



**Cornwall  
Wildlife Trust**



# Shoresearch Cornwall

**Annual Report 2019**

2019 has been another great year for Shoresearch Cornwall. We have been working hard on the EU EMFF funded Pacific Oyster project which in this year continued to really expose the huge scale of the oyster emergency around our coastline. An impressive 81 surveys were carried out by our 13 teams of trained volunteers and over 76,000 oysters were recorded! We have also continued to train volunteers all around our coastline on the Shoresearch survey method and a total of 19 surveys were carried out on rocky shores this year with an impressive species count. We are extremely grateful to all the amazing volunteers who help out and we hope to see more local marine groups get involved and start running their own surveys in the coming months and years! Rockpooling in Cornwall is amazing and we encourage anyone interested to get involved!

**Matt Slater**

**Marine Awareness Officer  
Cornwall Wildlife Trust**

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Velvet Swimming Crab



Orange striped anemone, Malpas



Small headed clingfish spp



Shoresearch at St Agnes



Radical rockpooling



Elegant anemone, Cape Cornwall



## Training

An illustrated talk titled 'A sting in the Polyps' was given by Matt Slater at Looe and at St Agnes and was well received. (the talk is now online on CWT marine team you tube channel) Training was carried out at Portscatho for the Wild Roseland Marine group and at Castle beach with Falmouth Marine group.



Non-native species id training was held at Noss Mayo in South Devon as part of the Pacific Oyster project. The training delivered by Christine Wood and John Bishop of the Marine Biological Association was excellent and it was very interesting and shocking to see the extent of pacific oyster domination of the Yealm Estuary. In the Autumn a further training session on non-natives was held at St Just In Roseland led by the RAPID LIFE project, organised by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and led by Coral Smith of Devon Wildlife Trust. This event was a great opportunity to meet harbour masters and other interested stakeholders and to learn more about species to keep an eye out for. Matt and Adele also helped Christine Wood and John Bishop with a survey of pontoons on the Fal estuary. Finding a huge number of Non Native Species including orange striped anemone (pictured on page 1) and devils tongue weed.

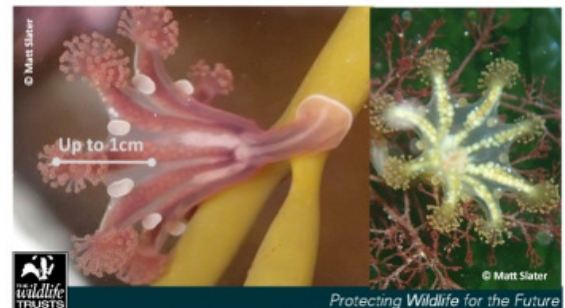
## Shoresearch goes National!

Each summer at the start of the school holidays Wildlife Trusts all around the UK celebrate our seas with National Marine Week. 2019 was particularly special as it marked the launching of the National Shoresearch Project. Following months of work behind the scenes which we were heavily involved in, the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts have officially launched a national standard for Shoresearch so that all Trusts are now working together using the same methods, enabling data to be shared and pooled to enable future analysis of long term changes on our shores due to issues such as climate change, invasive species and other human impacts. We will be carrying out training for volunteers keen to get involved and to learn how to use the new methods in 2020. We have a great new set of timed search cards, an improved randomised quadrat method for repeat surveys and a simplified walkover survey method which records presence and absence of species encountered.



### Stalked jellyfish

Various species



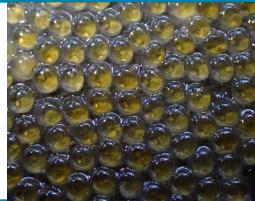
© Matt Slater

Protecting Wildlife for the Future

## National Marine Week

During National Marine week 2019 we carried out a 'Radical Rockpooling' session in West Cornwall and a lovely Shoresearch survey day at Polridmouth Cove near Fowey, a crabbing competition at Looe harbour and a rockpooling session on the Roseland at Cargur-el. During the week loads of snorkelling sessions and other amazing marine events were run by our Your Shore Beach Rangers team and our network of amazing marine conservation groups all around Cornwall. Look out for another fantastic week of events in 2020.





## Shoresearch on Springwatch again, and Autumnwatch!

We were lucky to get not one but two marine stories on BBC Springwatch this year! On our recommendation, the Springwatch team broadcast live from Fowey harbour covering the story of Pacific oysters taking over our estuaries and the positive story of the comeback of crawfish in our waters. Later in the year, BBC Autumn watch joined us during our Shoresearch Week survey at Hannafore and Abby Crosby did a great job on camera with some horrible weather to contend with!



Our great friend, filmmaker Tom Daguerra (Hydro-motion Media) was called in as cameraman and he spent the best part of the day lying in the rockpools in the driving rain filming tiny creatures which looked amazing on telly!



## Stormy Shoresearch Week!

This years Shoresearch Week was, as always, a brilliant and challenging effort! Shoresearch Week is becoming a great tradition for CWT. Now in its 7<sup>th</sup> Year this is the week where we survey all five of Cornwall's original VMCA's (Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas) using the biggest autumn spring tides of the year. As usual it didn't disappoint. Each day we were joined by a great team of volunteers, some joining for the full 5 days and many more coming on one or two. Sadly the weather was not on our side and we endured some pretty challenging stormy conditions but on every day a full Shoresearch transect survey was still completed and in all cases the weather eased enough for some great discoveries to be made! Highlights this year – so many! Discovering St Piran's crabs at Polzeath was probably the best! Also at Polzeath we saw lots of stalked jellies that were floating free in the pools- perhaps washed from their algae homes by the strong surf. Every shore was rich in life. Here are some great photos from the week!



Anthopleura balli



Juvenile shore crab



Goniadoris nodosa



Diademnum maculosum



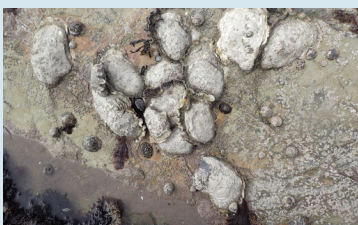
Calvdosium campanulata  
Adele Morgan



Long clawed porcelain crab

## Pacific Oyster project

In 2019 our Pacific oyster project continued with great momentum. 81 surveys were carried out along Cornwall's coastline by our 13 oyster survey teams of amazing volunteers. Oysters have been found in very high densities in the Fal, Helford, Tamar, Fowey estuaries and in lower densities, but still significant numbers at Kingsand, Whitsand bay, Looe harbour, Par beach, Mounts bay, Falmouth bay, and Carbis bay. Dense oyster reefs have been identified in the Tamar (at Cove point), in Fowey estuary and in the Fal and Helford. We are working to find commercial uses for Pacific oysters as well as looking at the efficiency of manual culling. The numbers are frightening with over 76,000 oysters having been recorded in 2019 alone. This project, led by NE concludes in May 2020.



Funded by EU Marine and Fisheries Fund





# Cornwall Wildlife Trust



## Volunteer of the year!

It is always so hard to choose as we have so many great volunteers but, our volunteer of the year 2019 goes to Charlotte Cumming. Charlotte is passionate about Cornish



rockpooling and although she lives in Hertfordshire (far from the coast) she spends most of her free time in Cornwall! She has been visiting Trevone on the north Cornish coast since she was a little girl and she never grew out of rockpooling. Charlotte's underwater photography and eye for detail has resulted in an amazing amount of great records submitted to Shoresearch via ORKS and this year Charlotte took a whole week off work to join us for all five of our Shoresearch week surveys! Well done Charlotte – check out her brilliant photos on our Shoresearch Cornwall Volunteers group, on Facebook.

## Data summary; 2019

Location	Number of species
Looe Island survey - Sheltered shore	362
Porth Mear (North Cornwall)	120
Prisk cove, Helford	98
Cargurrel Beach, Roseland	90
Readymoney cove	88
Portscatho	86
Hannafore beach, Looe	85
Polzeath, cowrie reef	84
Polridmouth, near Fowey	71
Cape Cornwall, Radical Rockpool	65
Castle Beach, Falmouth	64
Trevanance Cove, St Agnes	60
Old Wooden Quay - St Ives	39
Turnaware Bar, Fal Estuary	36
Turnaware Bar - Oyster bank	25
Number of surveys	16

## 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

## We need your records!

They are vital for our conservation work. Take pictures when out on the shore. If you can't identify any yourself please share the pictures on our Facebook or email to us!



Once they have been identified

please upload the records ORKS. Using the **Shoresearch Cornwall recorders** group. And get your name in the history books! All the data you send is shared with the National Biodiversity Network, and the National Shoresearch project.

Group	Number of species
alga	301
annelid	80
bacterium	7
bony fish	63
bryozoan	36
chromist	159
cnidaria	105
crustacean	199
echinoderm	51
flowering plant	2
moth	1
lichen	5
mollusc	267
ribbon worm (Nemertea)	2
sea spider (Pycnogonida)	5
sponge (Porifera)	46
springtail (Collembola)	3
Sea Squirts	46
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>1378</b>

## Thank you!!

I hope you enjoyed this newsletter.? Thanks to all our amazing volunteers! And to our funders! Happy Rockpooling and see you in 2020! **Matt Slater**

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