



# PROJECT SIARC Summary

April 2023- March 2026



## 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 its second phase (running April 2023-March 2026)! 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, NWWT have trained up Eggcase Champions who regularly run their own eggcase hunts and report their finds from an adopted stretch of beach. Whether attending an organised event, or on a walk by yourself, we encourage coastal communities to 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 since 2023...

## KEY STATS

Total number of  
**EGGCASE HUNTS**  
**371**

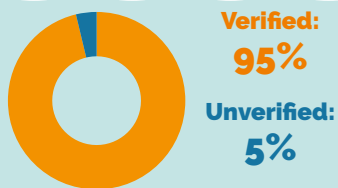
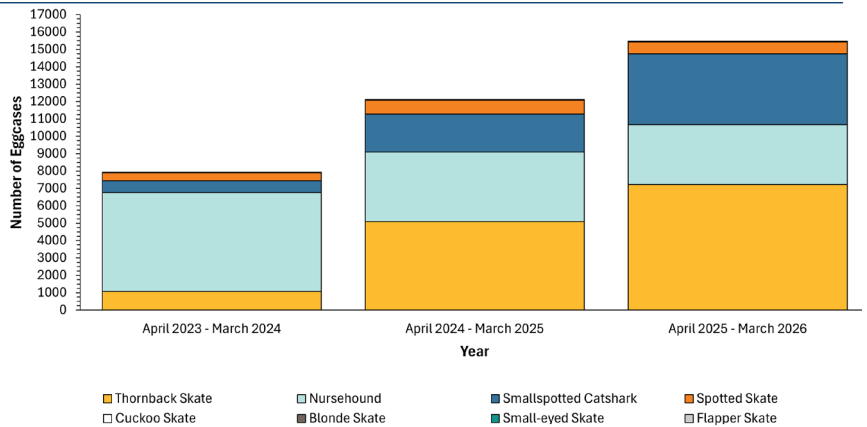


**1,055**  
**PARTICIPANTS**  
At NWWT led events

**8**  
**SPECIES RECORDED**

Total number of

**EGGCASES RECORDED: 37,283**



## TOP RECORDERS

NWWT and Project SIARC staff run a lot of group eggcase hunt events, and collate the eggcase finds of the attendees, so their submissions account for around 18% of the eggcases submitted on behalf of Project SIARC and are representative of a larger group of people.

Outside of these organised events, the top 5 recorders for Project SIARC since 2023 were:

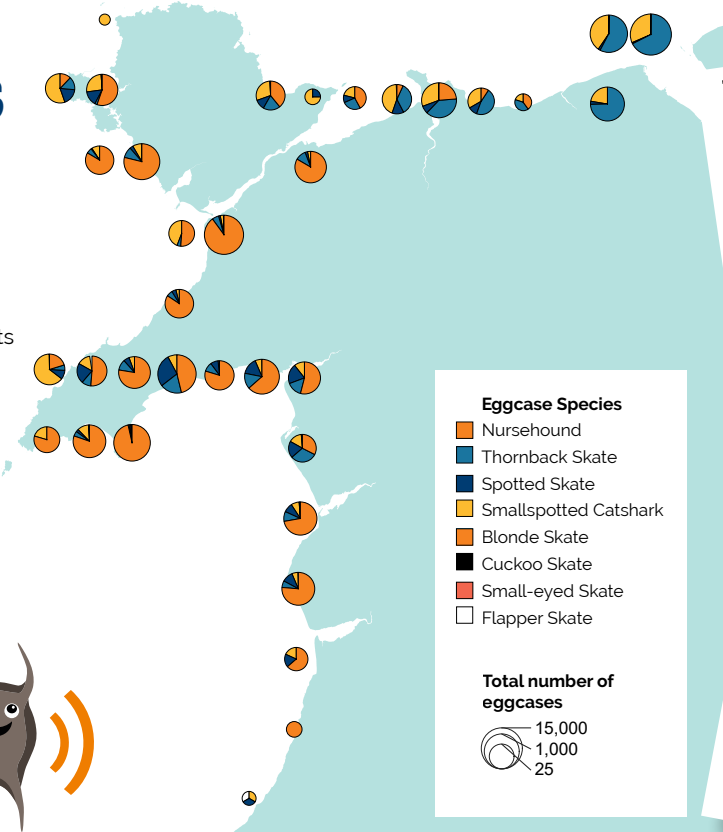
- TOP 5**
- 1 Elaine - **17,683**
  - 2 Endeavour Society - **4,362**
  - 3 Teri & Bob - **2,353**
  - 4 Lisa - **1,332**
  - 5 Charles & Clare - **1,119**



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

# EGGCASE LOCATIONS

Between April 2023 and March 2026, 15,880 eggcases were recorded from just over 75 locations around North and Mid Wales. The size of the pie charts are proportional for the number of eggcases recorded from that region.



A Nursehound eggcase hidden amongst the seaweed - eggcases can be tricky to spot!  
Paul Magill



Eggcase hunting even in the snow - Now that's dedication! And a fantastic haul!  
Teri & Bob

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## THIS YEAR

April 2025 - March 2026

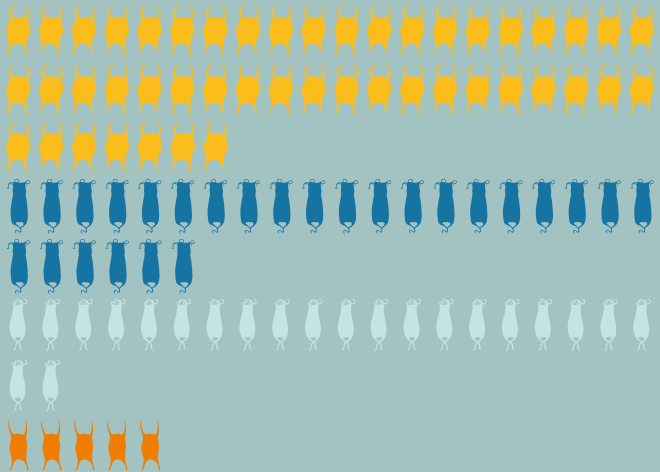
Total number of EGGCASE HUNTS  
**123**

**186** PARTICIPANTS  
At NWWT led events

**8** SPECIES RECORDED



Total number of EGGCASES RECORDED: **15,880**



- Each = 1% of records
- Thornback Skate
  - Smallspotted Catshark
  - Nursehound
  - Spotted Skate
- Each of the below < 1% of records
- Cuckoo Skate
  - Blonde Skate
  - Small-eyed Skate
  - Flapper Skate

## TOP RECORDERS

In 2025-2026, events run by NWWT and Project SIARC staff accounted for around 5% of the eggcases reported to Project SIARC. Outside of these events, the top 5 recorders for Project SIARC in this time frame were:

- 1 Elaine - **10,495**
- 2 Lisa - **1,332**
- 3 Arwen - **1,051**
- 4 Teri & Bob - **1,024**
- 5 Charles & Clare - **422**



Some beautifully labelled eggcases - including some Cuckoo Skate eggcases!  
Lisa Horswill

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

# MORFA BYCHAN CHAMPIONS EVENT

In March 2026, Project SIARC staff (from Shark Trust, Swansea University, NWWT, Natural Resources Wales and ZSL) and many of the Project SIARC Eggcase Champions gathered in Morfa Bychan for a celebration event.

The morning saw presentations covering the eggcase stats recorded to Project SIARC, a chance to try out the Virtual Reality Great Eggcase Hunt classroom and beach experience (developed by Swansea University), and updates from other Project SIARC work-packages.

Then it was time to hit the beach! The weather held out and after spending an hour or so in the glorious sunshine we found: 65 Nursehounds, 47 Spotted Skate, 30 Thornback Skate and 23 Smallspotted Catshark eggcases.

After sorting and IDing our eggcases it was back to the golf club for a few more presentations, including the next steps for both the Great Eggcase Hunt and Project SIARC.



Project SIARC staff and Eggcase Champions at the 2026 Morfa Bychan event.  
Selina Copestake | NWWT

## UNUSUAL FINDS

Typically in North Wales you find eggcases from four species: Thornback Skate, Nursehounds, Smallspotted Catsharks and Spotted Skate. Over the last three years we've seen a shift in the eggcases reported to Project SIARC - where Nursehounds used to be the most commonly reported eggcase, it's now the Thornback Skate. However, this is largely weighted by the incredible efforts of some of our Eggcase Champions on the Talacre coast, who report high numbers of Thornback Skate eggcases. Adopt your local stretch of beach and help us spot patterns and trends over time!

Outside of the big four, some eggcases from other species can be found. This year the more unusual eggcases reported as part of Project SIARC included: 9 Cuckoo Skate eggcases, 6 Blonde Skate eggcases, 2 Small-eyed Skate eggcases and another Flapper Skate eggcase!

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

## WHAT NEXT

Keep an eye out on social media and the [Project SIARC website](#) for project updates. Phase three will be starting very soon, and we're very excited to see what the next few years will bring!

In the meantime, keep reporting your eggcases (putting 'SIARC' as the organisation) and keep an eye out for any organised eggcase hunt events - or organise your own!

If you want to get involved further, you can put your ID skills into practice using the Shark Trust's Community Verification Platform (coming very soon), or you can check out all the eggcase finds (including those from SIARC) on the Trust's brand new [Results Dashboard](#).



Three of the 'Big Four' from North Wales: Thornback Skate, Spotted Skate and the Smallspotted Catshark  
Dawn Thomas | NWWT



This year we had another Welsh Flapper Skate Eggcase! Reported from Llanaber.  
Luke Hassett



A fantastic array of eggcases, including Spotted Skate, Smallspotted Catsharks, Nursehounds, Thornback Skate and Small-eyed Skate!  
Dawn Thomas | NWWT

## PROJECT SIARC X GEH RESOURCES

Check out the [Great Eggcase Hunt interactive tour](#) - this online, 360 tour offers a dual language deep-dive into the world of eggcases all from the comfort of your own home! Check it out to find species ID information, hints and tips, the training guides, quizzes, and links to other Project SIARC work!

Other key resources developed in both Welsh and English include: the Eggcase ID Guide, the Eggcase ID Key, the standardised eggcase hunting methodology and the eggcase workbook. See the [Project SIARC Resources Page](#) for more info!

## GET INVOLVED

To find out more about Great Eggcase Hunt events in North Wales, head to the [North Wales Wildlife Trust events page](#).

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](mailto:info@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk)

To find out more about Project SIARC and other ways to get involved, see the main [Project SIARC website](#).

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](http://eggcase.org).

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