

What do fishers think of the Baited Remote Underwater Videos Systems (BRUVS) Surveys?



“By taking part in the baited camera surveys it’s provided the opportunity to see what it’s like below the surface at some of the fishing spots and the amount of life that is found there. I’ve learnt more about the area which I work in and this information can also be shared with the fishers who come aboard the boat during trips. It’s an interesting project to be part of.”

Nigel Merridew – Warrior

“The surveys are important for the area and help to provide a better understanding for many of the species and for future generations to be able to enjoy this marine area.”

Tony Bruce – Highlander



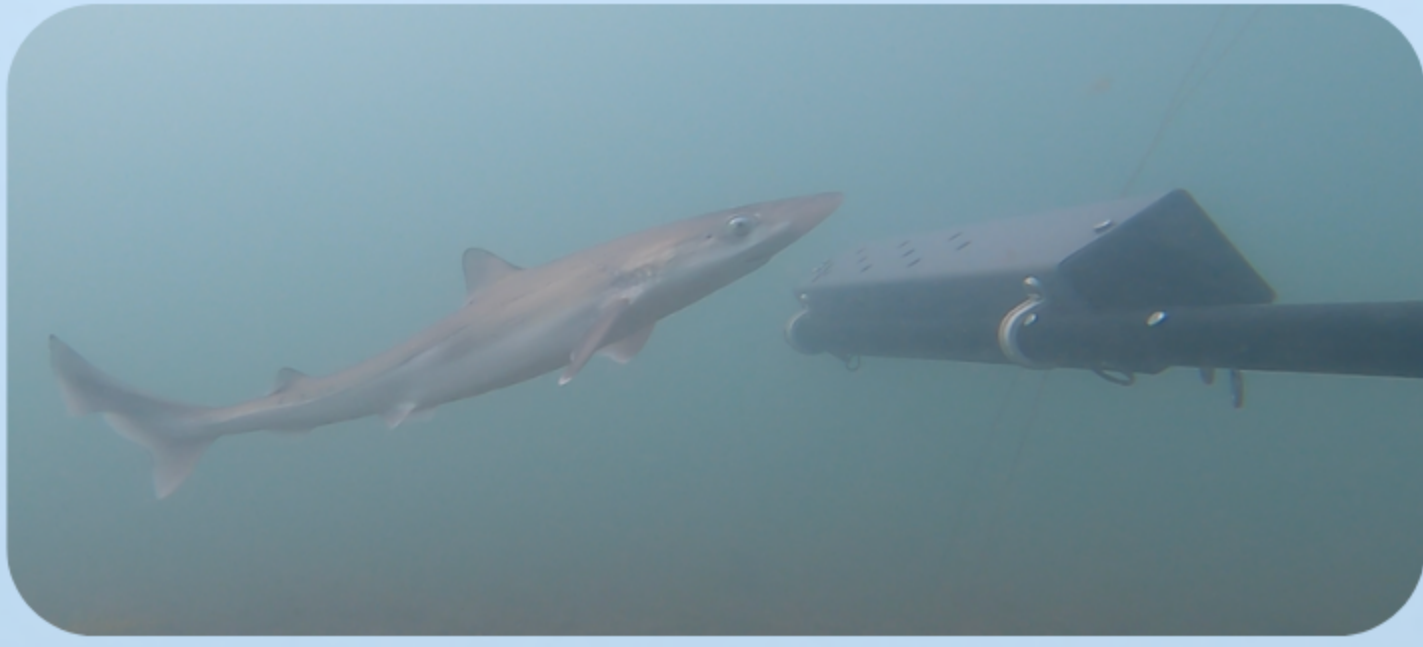
“I find these projects interesting as even though working on the water day in day out, it is an opportunity to learn and see more from under the waves.

I have learnt how these camera systems work and how diverse the seabed is along the coastline. These studies are important for collecting the data for future references of life in our waters, because our waters are changing, and we need to be monitoring these changes”.

Brett Garner – Top Cat



What do Citizen Scientists think of Instant Wild?



It's fun, informative, and it's helping wildlife conservation. Plus it's a great way to volunteer to help the natural world from the comfort of a sofa.

I've learnt that there is far more diversity on my doorstep, than I ever appreciated.

A rewarding way to lend your spare time.



INSTANT WILD

Project SIARC is particularly exciting because it's looking at creatures closer to home, but not the foxes, birds and domestic cats that you'd expect to see on a UK camera trap, because it's all underwater. Before getting involved in the project I had no idea of the variety of sharks and rays that inhabit the seas around the British Isles.

The project captures short videos, so you can see the behaviour of these remarkable and little understood fish, as well as the amusing antics of crabs and other creatures.

When you do see a shark, though, it's always a thrill, even if it's only a little one that's really a dogfish.

Matt (the Rhino) Thompson

I have learned to identify a wider range of sea life.

What do some of the Project SIARC team think of Baited Remote Underwater Videos Systems (BRUVS) Surveys?

“Conducting Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) surveys has offered me the opportunity to develop a range of technical skills, from learning how to set up the equipment to ensuring accurate data collection. It's incredible to work side by side with local fishers who, even though have expert knowledge about the waters that they frequent, are just as intrigued to watch the footage back and learn more.

These surveys are super important to help us to better understand where marine animals are found, how they interact with other species and how they use the protected Welsh habitats that they call home.

It's exciting to be able to showcase Wales' incredible underwater world to a variety of audiences, and I find it so rewarding when people are mesmerized at how much life there is right on their local coastline, something that can then inspire them to care more about our marine environment.”

Sarah Davies – ZSL / NRW Project SIARC Coordinator

“BRUVS surveys are fascinating because they provide a non-invasive way to observe and monitor marine life in its natural habitat. It's exciting to see the footage and discover species diversity in our study areas. Each survey reveals something new, offering insight into marine ecosystems and the behaviour of species we might not otherwise see.

It's inspiring to see how the relationships between fishers, partners, and interested parties have developed. It's been wonderful to experience a sense of community as everyone comes together to conduct the surveys and review and upload the footage. The most exciting species I've seen is the common octopus; it is always thrilling to spot one and witness its intelligence and ability to adapt to its surroundings.

These surveys are critical for wildlife conservation and engaging communities through citizen science projects like Instant Wild. It's a fantastic way to combine conservation efforts with public involvement, raising awareness and making a real impact.”

Hannah Hughes – ZSL Marine Projects Officer