

Key Highlights

July 25th 2022 the scientific paper [‘The distribution, ecology and predicted habitat use of the Critically Endangered angelshark \(*Squatina squatina*\) in coastal waters of Wales and the central Irish Sea’](#) was published and shared via a press release.

DOI: 10.1111/1365-1513.123

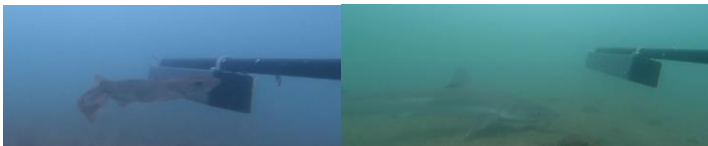
REGULAR PAPER

FISHBIOLOGY

The distribution, ecology and predicted habitat use of the Critically Endangered angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in coastal waters of Wales and the central Irish Sea

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Baited Remote Underwater Video Systems (BRUVs) started within the Pen Llŷn A'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation. Over 72 hours of footage has been recorded to date, where at least three elasmobranch species have been seen.



QUARTERLY REPORT 2 : May - July 2022



Fisher Engagement

- Bilingual pocket ID guide developed for 27 elasmobranchs found in Welsh waters.
- One mucus sample of an Angelshark collected.
- Five Angelshark records reported to the project.



Diversity & Inclusion

- Human ethics document submitted for review
- Key partners have been identified for the delivery of a workshop focusing specifically on diversifying the marine conservation sector.



Baited Remote Underwater Video Systems (BRUVs) & Instant Wild

- Over 72 hours of BRUVS footage recorded within the Pen Llŷn A'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation
- Tutorial content developed for the InstantWild portal.



eDNA surveys

- 144 eDNA samples filtered during the three months of sampling around the Carmarthen Bay & Estuaries SAC.



Citizen Scientists

- Nine Great Eggcase Hunts with 165 attendees completed by North Wales Wildlife Trust (NWWT)
- Eggcase Hunt Champions day held to train people in running in their own eggcase hunt days.
- Three archives visited to unlock the history of the the focal elasmobranch species.



Analysis

- Manuscript summarising data collected on Angelsharks in Wales since 2018 was accepted within the Journal Of Fish Biology

School Engagement

- Swansea University engaged with 11 schools for the 3D printing activities.
- Online session run with one school to support in the launch of the 3D printing element.

Wider Engagement

- Press release reached more than 113,000 individuals and was mentioned in six media pieces including BBC Radio Wales.
- Article on ASP:W and Project SIARC published in Natur Cymru
- Social media reached 65,359 accounts.

Research Group

- Project SIARC hosted it's first Research Group meeting 33 people in attendance..

Dissection events

- Project SIARC hosted it's second #CSIofTheSea Angelshark examination at University College Dublin Veterinary Hospital where 22 people attended.
- Dissection completed on an Angelshark that was recovered from Cardigan Bay in July.

Project Management



Approved Purposes (NNF and 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).	Green
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.	Red
Welsh language mini documentary on project, species and areas of focus.	Red
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.	Red
Angelshark dissection events.	Yellow
CS training to be uploaded to “Instant Wild” platform.	Red
Welsh translations of Instant Wild platform.	Green
Project Evaluation.	Yellow

