

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.

2019 Key Fact and Figures

1842

Marine wildlife sightings reported

17

Marine mega fauna species

265

Seaquest effort surveys conducted

19

Public watch events

50

Sites visited during Seaquest surveys

844

People engaged with the project

Seaquest Surveys

Hours of survey effort



North Cliffs

40%
of survey time was watching
wildlife in the sea

138 ³/₄
hours

8
species

Padstow areas

35%
of survey time was watching
wildlife in the sea

61
hours

7
species

St Ives Bay

60%
of survey time was watching
wildlife in the sea

67 ³/₄
hours

7
species

St Austell Bays

44%
of survey time was watching
wildlife in the sea

35 ¹/₂
hours

5
species

Lizard

77%
of survey time was watching
wildlife in the sea

42 ¹/₂
hours

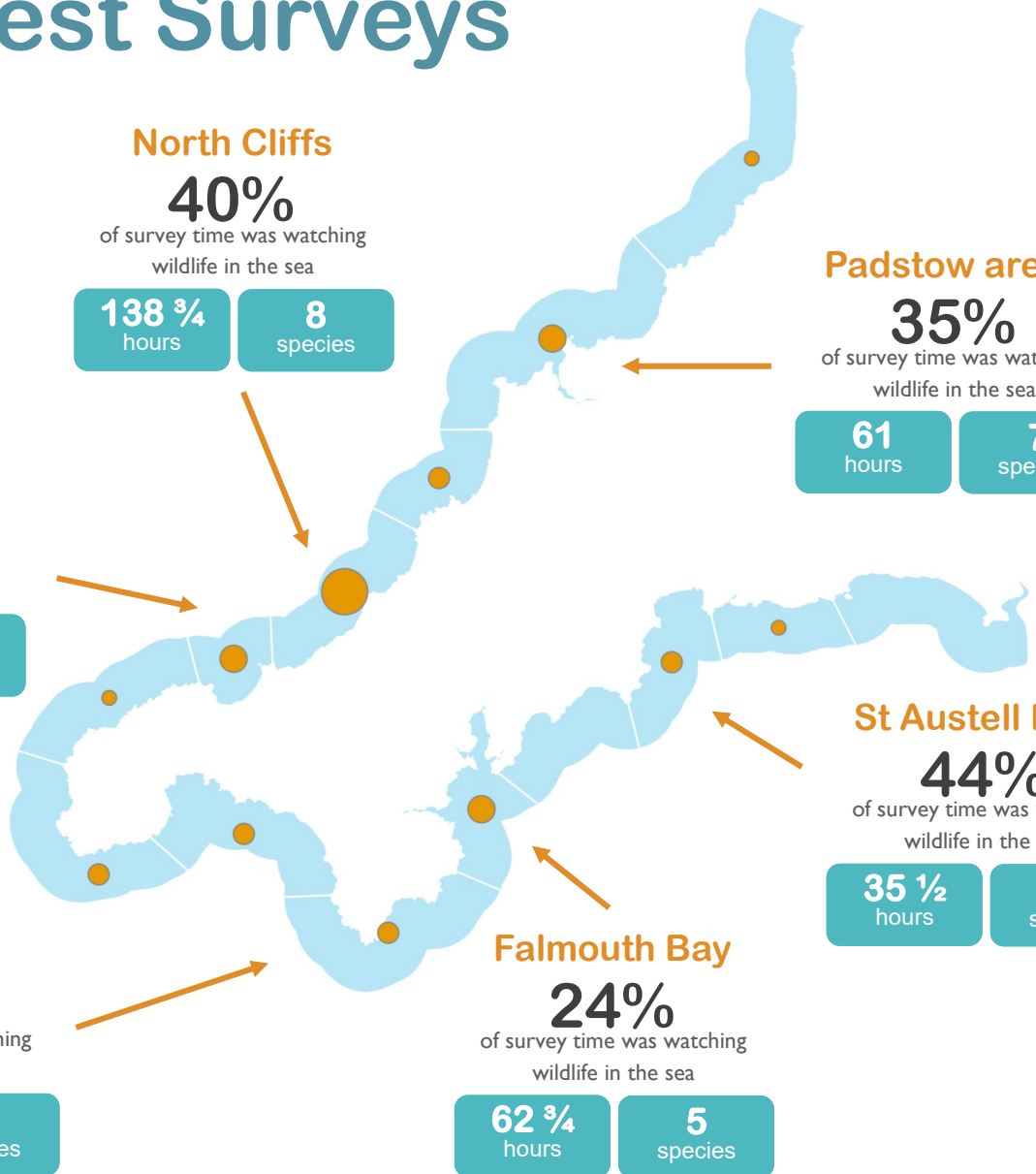
6
species

Falmouth Bay

24%
of survey time was watching
wildlife in the sea

62 ³/₄
hours

5
species



KEY FIGURES FROM SEAQUEST EFFORT SURVEYS

265

Surveys submitted at **50**
different sites

538 ¹/₂

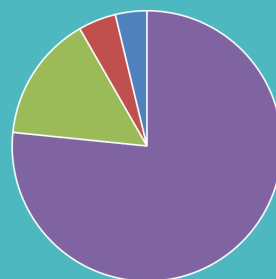
Hours of survey
conducted in 2019

10

Species recorded during
2019 surveys



Bottlenose dolphin by Terry Carne



■ Volunteer Survey
 ■ Seaquest Sunday
■ Public watch
 ■ NWDW

203 Volunteer surveys
40 Seaquest Sundays
12 Public Watches
10 National Whale and
 Dolphin watch surveys

Casual Sightings

Sighting records submitted to Seaquest and CWT via our recording website (www.ORKS.org.uk), Facebook pages or email

Bottlenose Dolphin

54

Records submitted



Harbour Porpoise

594

Records submitted



Common Dolphin

729

Records submitted



1842

Total number of casual sightings records submitted to Seaquest

Ocean Sunfish

57

Records submitted



Minke Whale

51

Records submitted



Blue Fin Tuna

62

Records submitted



SIGHTING HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019

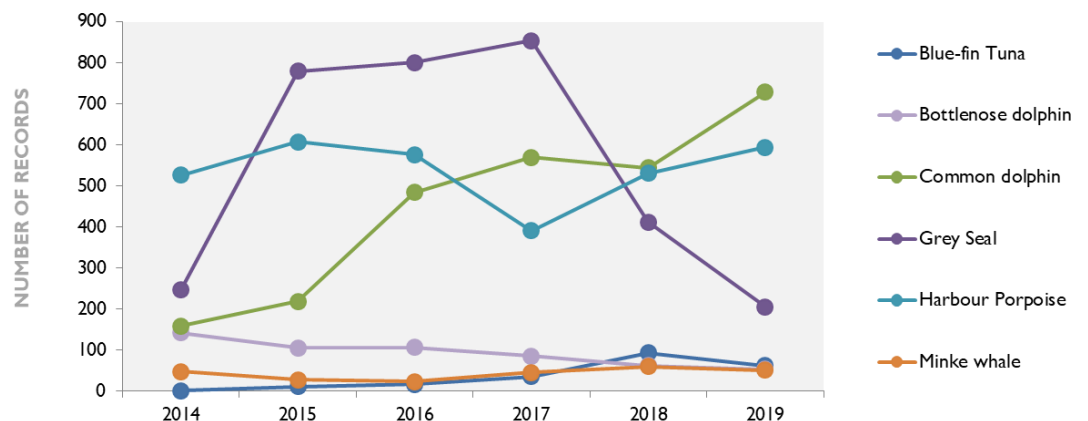
- 19 sightings of **humpback whale** submitted to us in 2019, the first was caught on camera just off the coast of Falmouth in February and the last was in August in Mounds Bay while the animal was feeding.
- 3 different sightings of **white-beaked dolphin** on the south coast of Cornwall between May and August during 2019.
- 2019 saw unprecedented numbers of **common dolphin** in our coastal waters, with 729 sightings records submitted to us!
- An unusual record of a **sei whale** seen off Padstow in July
- A leucistic **harbour porpoise** was spotted in Mounds Bay which deserves a mention



White-beaked dolphin by Jenn Sandiford

REPORTS PER YEAR

MARINE MAMMALS AND OTHER SPECIES



Engagement

Key facts and figures

75

Number of volunteers trained

844

People engaged with the project

24

Public events run

3

Boat trips for Seaquest volunteers

6

Local marine volunteer groups running Seaquest Surveys

100

People attended the Marine Recorders Evening



Public watch at Lizard point

To all our Seaquest Volunteers and Supporters

Thank you to all the volunteers who got involved and supported the project in 2019! Your dedication, time and enthusiasm at surveys and events is what makes this project such a success.

A special big thank you to everyone who contributed to Seaquest in 2019;

- Cheryl Yarham and Clare Owen for an incredible job as Seaquest Coordinator volunteers.
- Our associated local marine groups; St Agnes Marine Conservation group, Newquay Marine Group, Three Bays Wildlife Group, Falmouth Marine Conservation, National Trust at Lizard and West Cornwall for conducting Seaquest surveys on your patch.
- To all our Seaquest trained volunteers for conducting a record breaking number of surveys all around the coast in 2019.
- 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.
- The Upper Deck in Falmouth for hosting the 2019 Marine Recorders evening.
- To all our speakers and host locations for our fantastic evening talks; Rob Wells and Sue Sayer at Chasewater Village Hall, Haley Dalton and Jacqui Keenan at the Driftwood Spars and Charles Hood at the Solomon Brown Hall.

JOIN THE SEAQUEST SOUTHWEST PROJECT!

Learn more!

Read the CWT Seaquest website to learn about the project and download previous reports. Visit www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/Seaquest

Follow us!

Follow us on Facebook @SeaquestSouthwest
Subscribe to the Seaquest Newsletter, the subscribe link is on the Seaquest page on the CWT website
Contact us by email seaquest@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Join us!

Come along to a Seaquest survey, talk or training event! The 2020 programme is out now!

Use our data!

Explore causal 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 could like to access Seaquest data please email seaquest@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk