



# PROJECT SIARC Summary

Phase 2, Year 1



## ABOUT US

The Shark Trust's Great Eggcase Hunt has been engaging members of the public in shark conservation since 2003. By recording shark & skate eggcases (also called mermaid's purses) that wash up on the beach, or those seen developing underwater, we can get a better understanding of the presence & diversity of oviparous (egg-laying) species in British waters.

Project SIARC (Sharks Inspiring Action and Research with Communities) is a multidisciplinary project operating throughout Wales, with emphasis on community engagement & research at two Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Project SIARC launched in November 2021, and has now entered its second phase, starting in April 2023. North Wales Wildlife Trust run eggcase hunts in North Wales on behalf of Project SIARC, with all data being submitted to the Shark Trust.

North Wales Wildlife Trust have also trained up eggcase Champions to run their own eggcase hunts and report their finds from an adopted stretch of beach on a regular basis. But you can get involved without needing to attend an organised event! We encourage coastal communities to conduct self-led eggcase hunts & record any findings (with photos!) to the Great Eggcase Hunt, using either the online Recording Hub (available in English or Welsh) or via the Shark Trust's citizen science app.

Here is what you have found across Wales in the last year...



## PHASE TWO - YEAR ONE

Eggcases collected 01 April 2023 - 31 March 2024

Total number of  
**EGGCASE  
HUNTS**  
**78**

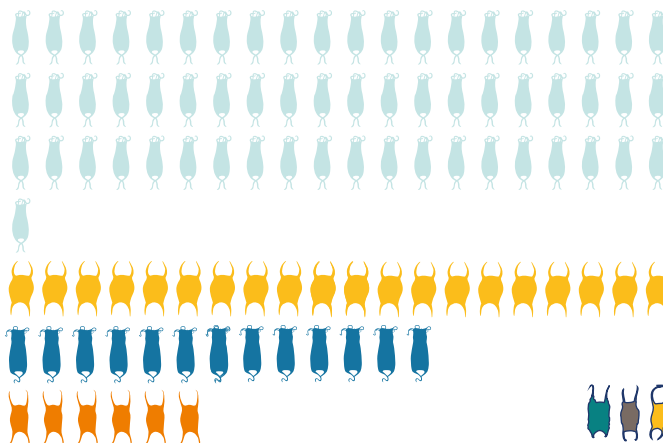
**~270**  
**PARTICIPANTS**  
At NWWT led events

**22**  
**CHAMPIONS**  
Trained to run GEH events



Total number of

**EGGCASES RECORDED: 7,715**

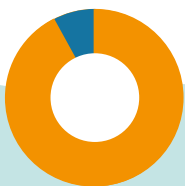


Each = 1% of records

- Nursehound
- Thornback Ray
- Spotted Ray
- Smallspotted Catshark

Each = < 1% of records

- Small-eyed Ray
- Blonde Ray
- Cuckoo Ray



Verified:  
**92%**

Unverified:  
**8%**



406 eggcases (Mostly Nursehound eggcases)  
found at Porth Nobla  
Nick Richards | GEH



Small-eyed Ray (*Raja microcellata*) and  
Cuckoo Ray (*Leucoraja naevus*) eggcases  
found at Porth Neigwl  
Sophia Taylor | GEH



Thornback Ray (*Raja clavata*) eggcase found  
at North Shore, Llandudno  
Charles and Clare Welsh | GEH

[WWW.EGGCASE.ORG](http://WWW.EGGCASE.ORG)

## TOP RECORDERS

NWWT run a lot of group eggcase hunt events, and collate the eggcase finds of the attendees, so their submissions account for nearly 60% of the eggcases submitted on behalf of Project SIARC and are representative of a larger group of people.

Outside of these events run by NWWT, the top 5 recorders for Project SIARC this year were:

TOP  
5

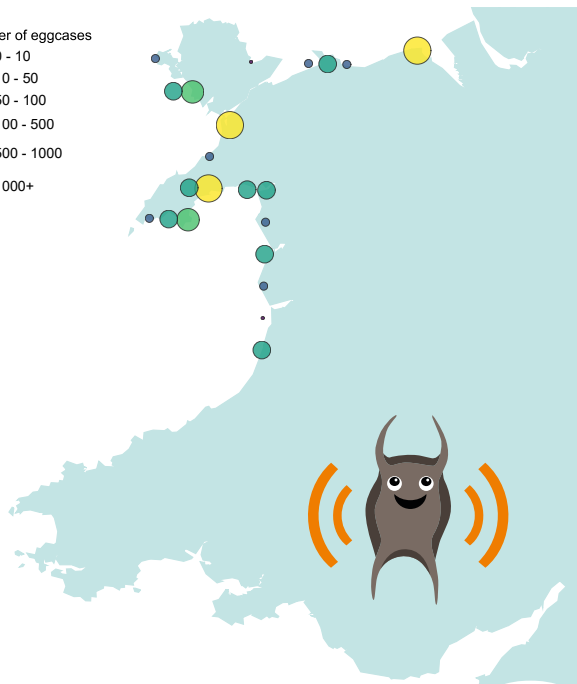
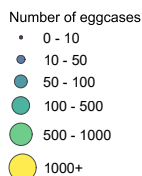
- 1 Elaine Blanchard - **1379**
- 2 Kathryn Brass - **739**
- 3 Nick Richards - **406**
- 4 Charles & Clare Welsh - **393**
- 5 Louise Rogers - **218**



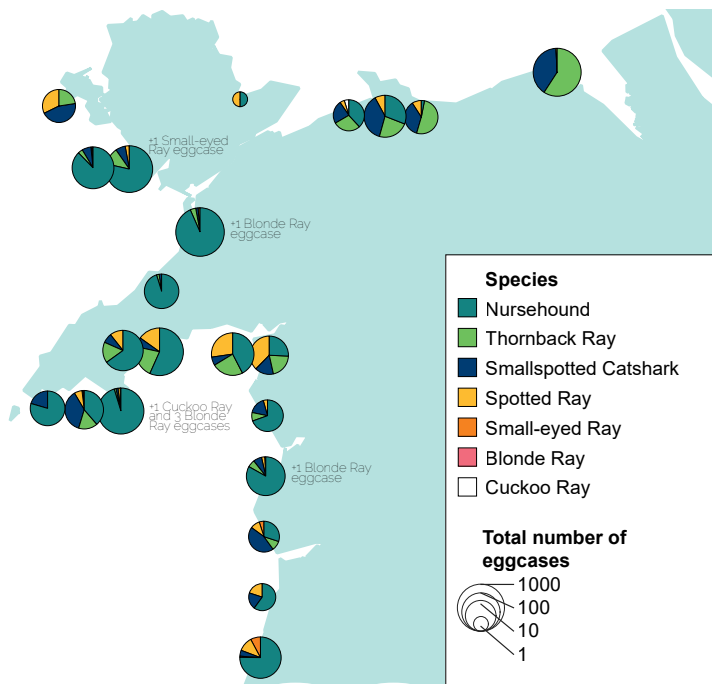
Sorting eggcases by species after an Easter Eggcase Hunt in Llandanwg  
Harriet Allen | GEH

## EGGCASE LOCATIONS

Over the last year 7,715 eggcases have been reported through Project SIARC from 22 locations, mostly in North Wales with some submissions from Mid Wales:



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## UNUSUAL FINDS

Typically in North Wales you find eggcases from four species: Nursehounds (61% of eggcases reported over the last year), Thornback Rays (20%), Smallspotted Catsharks (13%) and Spotted Rays (6%).

However, sometimes eggcases from other species can be found. This year the more unusual eggcases reported as part of Project SIARC included 22 Small-eyed Ray eggcases, 5 Blonde Ray eggcases and 3 Cuckoo Ray eggcases!

Other rarer eggcases can wash ashore too. In the previous Phase of Project SIARC, a Blue Skate and a Flapper Skate eggcase were found near Aberystwyth. Though these eggcases haven't been reported through Project SIARC this year, there is always a chance, so make sure to keep an eye out!



All you need to get involved is a bucket or bag and a keen eye!  
Harriet Allen | GEH

## GET INVOLVED

To find out more about Great Eggcase Hunt events in North Wales, head to the [North Wales Wildlife Trust events page](https://www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/events).

If you are interested in training to become an Eggcase Champion and adopting your own stretch of beach, contact NWWT at [info@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:info@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk)

To find out more about Project SIARC and other ways to get involved, see the main [Project SIARC website](https://www.projectsiarc.org).

To find out more about the Great Eggcase Hunt in the rest of the UK and around the world, or the Shark Trust, head to [eggcase.org](https://www.eggcase.org).

[WWW.EGGCASE.ORG](https://www.eggcase.org)