



PROJECT SIARC Summary

April 2024 - March 2025



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 completed year two of its second phase! As part of Project SIARC, North Wales Wildlife Trust (NWWT) organise eggcase hunts across North Wales, with all data being submitted to the Shark Trust's Great Eggcase Hunt. In addition, they have trained up several Eggcase Champions who regularly run their own eggcase hunts and report their finds from an adopted stretch of beach. 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 the Shark Trust's citizen science app.



Here is what Project SIARC participants have found across the region over the past year...

KEY STATS

01 April 2024 - 31 March 2025
PHASE 2 - YEAR 2

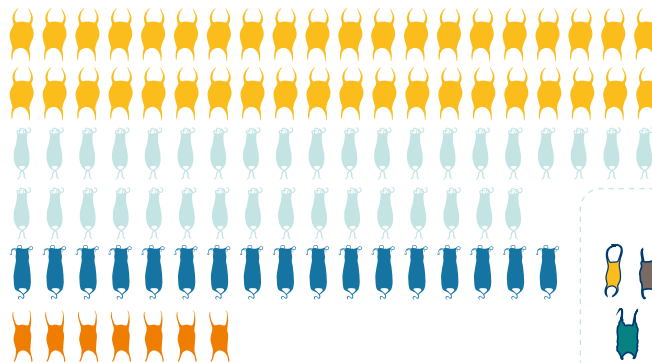
Total number of
**EGGCASE
HUNTS**
145

426
PARTICIPANTS
At NWWT led events

7
SPECIES RECORDED

Total number of

EGGCASES RECORDED: 12,650

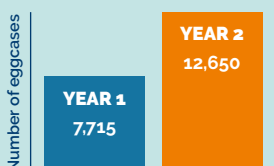
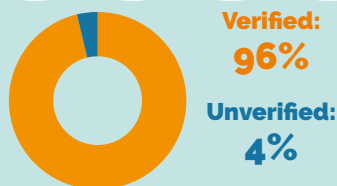


Each = 1% of records

- Thornback Ray
- Nursehound
- Smallspotted Catshark
- Spotted Ray

Each = < 1% of records

- Cuckoo Ray
- Blonde Ray
- Small-eyed Ray



HARLECH CHAMPIONS EVENT

In March 2025, Project SIARC staff (from Shark Trust, NWWT, Natural Resources Wales and ZSL) and fourteen of the Project SIARC Eggcase Champions gathered in Harlech for a celebration event.

After a very successful eggcase hunt (finding over 200 eggcases in an hour and a half: 137 Nursehounds, 29 Spotted Rays, 29 Thornback Rays and 14 Smallspotted Catsharks) we headed back to the town hall for a series of presentations, covering the growth of the Great Eggcase Hunt, Project SIARC's key focusses and a deep dive into the data that has been collected so far.

It was lovely to see so many of the Eggcase Champions gathered together, and we are looking forward to running another celebration event in 2026!



The Great Eggcase Hunt Champions and Project SIARC staff at Harlech in March 2025
Nia Jones | NWWT

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 around 12% of the eggcases submitted on behalf of Project SIARC and are representative of a larger group of people.

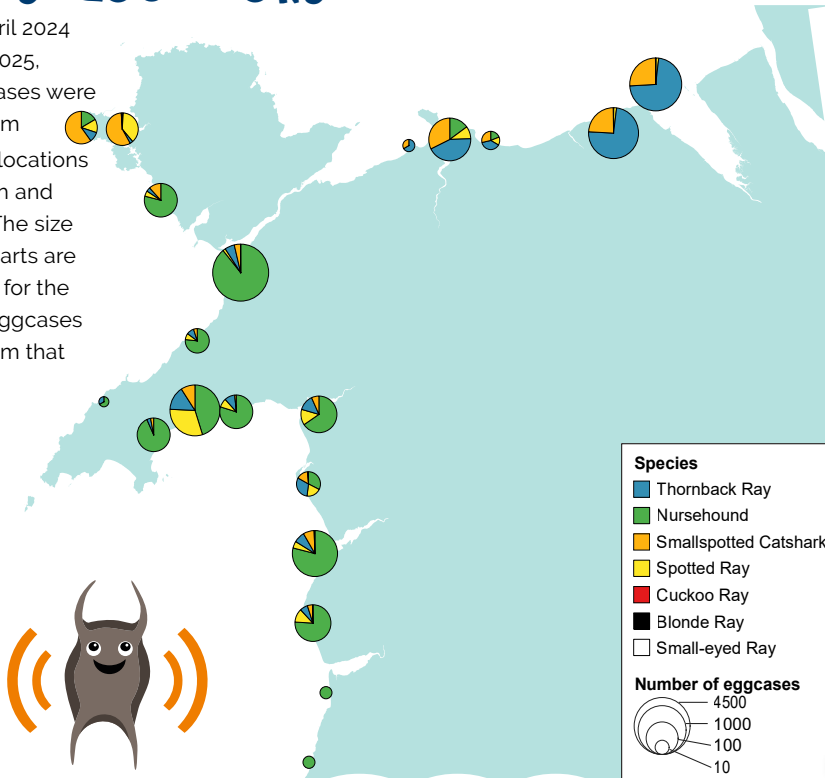
Outside of these events run by NWWT, the top 5 recorders for Project SIARC this year were:



- 1 Elaine Blanchard - **5,809**
- 2 Endeavour Society - **2,714**
- 3 Teri & Bob - **1,329**
- 4 Charles & Clare - **522**
- 5 Paul Magill - **256**

EGGCASE LOCATIONS

Between April 2024 and March 2025, 12,650 eggcases were recorded from just over 30 locations around North and Mid Wales. The size of the pie charts are proportional for the number of eggcases recorded from that region.



Smallspotted Catshark (*Scyliorhinus canicula*) eggcase found at Tywyn
Paul Magill



Small-eyed Ray (*Raja microocellata*) and Thornback Ray (*Raja clavata*) eggcases found at Plas heli
Teri & Bob

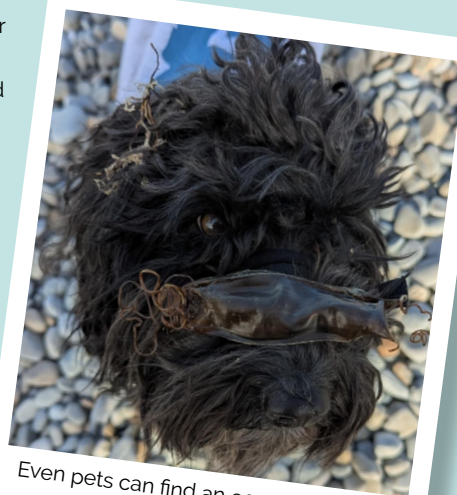
UNUSUAL FINDS

Typically in North Wales you find eggcases from four species: Thornback Rays (40% of eggcases reported over the last year), Nursehounds (36%), Smallspotted Catsharks (17%) and Spotted Rays (7%). This is a big shift from last year where over 60% of the eggcases reported came from Nursehounds!

However, sometimes eggcases from other species can be found. This year the more unusual eggcases reported as part of Project SIARC included: 10 Cuckoo Ray eggcases, 4 Blonde Ray eggcases and 1 Small-eyed Ray eggcase.

There have been two flapper skate eggcases reported (but not as part of Project SIARC), one found on Anglesey in January 2025 and another from Llanrhystud in April 2024!

There is always a chance to find some unusual eggcases, so keep your eyes peeled!



Even pets can find an eggcase on the beach!
Boo / Jan Clark

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 a Project SIARC Eggcase Champion and adopting your own stretch of beach, contact NWWT at 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 Shark Trust's Great Eggcase Hunt in the rest of the UK and around the world, head to [eggcase.org](https://www.eggcase.org).

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