



Cronfa
Treftadaeth
Heritage
Fund



Mewn Partneriaeth â
Llywodraeth Cymru
In Partnership with
Welsh Government

Key Highlights

Project SIARC featured on BBC Springwatch. The feature highlighted how to get involved with the project and report sightings of Angelsharks.



54 BRUVS were deployed within the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation with charter skippers from Aberdyfi, Barmouth and Pwllheli.



Nursehound
(*Scyliorhinus stellaris*)



Thornback Ray
(*Raja clavata*)

PROJECT REPORT 1: Apr - Jul 2023

Fisher Partnerships

- Attended two events organised by Angling Cymru Sea Anglers (ACSA):
 - Royal Airforce fishing festival RAF Valley, Anglesey
 - Opening ceremony of the National Shore Fishing Championships held at Pwllheli

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

- Recruitment process started for an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion community officer based in North Wales.

Baited Remote Underwater Video Systems (BRUVs) & Instant Wild

- 54 BRUVS were deployed and a total of 60 hours of footage was recorded in the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation.
- BRUVS were deployed off Aberdyfi, Barmouth and Pwllheli.

School Engagement

- Three meet the scientist sessions were run in person with an estimated 87 students.
- Development of the eggcase hunt toolkit for teachers and the junior eggcase workbook with activities are both in progress.

Citizen Scientists

- 86 people attended 3 coordinated eggcase hunt events and activities within PLAS SAC.
- Swansea University MSc students created a VR app for eggcase identification.





Analysis

- Manuscript on fisher-led factors of how fisheries have changed in Wales under three themes (socio-economic, ecological, and legislative drivers) in draft.
- Bangor University master's student completed a thesis on comparing angelshark encounters with environmental variables including; sea bottom temperature, dissolved oxygen, depth, tidal current 37 speeds, tidal cycle, and salinity.

Wider Engagement

- Social media reached 60,261 accounts.
- e-newsletter developed, sign up [here](#) to keep up to date
- Project SIARC featured on BBC Springwatch

Research Group

- No updates

Dissection events

- Biological/tissue samples sent off and awaiting results.

Project Management

- Recruitment of the EDI community officer in North Wales.



| Approved Purposes (NNF) | Progress |
|--|----------|
| FISHER PARTNERSHIP - PS co-designed with fishers and their associations or clubs, through strengthened and diversified working relationships. | |
| ADDRESSING DATA GAPS - Priority data gaps on how elasmobranchs use protected features in two SACs are filled; data used in NRW advice and decision-making, in close collaboration with fishers. | |
| EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION - Understanding of diverse perspectives used to overcome barriers to participation and achieve greater equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in Welsh marine conservation. | |
| ENABLING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - A wider demographic access the marine environment in Wales using virtual reality, GEH activities and Instant Wild | |
| INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION - Schoolchildren from diverse backgrounds achieve learning outcomes on sustainability and the natural world and demonstrate confidence in digital technologies. | |
| SHOWCASING WALES' MARINE ENVIRONMENT - A greater diversity of communities in Wales learn about the marine environment, using elasmobranchs as a flagship in bilingual communications. | |

