



Ariennir yn Rhannol gan  
**Lywodraeth Cymru**  
Part Funded by  
**Welsh Government**

## Key Highlights

November saw the start of Project SIARC thanks to funding from Nature Networks Fund, National Heritage Lottery Fund and On The Edge Conservation. The project's also supported by 16 partner organisations.



**Nature in Wales: Donkeys, sharks among wildlife helped by new fund**



A new fund will help to protect almost 70 species across Wales at almost 20 locations. From donkeys in Snowdonia to sharks in Carmarthen Bay, some of Wales' rarest and quietest animal habitats will benefit from a fund for conservation.

Soft launch of Project SIARC carried out in October as part of the Nature Networks Fund press release by Welsh Government. Project SIARC team interviewed by BBC Wales news about the project and it's aims.

# QUARTERLY REPORT 1 : Nov 2021 - Jan 2022



## Fisher Engagement

- Analysis on engagement from Angel Shark Project: Wales was completed and communication framework developed.
- Shark ID adapted by the Shark Trust for elasmobranch species off the Welsh coast.



## Diversity & Inclusion

- Internal core team meeting organised to focus on how diversity and inclusion would be embedded throughout all Project SIARC work packages.



## Baited Remote Underwater Video Systems (BRUVs) & Instant Wild

- Blue Abacus completed the manufacture and calibration of carbon fibre BRUVS.
- Project SIARC portal loaded into InstantWild.



## eDNA surveys

- Bangor University produced a hydrodynamic model and conducted tracer modelling around the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC to help narrow down the 10 eDNA sampling sites.



## Citizen Scientists

- North Wales Wildlife Trust (NWWT) held an initial citizen scientist meeting to discuss historical research through searching online archives and libraries.
- Coordinated Great Egg Case Hunts for April planned and volunteer training completed.



## Analysis

## School Engagement

- 7 local schools around the CBAE SAC engaged with the 3D printing element of project SIARC.

## Wider Engagement

- Project SIARC featured on BBC Wales News and Wales Online.
- Digital identity of Project SIARC created by 22 creative.
- Social media reached 30,044 accounts.

## Research Group

- Database for elasmobranch researchers in Wales started to be compiled.
- Call for researchers to get involved to be part of the Welsh elasmobranch research group.

## Dissection events

- Meetings with the Cetaceans Stranding's Investigation Programme (CSIP) team carried out to plan the Wales dissection events.
- Event location finalised for Aberystwyth University Veterinary Education Centre.

## Project Management

- Project SIARC project assistant based in South Wales recruited.



Approved purposes for NNF & NLHF	Progress
Develop a monitoring plan appropriate for the site and project to enable evaluation of project against specified outcomes.	Green
CS data collection (e.g. eggcase hunts).	Yellow
Creation of full-time temporary ZSL jobs in Wales; including Project Assistant, Project Administrator and Project Research Assistant.	Green
“Meet the scientist” school engagement sessions.	Pink
Welsh language mini documentary on project, species and areas of focus.	Yellow
Active diversity and inclusion consultation: interviews and key group discussion.	Yellow
3D species printing school engagement sessions (7-13 year olds).	Yellow
Website and social media development for wider impact.	Yellow
Baited Remote Underwater Video to capture around 350 hours of footage.	Pink
Angelshark dissection events.	Yellow
CS training to be uploaded to “Instant Wild” platform.	Pink
Welsh translations of Instant Wild platform.	Pink
Project Evaluation.	Yellow

