

Seaquest Southwest is a marine citizen science and public participation project run by Cornwall Wildlife Trust to record the most charismatic marine wildlife found in Cornish waters; including porpoise, dolphins, whales, seals, sharks, turtles and fish.

Aims of Seaquest



1

To engage people with the marine environment.

2

To collect data on marine wildlife.

3

To better understand and conserve marine wildlife.

2021 Key Facts and Figures

2036

Marine mammal, bluefin tuna, basking shark and ocean sunfish sightings reported

17

Marine mega fauna species

178

Seaquest effort surveys conducted

18

Public Seaquest sea watches

43

Sites visited during Seaquest surveys

1095

People engaged with the project

Seaquest Surveys 2021

- Less than 10 hours
- 10—30 hours
- 30—50 hours
- Over 50 hours

North Cliffs
32%
of survey time was watching
wildlife in the sea

107¼ hours
7 species

North Cornwall
25%
of survey time was watching
wildlife in the sea

3 hours
2 species

St Ives Bay

88%
of survey time was watching
wildlife in the sea

30¼ hours
6 species

Mounts Bay

71%
of survey time was watching
wildlife in the sea

26 hours
5 species

Falmouth Bay

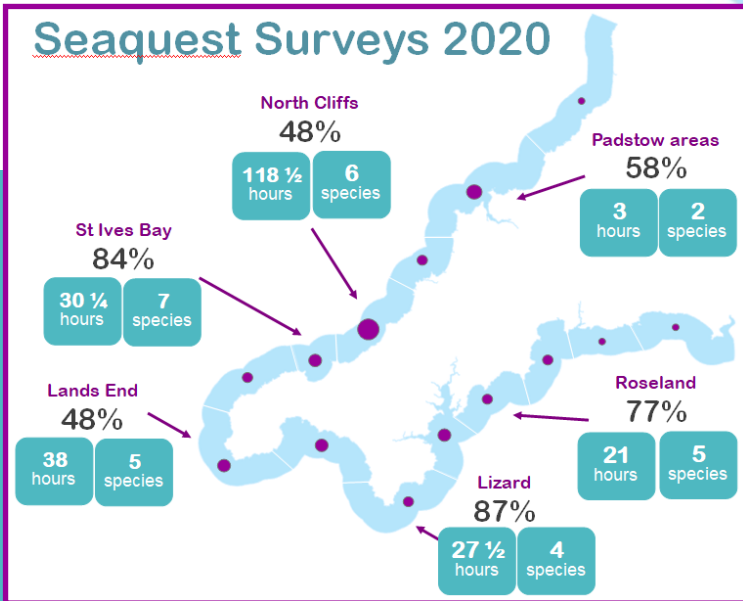
45%
of survey time was watching
wildlife in the sea

35¾ hours
5 species

Lizard

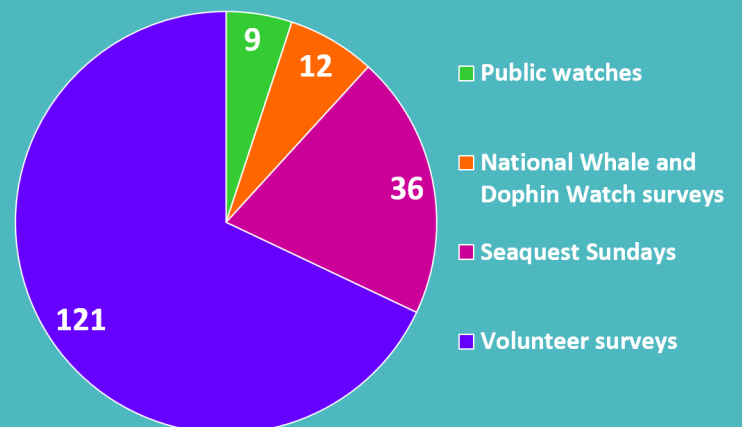
93%
of survey time was watching
wildlife in the sea

38¼ hours
4 species



KEY FIGURES FROM 2021 SEAQUEST EFFORT SURVEYS

337 Hours of surveys conducted in 2021	178 Surveys submitted from 43 different sites	12 Species recorded during 2021 surveys
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Casual Sightings

Sightings records submitted to Seaquest and CWT via our recording website (www.ORKS.org.uk), social media and email.

Minke whale
118
 Records submitted
 Number up from 76 in 2020

Ocean sunfish
77
 Records submitted
 Number down from 108 in 2020

Harbour porpoise
543
 Records submitted
 Number up from 537 in 2020

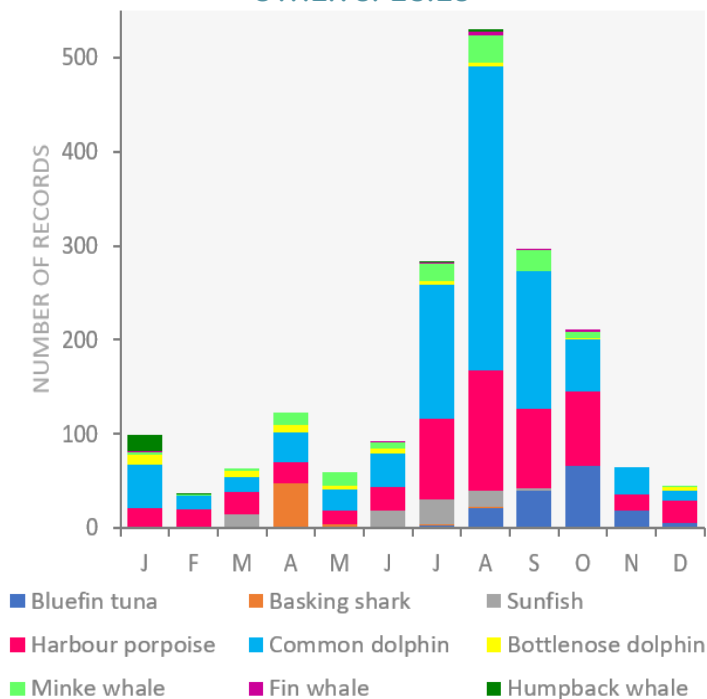
2036
 Total number of casual sightings records submitted to Seaquest

Bluefin tuna
153
 Records submitted
 Number down from 250 in 2020

Common dolphin
905
 Records submitted
 Number down from 971 in 2020

Bottlenose dolphin
50
 Records submitted
 Number up from 49 in 2020

REPORTS PER MONTH - MARINE MAMMALS AND OTHER SPECIES

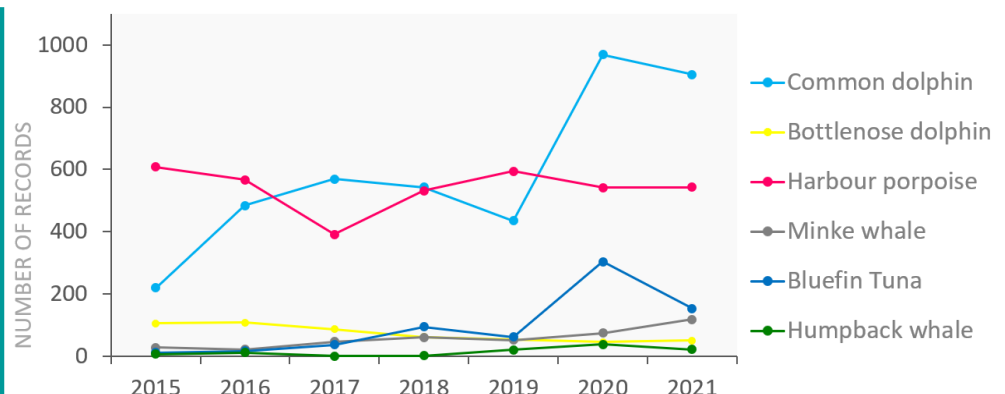


SIGHTINGS HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021

- On the 5th May the famous pair of **orca**, **John Coe** and **Aquarius** made an appearance off the Lizard coast in front of the Minack Theatre.
- On the 17th June an unusual visitor turned up on the Isles of Scilly. The **walrus** fondly named **Wally** stayed on St Mary's for over **6 weeks** before continuing on his journey, hopefully back to his home in the arctic circle.
- A record breaking **118 minke whale** sightings seen throughout the year!!
- A whopping **56 basking shark** records **50** of those recorded in **April**.
- 21 humpback whale** records and **12 fin whales** records.
- Both **common dolphin** and **harbour porpoise** have been seen and recorded all year around the Cornish coast.



REPORTS PER YEAR—MARINE MAMMALS AND OTHER SPECIES



Engagement

Key facts and figures

154

Number of volunteers trained

1095

People engaged with the project

36

Public events run

9

Local marine volunteer groups running Seaquest surveys



To all our Seaquest volunteers and supporters

A massive thank you to all who got involved and supported Seaquest during 2021. The year started in another lockdown and yet the number of surveys and records of wildlife you have sent into us has been amazing. The passion and dedication you, our volunteers and supporters, have shown is incredible and we can't thank you enough!

A special big thank you to everyone who contributed to Seaquest in 2021;

- Cheryl Yarham and Clare Owen for doing a brilliant job as Seaquest Coordinator volunteers. Lauren Brenton-Crabb, Marine Team Apprentice and Lauren Storer, Marine Team volunteer for help with events and data. Thank you!
- Kate and Dave Williams for an incredible number of Seaquest surveys completed.
- Our associated local marine groups; St Agnes Marine Conservation Group, Newquay Marine Group, Three Bays Wildlife Group, Mounts Bay Marine Group, Falmouth Marine Conservation, National Trust at Lizard, St Ives Marine Group, Perranporth Marine Conservation Group and West Cornwall for conducting Seaquest surveys on your patch.
- To all our Seaquest trained volunteers for conducting an incredible number of surveys all around the coast in 2021.
- Marine Discovery Penzance, Padstow Sealife Safari, Newquay Sea Safari and Fishing, AK Wildlife Cruises and Cornwall Seal Group Research Trust for kindly sharing your sightings with us.
- To everyone sharing marine animal sightings with us via our online recording website www.ORKS.org.uk, through our Facebook page or via email.
- To all our speakers for our fantastic evening talks; Tom Horton, Shauna Corr, our very own Clare Owen, The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust' Jenny Hampson and Steve Truluck and Sarah Greenslade and Duncan Kenny from The Seal Project.

JOIN THE SEAQUEST SOUTHWEST PROJECT!

- Visit www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/seaquest to learn about the project and download previous reports.
- Subscribe to our newsletter—the link is on the CWT website.
- Follow us on social media: Facebook (@CWTSeaquestSouthwest), Instagram (@seaquest_southwest) and Twitter (@CWTSeaquestSW) .
- Come along to a Seaquest public sea watch, talk or training event.
- Explore casual sightings by visiting the Seaquest Recording Group on www.ORKS.org.uk .
- Sightings and surveys are available on request for your research, project or personal interest, if you would like to access Seaquest data please email the Wildlife Information Service within ERCCIS via email wis@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk .