



Shoresearch Cornwall

Annual Report 2018

2018 was another great year for Shoresearch Cornwall.

At the start of the year we set up a new mailing list system, in order to meet GDPR regulations. Despite fears that we may lose touch with lots of people we have had 233 volunteers register which is great and our events continue to be as popular as ever.

Our Facebook page has grown with a total of 1690 followers. We have also created the Shoresearch Cornwall volunteers Facebook group which allows more interactive sharing as anyone can post pictures and ask other volunteers questions. It's been working a treat with a wealth of fascinating finds shared.

Another exciting development is that Bude and Newquay have been running their own Shoresearch surveys. And virtually all of the Your Shore Network of marine groups are now uploading their shore records to www.orks.org.uk

After several years of development Shoresearch will be re-launched nationally at National Marine Week 2019 with a standardised methodology and a new data upload system which will allow far better national analysis of the data collected by this valuable and engaging project; watch this space!

This winter we have been busier than ever thanks to our Pacific Oyster project. More details below!

Thanks to all our volunteers, I hope you enjoy the newsletter and I look forward to seeing you out on the shore in 2019!

Matt Slater

(Professional Rockpooler!)

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Training

Shoresearch training days were held at five different locations with the aim to inspire local marine group volunteers to carry out their own surveys and to train people up on Pacific oyster identification.

Training and surveys were carried out at Mevagissey, Falmouth, Kingsand, Fowey, and Penzance, with great turnout at all.



Cornish Crustaceans training evenings were held at Allet and at Looe where volunteers were introduced to the exciting world of crustaceans. These events were well attended and inspired Tina Robinson to produce a crustacean themed wind break display for Polzeath Marine Group!

Two **Seaweeds for divers and rockpoolers** training evenings were held at Allet in March. Seaweeds were collected from Castle beach and everyone got stuck into sorting them out into species. These events were really popular!



A **Sponge ID** training weekend was held at Allet in September, aimed at divers and rockpoolers. The course was led by Seasearch Tutor and sponge expert Jen Jones who travelled all the way from Pembrokeshire to share her passion for sponges. The course was fascinating, a great introduction to the diversity of sponge species in UK waters and shores. Using excellent microscopes loaned by Cornwall College we all learned how to identify sponges from their tiny spicules – a real art form.



Shoresearch on Springwatch

It always seems a good idea until you are about to go live! It was great to get Shoresearch some national TV exposure when Springwatch came to Cornwall in July. Fortunately Cornwall delivered with shannies in crevices, giant gobies and tiny periwinkles! We broadcast live from a stunning location; Trevone rockpool with a beautiful sunset. The hastily set up baited camera delivered 'twizzling' shannies and grey mullet! It was lovely working with our good friend and Falmouth local, Gillian Burke and hopefully we will get another chance to work together soon!



Giant gobies discovered at Polzeath!

For the first time ever giant gobies (*Gobius cobitis*) were discovered living in a large rockpool at Polzeath. Shoresearch Cornwall's Matt Slater holds a Natural England licence to study this poorly understood rockpool fish. Little is known about its range in the UK and as far as we know this record is the furthest north it ranges in Cornwall. More research is still needed as we certainly have not ruled out all the suitable habitat on our coasts yet. Thanks to Dr Mike Kent who 'thought like a goby' and chose the pool. A great result for Polzeath! If you come across a giant goby or suitable habitat, please let Shoresearch Cornwall know.





Shoresearch week highlights

2018 Shoresearch week was a full-on five days and the weather was amazing! Notable finds; a new seagrass patch at Hanafore point, Looe, giant gobies at Polzeath, and incredible biodiversity at all five of Cornwall's VMCA's.



Adele Morgan



Pacific Oyster project

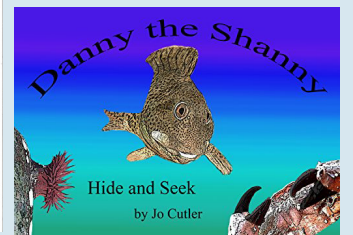
If you haven't heard about it I am not sure where you have been! These non-native invasive molluscs now have a strangle hold on our coastlines and have become a common sight on the shore especially in estuaries, but increasingly in more exposed coastal locations. Through EMFF European funding, working with Natural England and South Devon ANOB we have begun to address this worrying trend by training groups of volunteers and equipping them to carry out oyster surveys to help us learn more about their distribution, habitat preferences, and to carry out trial culling of this species in areas where we have the landowners permission.

This is very much a scientific study and trial. We hope at the end of it to have a better idea of the scale of this very serious issue and to also have some information on the effectiveness of manual culling by volunteers as a management tool. In 2018 a total of 21 surveys were carried out and a total of 7299 oysters were recorded.



Brilliant Bude Shoresearch

As always we have encouraged people to run their own surveys. Volunteers from Bude marine group have done an astounding job having run lots of surveys and walkovers in and around their very special patch. We love the books put together by Mark Fellows, Carole Fellows and Jo Cutler. Martin Dancey and Alison Wood have led several of these surveys with and Bude Marine Group. It is amazing to hear about some of their incredible finds! Pictured is the fairy anemone *Aiptasiogeton pellucidus var comatus*, fifth ever UK record! Photo Mark Fellows



Dates for the Diary!

- March 7th **'A Sting in the Polyps'** Cornish Cnidarians talk-, St Agnes,
- March 19th **'A Sting in the Polyps'** – Cornish Cnidarians talk 6.30 Looe RNLI station.
- March 21st **Marine Recorders Evening** Gwithian.
- April 4th **non-natives training** with Pacific oyster project, Yealm Estuary Devon, led by Marine Biology Association. Spaces limited
- March 24th **Shoresearch training at Portscatho**, Roseland.
- April 18th Thurs **Shoresearch training and survey**, Porthmear, near Newquay.
- July 31st **Rockpool ramble and Shoresearch** Portscatho,
- August 2nd **Shoresearch survey** Polridmouth, near Fowey. Meet 11.30
- August 7th **Radical Rockpooling**, West Cornwall. Booking essential.
- Sept 7th and 8th **Anemones Seasearch specialist course**, Porthkerris.



Cornwall Wildlife Trust



Get Involved!

It's really easy to help out with Shoresearch Cornwall. Anyone is welcome to turn up at our events, you need no previous experience just a willingness to learn and have fun exploring the shore! Find out about upcoming events and training, talks and much more by signing up to our mailing list visit our website to sign up

<https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/shoresearch>

Also find us on Facebook

@shoresearchcornwall

And Instagram

@shoresearchcornwall



Found something really exciting? Share the picture on social media or email to us! Once it has been identified please don't forget to record it properly by uploading it to ORKS! All the data you send is freely available online to everyone and will be shared with the National Biodiversity Network.



Flustrellidra hispida, fleshy bryozoan, Long Rock

Data summary; 2018

Survey site	Number of species
Hannafore Point	87
Cowrie Reef Polzeath	78
Battery rocks Penzance	66
Longpool Cawsand	54
Readymoney Cove	54
Long rock, Penzance	51
Whitehouse beach	43
Black beach, Bude	33
Greenbank, Falmouth	31
Trenow Mounts bay	13
Castle beach, Falmouth	11
Gyllyngvase beach, Falmouth	11
Prisk Cove, Helford	51
Trevaunance cove	46

Main Taxa Groups	Number of species
alga	118
mollusc	101
crustacean	70
chromist	64
cnidarians	36
bony fish	30
annelid	26
bryozoan	21
Seasquirts	15
sponge	14
echinoderm	12
Algae	10
lichen	6
Crustaceans	3
bacterium	2
flowering plant	1
cartilagenous fish	1
springtail	1
insect - true bug	1
ribbon worm	1
sea spider	1
Grand Total	534



Anthopelura balli, red speckled anemone, Prisk cove



Jorunna tomentosum Charlotte Cumming Porthleven



Anemonia viridis, Snakelocks anemone, Adele Morgan



Wakame juvenile, Non native species Cawsand

Thanks!!

I hope you enjoyed the newsletter. Thanks to all our amazing volunteers! Happy Rockpooling!
Matt