. The soft sediment habitats at this site are also unusual with evidence of a particularly high diversity of infauna not yet seen elsewhere in Lyme Bay. It is unlikely that these sediments were much disturbed when Lyme Bay was open to bottom towed fishing gear because of the difficulty of using such gear within the reef complex and may therefore represent a good example of undisturbed sediment. More data needed!



Extent of Long Ledge habitats and other potentially similar sites in Lyme Bay

Interesting Sightings

Despite restricted diving during the year there were a number of interesting records made of rare or unusual species in Dorset waters, summarised below.

Crawfish

Records for crawfish continue to come in notably from wrecks in Lyme Bay. Seasearch crawfish records are being reviewed by Angus Jackson (Seasearch data officer) with the aim of modelling the recent expansion in their range around south and west England. Please continue to send in records for crawfish, none of the detailed information for these particular records will be made publicly available on the NBN.

Nudibranchs

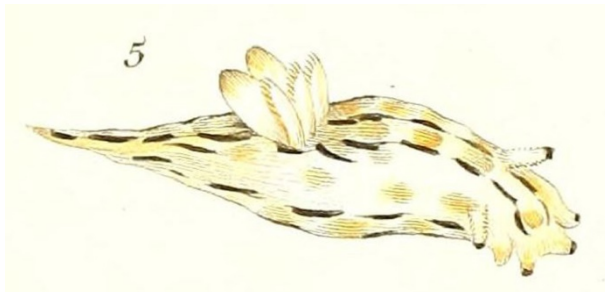
There have been a number of taxonomic upheavals among some nudibranch groups with genera being renamed (e.g. *Tritonia*) and others divided into two species where we fondly thought we only had one

(e.g. *Polycera*). There were also records of several species which are considered rare for either Dorset or indeed the UK.

The pink seafan nudibranch, formerly in the genus *Tritonia* has been moved to the genus *Duvaucelia* (as *Duvaucelia odhneri*)¹ together with three other former *Tritonia* species: *lineata*, *manicata* and *plebieia* all of which have been recorded in Dorset in the past though not in 2020. You do not need to remember this as Marine Recorder should automatically deal with the change.

The entity known as *Polycera quadrilineata* in northern Europe was found to include a previously unrecognised species now named *Polycera norvegica*². We have confirmed records of this latter species from Dorset in 2020 (Mike Markey) and review of photographs from previous years has shown it to have been present in Chesil Cove in 2014 (Rik Girdler). Both these species occur in Dorset and come in various colour forms: plain yellow and white though with subtle differences in the shades of yellow on different body parts (in which case you probably cannot separate them), or with dark (sometimes black) markings on the back. The number of lamellae in the rhinophores also differs. In terms of recording the species, if there are no black markings, the animal is plain yellow and white and you cannot count the rhinophore lamellae in photographs, you should record it as *Polycera quadrilineata/norvegica* indicating it is **not** *Polycera faeroensis* which can be distinguished by having eight or more oral veil processes at the front of the animal (four, occasionally six in *P. quadrilineata/norvegica*) and only very rarely darker markings.

Polycera quadrilineata: you can be certain it is this species if there are dark stripes on the animal's back (**not** speckles), and/or dark patches on the rhinophore stalks and rhinophores with 6-15 lamellae. See Müller's illustration³ from the original description and photographs of Dorset examples of this species below.



Müller's original drawing (1779)



Dark lines on back, dark base to rhinophores
(either of these characters confirms
P. quadrilineata)

¹ Korshunova, T. & Martynov, A. 2020. Consolidated data on the phylogeny and evolution of the family Tritoniidae (Gastropoda: Nudibranchia) contribute to genera reassessment and clarify the taxonomic status of the neuroscience models *Tritonia* and *Tochuina*. *PLoS ONE*, 15, e0242103.

² Sørensen, C. G., Rauch, C., Pola, M. & Malaquias, M. A. E. 2020. Integrative taxonomy reveals a cryptic species of the nudibranch genus *Polycera* (Polyceridae) in European waters. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom*, 100, 733-752.

³ Müller, O. F. 1779. *Zoologia Danica sev Animalium Daniae et Norvegia rariorum ac minus notorum Descriptiones et Historia*.



Dark base to rhinophores



Plain yellow but **more than** 11 lamellae on rhinophores

Polycera quadrilineata

Polycera norvegica: you can be certain that you have this species if there are dark **speckles** on the back, no dark patches on the rhinophores and there are 6-10 rhinophore lamellae though note that this range does overlap with *P. quadrilineata* (6-15 lamellae). Take care not to confuse this with another small black and yellow speckled nudibranch *Thecacera pennigera* which has black and yellow spots of about equal size all over the body, gills and rhinophores.

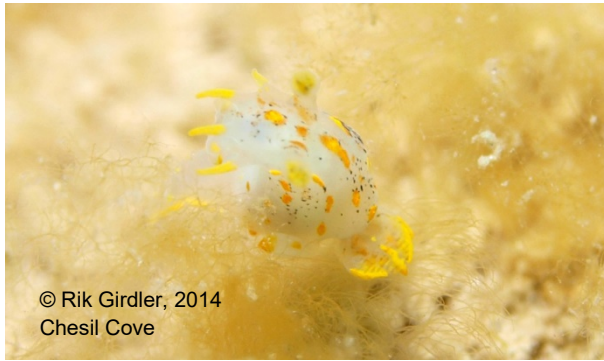


Dark speckles on the back (not lines), no dark base to rhinophores



Assume both *P norvegica* – mating pair with C-shaped spawn (*P quadrilineata* has coiled spawn)

Polycera norvegica



Polycera norvegica



Pruvotfolia pselliotes

Pruvotfolia pselliotes: Mike Markey reported this nudibranch from one of the patch reefs in Poole Bay in June. Up to the end of 2019 there were only 11 records for this species on the NBN database most records are from Torbay and a few further west in Devon and Cornwall. Mike's record is the first east of Portland Bill, which serves as a barrier to species arriving from the west, and is the first record for Dorset.

Favorinus blianus: a species with a western and northern distribution, the first Dorset record east of Portland Bill (and only the third for Dorset as a whole) was submitted by Dawn Watson in 2019 while unusually in 2020 we had four records for this species east of Portland: two in Portland Harbour (Charlotte Bolton, Mike Markey) and two in Swanage Bay (Mike Markey).

Favorinus branchialis: this species appears to be more commonly recorded than its congener again with a western and northern distribution but with only one Dorset record (Rik Girdler, Portland Harbour) prior to 2020. Mike Markey reported this species in June 2020, again from Portland Harbour. The brown rhinophores with a white tip and no annulations distinguish this species from *F. blianus* which typically has three annulations on the rhinophores.

Favorinus species are voracious feeders on the eggs of other nudibranchs and on at least some of the dives where they were reported there were numerous egg masses of the sea lemon *Doris pseudoargus* around.



Favorinus blianus



Favorinus branchialis

Doris ocelligera: another species for which the 2020 record from Portland Harbour (Mike Markey) is the first east of Portland Bill. There are records from Lyme Bay, three from 2004 are thought to be among the

earliest records for this species in the UK⁴, otherwise there are only scattered sites shown on the NBN where it has since been recorded from Devon and Cornwall, all bar one report made by members of the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland. This is typically a small species (up to about 15mm long) and is easily overlooked. The very rough tubercles all over the back of this nudibranch have a spot of darker pigment at the tip, just visible on some tubercles in the photograph below.



Doris ocelligera



Sunstar (*Crossaster papposus*)

Echinoderms

Three echinoderm species which are rarely recorded in Dorset, though very common further west in Devon, were reported during the year:

- the edible sea urchin (*Echinus esculentus*) was found on a couple of Dorset wrecks: the Betsy Anna in Poole Bay (Mike Markey) and the SS Grane wreck in Lyme Bay (Hugh Waite).
- The sunstar (*Crossaster papposus*) was also reported from the Betsy Anna in July with another sighting of this starfish from deeper water (37m) in September (Nick Reed).
- The featherstar (*Antedon bifida*) was noted from the wreck of the SS Grane (Hugh Waite) in Lyme Bay and was also seen on rocky reefs in the Devon part of the bay just south southwest of Lyme Regis, though not in Dorset waters.

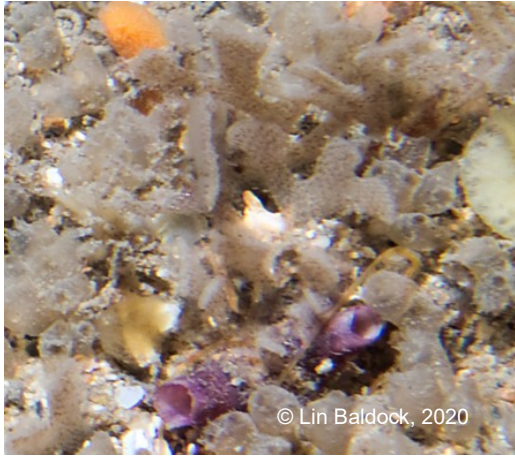
Tunicates

There have been some first records for Dorset for several sea squirt species, some need further study so if you think you see any of these please do record them and send in photographs.

Polycarpa violacea: the distinctive purple colour of this sea squirt makes it easily identified but from the few records we have so far it seems that it occurs only as widely scattered individuals lurking in relatively unsilted tunicate turfs. It was recorded in 2020 from under the road bridge at Ferry Bridge (Portland Harbour), from rocky reef on Lulworth Banks and on a small boulder under Swanage Pier, so apparently widely distributed in Dorset. There are no records for this species on the NBN. There is a guide to tunicates of western Europe⁵ (in French) which is useful for those of us based on the south coast of England which includes a description of this species as well as *Polycarpa mamillaris* mentioned below.

⁴ <http://www.seaslugforum.net/find/22598>

⁵ Bay-Nouailhat, A. & Bay-Nouailhat, W. 2020. *Guide des Tuniciers de l'Europe de l'Ouest: Atlantique & Méditerranée*: M&L éditions. <https://www.european-marine-life.org/bookshop.php>



Polycarpa violacea



Distomus hupferi



Distomus variolosus



Polycarpa mamillaris

Distomus hupferi: records of what is most likely this species were from reefs in Lyme Bay and from Ferry Bridge (Portland Harbour). On review of historical images Keith Hiscock found he had photographed the same animal at Eastern Kings (Plymouth) in 2017 and I have found likely candidate examples from a reef off Kimmeridge in 2015 and from under Swanage Pier in 2020; is the species becoming more common or are we only now learning to recognise it? It could be confused with the more colourful version of *Distomus variolosus* and might have therefore been overlooked in the past. The best distinguishing features for *D. hupferi* are the fact that the individuals tend to be less closely packed than in *D. variolosus* and they have longitudinal red stripes around the siphons while *D. variolosus* lacks these.

Polycarpa cf mamillaris: identification of sea squirts in the genus *Polycarpa* can be problematic. Recently Mike Markey while reviewing photographs noticed a sea squirt “*not in the book*”⁶. A Facebook post on Seasearch Identifications had a response from Wilfred Bay-Nouailhat suggesting it might be this species. It is more squat than other large *Polycarpa* species with widely divergent, rather short siphons and usually with an over growth of other “*stuff*”. In 2020 we had records of this entity from reefs in Lyme Bay and Weymouth Bay. Mike’s original observation was from reef habitat to the west of Kimmeridge in 2008.

Fish

The ring-necked or variable blenny (*Parablennius pilicornis*) continues its spread eastwards along the Dorset coast with four records from Lyme Bay reefs and wrecks and interestingly the second Dorset record east of Portland Bill on the Lulworth Banks (Ron Lee). Mike Markey’s photograph from the Landrail wreck shows a male blenny in dark breeding colours, the other records were of juvenile fish with their characteristic longitudinal dark stripe along the flank and through the eye.

⁶ Bowen, S., Goodwin, C., Kipling, D. & Picton, B. 2018. *Sea Squirts and Sponges of Britain and Ireland*, Plymouth: Wild Nature Press.



©Holger Schuhmann 2020



©Ron Lee 2020

Ringnecked (variable) blenny *Parablennius pilicornis* (juveniles)



©Mike Markey 2020

Ringnecked (variable) blenny
Parablennius pilicornis (breeding male)



©Nick Owen 2020

Guillet's goby *Lebetus guilleti* (female)

Guillet's goby (*Lebetus guilleti*): this was recorded as “*photo bye-catch*” by Nick Owen from Long Ledge in Lyme Bay tucked close in under a pebble covered in orange bryozoan. This is the smallest goby on the UK list and is very cryptic in its behaviour so is rarely recorded.

Spiny seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*): unhelpful publicity meant hordes of divers descending on one Dorset site to search for seahorses, it seems that it was a good year for this species in Dorset. Please remember that a licence is needed to intentionally look for and survey seahorses and that photographs (just for recording purposes) should only be taken using natural light while causing minimal disturbance to the animals.

Couch's Goby (*Gobius couchi*): this is a relatively rare goby which occurs along the south coast of England from Poole Bay west to Falmouth. It is rather similar to the black goby which may be why Couch's goby is ignored by divers, it is common in Dorset waters. Surprisingly I only get very occasional records from Seasearch divers despite so many visiting Portland Harbour, a stronghold for this species, so it was good to get Charlotte Bolton's report of one from off Crabbers' Wharf in the southeast of the harbour. This is typical habitat: a shallow, relatively sheltered site with mixed, usually silty sediment.



©Charlotte Bolton 2020

Couch's Goby (*Gobius couchi*)



©Charlotte Bolton 2020

Spiny seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*)

Green Seaweed

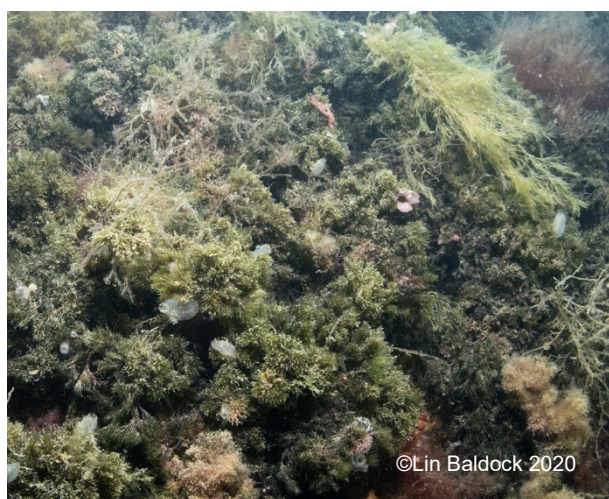
Green fan weed (*Flabellia petiolata*): records for this continue to accumulate with reports from Lulworth Banks and from reefs off Kimmeridge, all from calcareous rock substrate.

Cladophoraceae: several rare green seaweeds in this family were reported from Portland Harbour, enforced shore diving helping to concentrate effort on a group difficult to identify.

Cladophora lehmanniana: this species is rare in the UK with no Dorset records since 1884 when it was collected from Weymouth. In 2020 it was recorded on shore dives from Portland Harbour and Eype's Mouth.

Cladophora prolifera: recognised in 2020 from Portland Harbour breakwaters and on the Castletown Mulberries where it dominates in a discrete band on vertical hard surfaces at about 1m BCD. It is rare in the UK with specimens in the Natural History Museum from Weymouth collected between 1883 and 1892.

Lychaete battersii: a small unattached species which occurs tangled around other algae and *Zostera* in very sheltered situations in Portland Harbour. It is rare in the UK.



Cladophora prolifera (Castletown Mulberries)



Lychaete battersii (Portland Castle Beach)

Red Seaweed

Antithamnion cf hubbsii: a very small specimen of a distinctive red seaweed was found growing epiphytically on a foliose red algae (*Rhodophyllis divaricata*) under a pontoon in Portland Marina. It has been tentatively identified as this non-native species, genetic sequencing to confirm identification will be the next step.

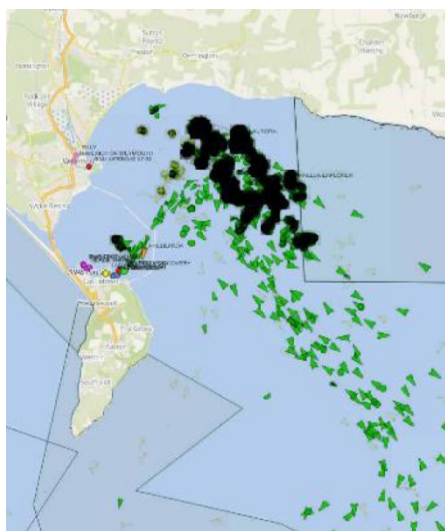
Xiphosiphonia pennata: this filamentous red seaweed is rare in England with a western distribution. Nick Owen recorded this species from silty reefs below Tennyson Down on the Isle of Wight.

Brown Seaweed

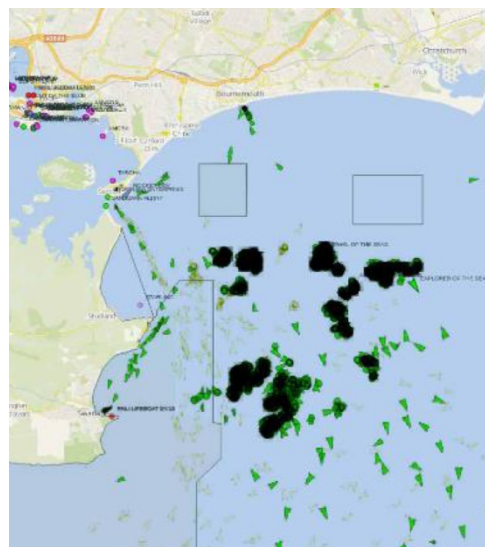
Brown tuning fork weed (*Bifurcaria bifurcata*) – a dive only about 30m offshore of the boulders below the cliffs just to the east of St Aldhelm's Head turned up a surprise with a reasonable amount of this brown seaweed growing on open rock beneath stands of thong weed (*Himanthalia elongata*) (see cover photograph). This record is the most easterly recent report on the south coast of England (previously at Charnel, Kimmeridge) and is slowly catching up with the 19th century collections of this species from Durlston Bay near Swanage made by Edward Morell Holmes in 1898. Next search locations for this species will be targeted at Tilly Whim Caves and Durlston Head.

Cruise ships

The year 2020 saw many idle cruise ships anchored in sheltered bays in Dorset and Devon, in Dorset the preferred locations were Weymouth and Poole Bays. Concern was raised as to what the impacts of the unusual number of vessels anchored at these sites might be. The first step was to monitor the number of days the vessels were anchored and follow the number of times the vessels weighed anchor, were away for a short time and then returned to drop anchor in a slightly different place. The maps below show where most of the anchoring occurred between October and December 2020. Natural England funded Dorset Wildlife Trust to commission a multibeam sonar survey of selected areas and their report⁷ provides some dramatic images of anchoring impacts on the seabed. Given the results of this survey Dorset Seasearch plans to dive some of the impacted sites and collect further data on seabed effects in 2021.



Weymouth Bay



Poole Bay

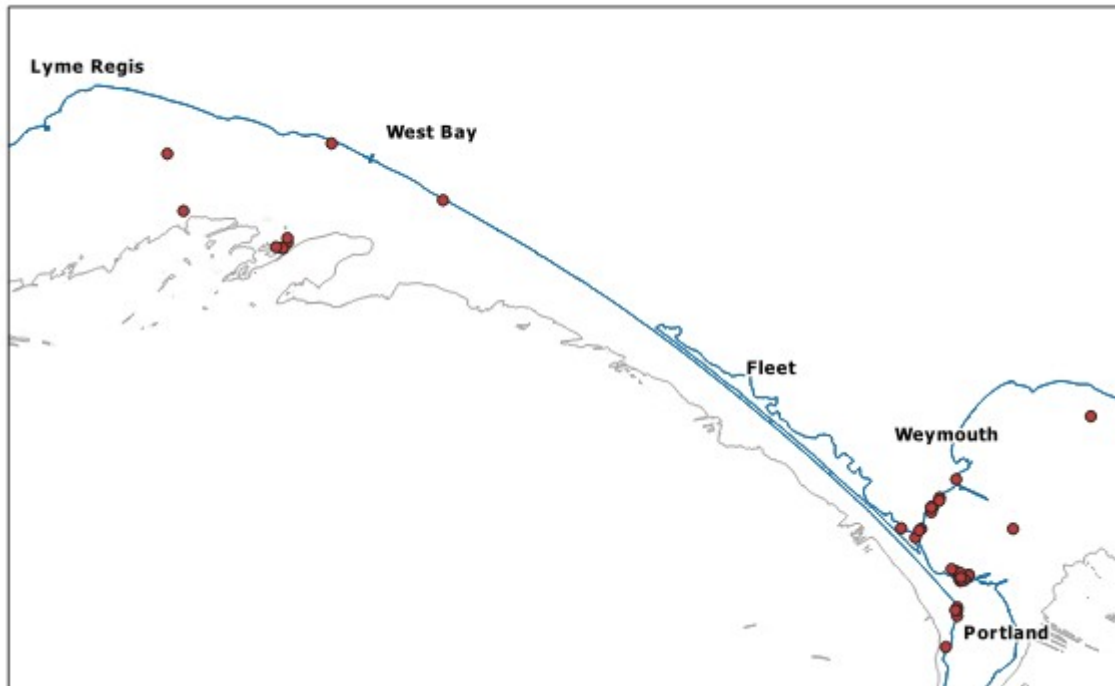
Cumulative images of cruise ship anchoring positions between October and December 2020.
(Data from VesselFinder.com images from DWT report).

Some Statistics

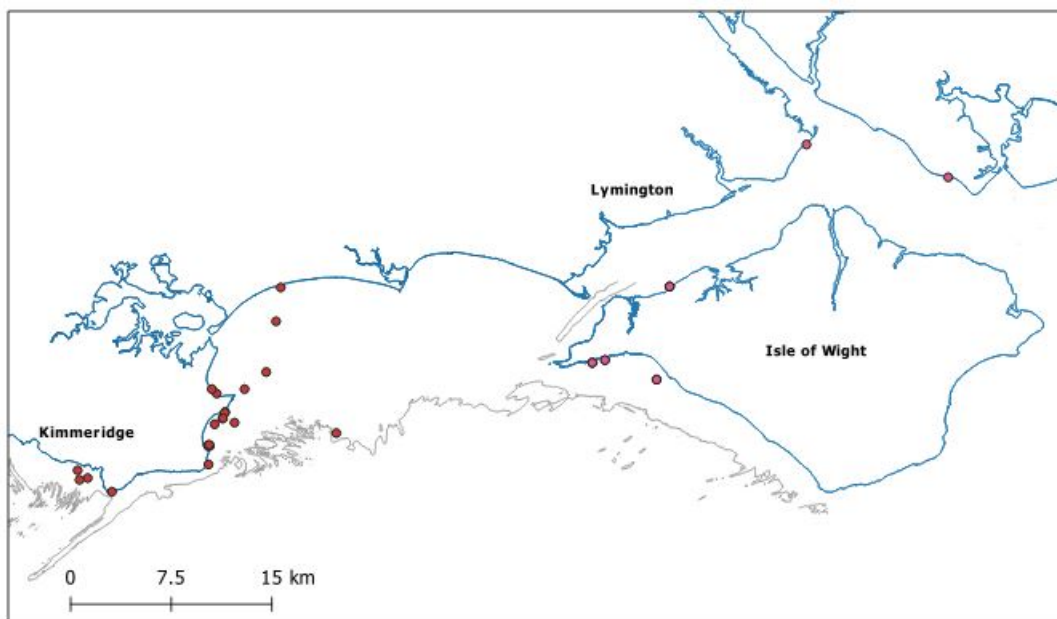
The dives detailed above and other Seasearch forms, both Observer and Surveyor, resulted in a total of 87 forms for the Dorset region and six for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight for 2020, once reviewed and combined into single “events” where appropriate these produced 72 survey events in Marine Recorder, the database system used to collate all Seasearch records prior to them being uploaded to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN). In addition there were three crawfish forms submitted. This data set comprises over 6,300 individual records (more than in 2019 despite fewer dives) of species, species groups or categories such as “sponge crusts” in more than 190 “samples” (essentially habitats) representing 55 different biotopes all from contributions from over 30 divers (including their buddies).

The maps below shows the distribution of Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Seasearch records for 2020. About one third of the dives took place between depths of 10m and 25m, and nearly a half at depths shallower than 10m, hardly surprising since so many Seasearchers were doing shore dives, snorkelling or recording from the intertidal. Information from snorkelling or shallow dives is very valuable since we could do with more information from these habitats. Divers on boat charters tend to head for deeper sites and most records to date have been from these apart from the honeypot shore diving sites of Swanage Pier, parts of Portland Harbour and Chesil Cove.

⁷ Tinsley, P. (2021) Impacts of large vessel anchoring on seabed habitats and Marine Protected Areas. Report produced by Dorset Wildlife Trust.



Dorset Seasearch Survey Locations – 2020 Lyme Bay to Kimmeridge (30m contour shown).



Dorset (east), Hampshire & Isle of Wight Seasearch Survey Locations – 2020 Kimmeridge to Portsmouth (30m contour shown).

Appendix 1 below lists the 35 taxa of conservation interest recorded by Dorset Seasearch in 2020 together with the number of records for each one and the conservation category which applies in each case. Records of the occurrence of fish in the wrasse family are of interest given the increase in the fishery for these species around the southwest to service the growing demand for cleaner fish used in the salmon farm cages in Scotland. The consequences of removing these species from the rocky reef communities are unknown, Lauren Henly, based at the University of Exeter, is currently studying the impact of this fishery on populations of these wrasse around Plymouth. In the case of cuckoo wrasse it would be useful to record the sex of the fish that you see as well as providing approximate number of any wrasse species. Ballan wrasse, cuckoo wrasse and goldsinny were all widely distributed.

Twenty-two non-native taxa were recorded from Dorset with wireweed (*Sargassum muticum*) being the most common (27 records), not unexpected. The harpoon weed (*Asparagopsis armata*) was recorded 20 times, in part a reflection of the shallow near shore sites visited and partly because this seaweed does appear to be becoming more common on Dorset shores and in the shallow subtidal, especially the

gametophyte phase with its characteristic harpoons. Of the invertebrates the red ribbon bryozoan (*Watersipora subatra*) was reported 13 times with dense growths recorded from under the road bridge at Ferry Bridge where it consolidates the pebbles and mussels on the channel slope. The compass squirt (*Asterocarpa humilis*) has yet to be reported from Swanage Pier, but do watch that space and report it if found. We know this sea squirt occurs on the Fleur barge wreck out in Swanage Bay, though still rare there.

Outputs Dorset and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Seasearch 2020

- Marine Recorder Snapshot for upload to the NBN
Dorset: 68 events, >5,450 individual taxon records.
Hampshire and Isle of Wight: six events, 840 individual taxon records
- Report available on the Seasearch web site: "*Lyme Bay, August 2020. A report on four dives within the Lyme Bay Closed Area.*" Nick Owen.
- A note to The Phycologist (The News Letter of the British Phycological Society) "*Non-native Anthamnon at Portland, Dorset, England*" **99**, 18, by Lin Baldock.

Acknowledgements

The divers (and their buddies): if you had not submitted your Seasearch forms there would have been nothing to talk about – thank you! Ali Bessell, Amy Tiffin, Charlotte Bolton, Chris Webb, Christine Grosart, Clive Webb, Curtis Braund, Danielle Agnew, Dawn Watson, Fiona Crouch, Fiona Ravenscroft, Georgie Bull, Holger Schuhmann, Hugh Waite, Ian Grant, Jon Bunker, Lucy Martin, Mark Harrison, Martin Openshaw, Matt Doggett, Michelle Price, Mike Markey, Nick Owen, Oona Spencer, Peter Lightowler, Rik Girdler, Rob Spray, Ron Lee, Sam Balderson, Tamsyn Mann.

Thank you to the **skippers** who took us out to our dive locations: Rob King (Blue Turtle), Nick Bentall (Scimitar), Bryan Jones (Mary Jo), Dave Sellers (Skin Deep), Martin & Sheilah Openshaw (Starship).

The map and multibeam detail include data from DORIS (DORset Integrated Seabed survey), a collaborative project involving Dorset Wildlife Trust, The Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Channel Coastal Observatory and the Royal Navy, with major funding from Viridor Credits Environmental Company. Other partners include Natural England, Dorset Strategic Partnership, the National Oceanography Centre and University of Southampton. Also contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right (2021).

We are grateful to the Dorset Wildlife Trust, Seasearch and the Marine Conservation Society for continuing to support both Dorset Seasearch and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Seasearch.



Appendix 1 Species of Conservation Interest Recorded by Dorset Seasearch – 2020

	English Name	Designations	No of records 2020
Sponges			
<i>Adreus fascicularis</i>	Sponge	Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾	8
<i>Dysidea pallescens</i>	Sponge	Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾	5
<i>Stelletta grubii</i>	Sponge	Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾	4
Cnidaria			
<i>Aiptasia couchii</i>	Trumpet anemone	Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾	33
<i>Caryophyllia inornata</i>	Southern cup coral	Nationally rare ⁽¹⁾	5
<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>	Pink seafan	BAP-2007 ⁽³⁾ /Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾	29
<i>Laomedea angulata</i>	Hydroid on Zostera	Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾	2
Crustacea			
<i>Palinurus elephas</i>	Crawfish	BAP-2007 ⁽³⁾	3
Mollusca			
<i>Nucella lapillus</i>	Dog whelk	OSPAR ⁽⁵⁾	1
<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Native Oyster	BAP-2007 ⁽³⁾ /NERC_S.41 ⁽⁴⁾	3
<i>Tritonia nilsodhneri</i>	Nudibranch	Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾	8
Echinoderms			
<i>Ophiopsila annulosa</i>	Burrowing brittlestar	Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾	2
Tunicates			
<i>Molgula oculata</i>	Sea squirt	Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾	3
<i>Phallusia mammillata</i>	Sea squirt	Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾	30
<i>Pycnoclavella aurilucens</i>	Sea squirt	Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾	5
Cartilagenous fish			
<i>Raja montagui</i>	Spotted ray	OSPAR(5)/Red List_Least Concern(7)	2
<i>Raja undulata</i>	Undulate ray	BAP-2007 ⁽³⁾ /endangered	1
Bony fish			
<i>Centrolabrus exoletus</i>	Rock cook	Red List_Least Concern ⁽⁷⁾	6
<i>Ctenolabrus rupestris</i>	Goldsinny	Red List_Least Concern ⁽⁷⁾	17
<i>Gobius couchi</i>	Couch's goby	WACA-Sch5 ⁽⁹⁾	4
<i>Hippocampus guttulatus</i>	Spiny seahorse	OSPAR(5)/ BAP-2007 ⁽³⁾ / WACA-Sch5 ⁽⁹⁾	3
<i>Labrus bergylta</i>	Ballan wrasse	Red List_Least Concern ⁽⁷⁾	23
<i>Labrus mixtus</i>	Cockoo wrasse	Red List_Least Concern ⁽⁷⁾	9
<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	Angler fish	BAP-2007 ⁽³⁾ / NERC_S.41 ⁽⁴⁾	1
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	BAP-2007 ⁽³⁾	1
<i>Solea solea</i>	Sole	BAP-2007 ⁽³⁾ /NERC_S.41 ⁽⁴⁾	1
<i>Symphodus bailloni</i>	Baillon's wrasse	Red List_Least Concern ⁽⁷⁾	3
<i>Symphodus melops</i>	Corkwing wrasse	Red List_Least Concern ⁽⁷⁾	18
Seaweeds			
Maerl indet	Maerl	BAP-2007 ⁽³⁾ /NERC_S.41 ⁽⁴⁾	2
<i>Aglaothamnion diaphanum</i>	A red alga	Nationally rare ⁽¹⁾	i
<i>Dasya punicea</i>	A red alga	Nationally rare ⁽¹⁾	1
<i>Gracilaria bursa-pastoris</i>	A red alga	Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾	8
<i>Padina pavonica</i>	Peacock weed	Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾ /NERC_S.41 ⁽⁴⁾	5
<i>Zanardinia typus</i>	Penny weed	Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾	4
<i>Lychaete battersii</i>	Green seaweed	Nationally rare ⁽¹⁾	3

Designation Definitions.

Designation	Description
Nationally rare ⁽¹⁾	Species which occur in eight or fewer 10km X 10km grid squares containing sea (or water of marine saline influence) within the three mile territorial limit. Sanderson, W G. JNCC Report, No. 240. Published by JNCC, 1996. Provisional list of rare and scarce marine species.
Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾	Species which occur in nine to 55 10km X 10km grid squares containing sea (or water of marine saline influence) within the three mile territorial limit.
BAP-2007 ⁽³⁾	The UK List of Priority Species and Habitats contains 1150 species and 65 habitats that have been listed as priorities for conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP), Updated 2007.
NERC_S.41 ⁽⁴⁾	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (section 41) and Wales (section 42)
OSPAR ⁽⁵⁾	OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats, 2008
WACA-Sch5 ⁽⁹⁾	Protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Red list-near threatened ⁽⁶⁾	Taxa which do not qualify for Lower Risk (conservation dependent), but which are close to qualifying for Vulnerable. In Britain, this category includes species which occur in 15 or fewer hectads but do not qualify as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable.
Red List_Least Concern ⁽⁷⁾	Taxa which are neither threatened nor near threatened. Red listing based on 2001 IUCN guidelines. Wrasse included in the list given the developing exploitation of wrasse for use in salmon farms to control fish lice.

Species of Conservation Interest Recorded by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Seasearch – 2020

	English Name	Designations	No of records 2020
Mollusca			
<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Native Oyster	BAP-2007 ⁽³⁾ /NERC_S.41 ⁽⁴⁾	3
Bony fish			
<i>Ctenolabrus rupestris</i>	Goldsinny	Red List_Least Concern ⁽⁷⁾	1
<i>Labrus bergylta</i>	Ballan wrasse	Red List_Least Concern ⁽⁷⁾	1
Seaweeds			
<i>Gracilaria bursa-pastoris</i>	A red alga	Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾	1
<i>Xiphosiphonia pennata</i>	A red alga	Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾	1
<i>Zanardinia typus</i>	Penny weed	Nationally scarce ⁽²⁾	3

List of non-native taxa recorded by Dorset & Hampshire and Isle of Wight Seasearch – 2020

	English name	No of records	
		Dorset/87	Hants&IoW/6
<i>Austrominius modestus</i>	A barnacle		2
<i>Crepidula fornicata</i>	Slipper limpet	21	5
<i>Ruditapes philippinarum</i>	Manila clam		1
<i>Bugula neritina</i>	Ruby Bryozoan	5	
<i>Tricellaria inopinata</i>	Tufty-buff bryozoan	1	
<i>Watersipora subatra</i>	Red ribbon bryozoan	13	
<i>Aplidium cf glabrum</i>	Colonial tunicate	3	
<i>Asterocarpa humilis</i>	Compass sea squirt	7	
<i>Botrylloides diegensis</i>	San Diego sea squirt	13	
<i>Botrylloides violaceus</i>	Orange cloak sea squirt	1	
<i>Corella eumyota</i>	Orange tipped sea squirt	2	
<i>Perophora japonica</i>	Creeping sea squirt	5	
<i>Styela clava</i>	Leathery sea squirt	13	2
<i>Antithamnionella ternifolia</i>	Red alga	2	
<i>Asparagopsis armata</i>	Harpoon weed	20	3
<i>Bonnemaisonia hamifera</i>	Bonnemaison's Hook Weed	6	
<i>Dasysiphonia japonica</i>	Red algae	6	
<i>Grateloupia turuturu</i>	Devil's tongue weed	5	3
<i>Melanothamnus harveyi</i>	Harvey's siphon weed	4	
<i>Solieria chordalis</i>	Solier's string weed	12	
<i>Colpomenia peregrina</i>	Oyster thief	13	
<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	Wireweed	27	1
<i>Undaria pinnatifida</i>	Wakame	14	



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Cliff access to a shore dive – Durlston Bay, Swanage
Interesting shore diving may require considerable effort to reach the site!



Intertidal wracks, Castle Cove, Portland Harbour, Dorset

