

Shoresearch Cornwall

Annual report 2020

What is Shoresearch

Shoresearch is a user-friendly and fun method of exploring the shore and recording the species and habitats found there. Shoresearch Cornwall has been run by Cornwall Wildlife Trust since 2012 and in this time, we have carried out hundreds of surveys and have trained over 200 volunteers. Shoresearch is a national project delivered by the Wildlife Trusts, and surveys take place all around the UK coastline.

Introduction to the year 2020

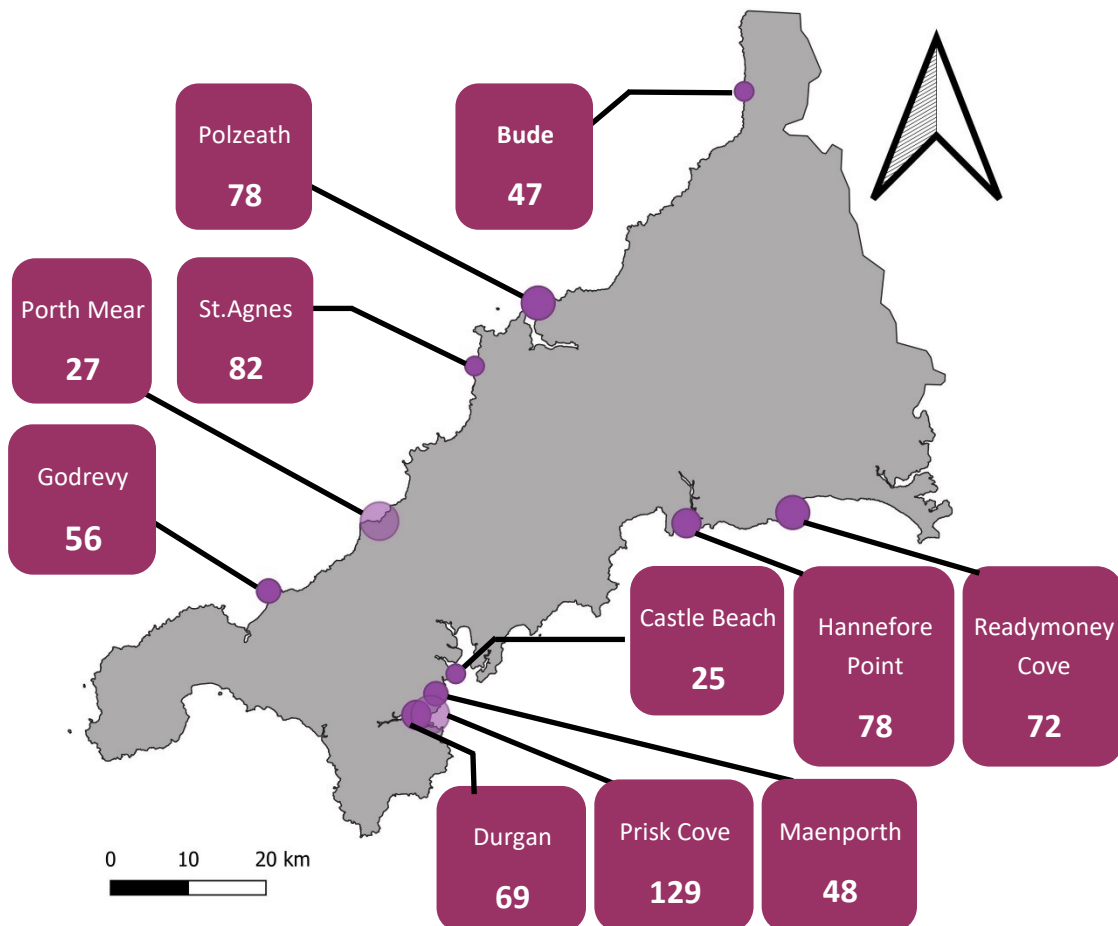
2020 was a bit of an unexpected year for everyone, with things not going quite to plan due to the Covid Pandemic. Here at Shoresearch Cornwall we adapted our plans and had a jam-packed year full of fascinating rockpool creatures, surveys and (new for 2020) online talks from the team and guest speakers alike.



Social distanced shore search St. Agnes survey– Matt Slater

Achievements of 2020

Species recorded:



11

surveys completed

More than

200

species identified

More than

600

records collected

86

surveying volunteers

16

online presentations

494

online attendees

Training

Bude Marine Group

At the beginning of year, Bude Marine Group (BMG) had a, very wet, training session on Shoresearch surveying methods. They have now taken this in their stride and have been completing surveys as much as possible when restrictions allow. BMG have managed to complete a massive 4 quadrat surveys, 3 walkover surveys on a total of 7 different beaches. This is a fantastic effort and a big well done to everyone at Bude for smashing out their surveys in 2020. All of their data collected on their surveys has been uploaded to the Shoresearch recording group on ORKS (Online Recording for Kernow & Scilly).



Quadrat training– BMG

Shoresearch training– Falmouth

Before the first lockdown we also managed to train up new volunteers at Falmouth on Shoresearch methods and how the whole process works. Afterwards we managed to get out onto the shore and had a great rummage in the pools whilst demonstrating the new skills learnt on quadrat and timed species surveying.



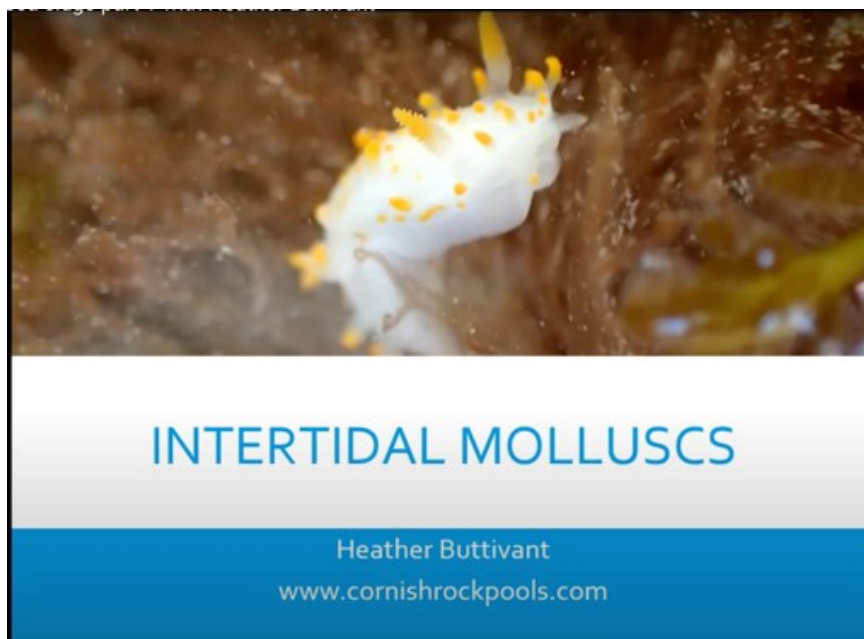
Blue rayed Limpets– Matt Slater

Online talks

As we all faced not being able to Shoresearch for most of the year and with connection to the natural world even more important than ever, a number of online talks were hosted by our very own “rockpool wizard” Matt Slater. Talks included—Cornish Crustaceans, Cnidarians (anemones and corals), Seaweeds The Pacific oyster project and we also had the pleasure of hosting guest speakers; Heather Buttivant (Cornish Rockpools) talking about impressive Cornish sea-slugs and Michiel Vos (An Bollenessor) on the beauty of photographing seaweeds.

We also produced a short film with practical tips on getting the most from your compact water proof camera— on you tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8hJR2eIAW4>

All of these talks as well as Seasearch Cornwall talks are available on the [Cornwall Wildlife Trust Marine Team YouTube channel](#).



National marine week

National Marine week normally arrives half-way through our survey calendar, but, due to the lock down, this year it was our first big event! As restrictions allowed small groups, we headed out to celebrate National Marine week and set out a goal to get the public to help us with county wide marine Bioblitz using the ORKS app. We went and explored the Shores of Durgan, and Porthmear.

During the two weeks the bioblitz totalled 468 records from 56 different contributors! One of the more colourful finds was of this egg laying pair of nudibranches, *Calma glaucoides*, as well as the sea squirt cave of wonder at Durgan. [Check out the blog post on NMW on the CWT website here](#)



Squirts and anemones galore– Matt Slater



Calma glaucoides– Josh Symes

Autumn surveys

After the hecticness of summer we managed to get out to a sunny Godrevy. A place which hasn't been "shoresearched" in recent years so was great to be able to explore this shore in detail. It was great to get out at this location as we did a walkover survey and deployed giant goby traps, with no luck unfortunately. By rummaging around the pools the whole time, we were able to fully appreciate the diversity here! The highlight of this survey was the group of three tiny *Goniodoris castanea* sea-slugs (see below) found by Cath and Sally and two more found by Matt.



Stalked Jellyfish— Charlotte Cumming



Goniodoris castanea—Matt Slater

Shoresearch week 2020

Shoresearch week was the highlight of the year with the survey entering its 8th year running. The normal process of surveying for five days in a row at St. Agnes, Looe, The Helford, Polzeath and Fowey continued as did the varying weather and dedication from our volunteers to come and assist. Throughout the five days, over 400 records and nearly 200 individual species were submitted found. The Highlight of Shoresearch week 2020 has to go to the gorgeous Lesser Spotted Catshark found at St. Agnes that put a lovely display on for us as she was re-released into a large pool and the charismatic Bob-Tail Squid that was busy hunting and hiding in the sand at the Helford.



Lesser-spotted catshark – Josh Symes

Key facts for Shoresearch week

499

Individual records

199

Total species

32

Volunteers

To the future...

A big thank you to all our volunteers this past year!

We hope that we get to get out on the shore with you all again soon

If you would like to get involved with Shoresearch Cornwall or find out any more information email:

Shoresearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Record round up 2020

Taxon Group	Number of Records
Seaweed	142
marine worms	30
bony fish	31
bryozoan	22
cartilagenous fish	2
cnidarian	46
crustacean	101
echinoderm	25
mollusc	108
sponges	28

To sign up to our newsletter visit: <https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/shoresearch>

Don't forget to keep uploading your rockpooling sights to the Shoresearch group on ORKS, either online by visiting <https://ercis.org.uk/> or on the app!

See you all on the shore soon,

Matt Slater

(marine awareness officer)

&

Josh Symes

(volunteer coordinator)

