

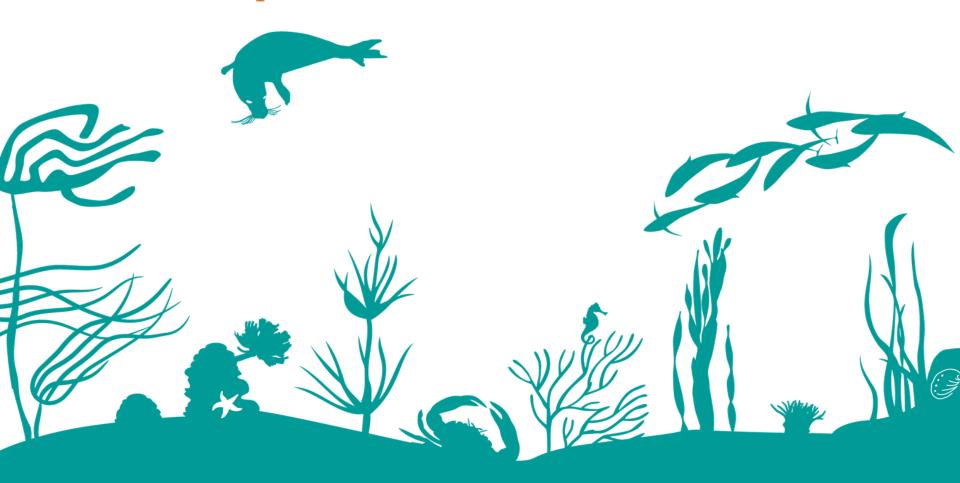
CONFERENCE FINALE -17-18 MARS 2015 - TORQUAY



FINAL CONFERENCE - MARCH 17th-18th 2015 - TORQUAY

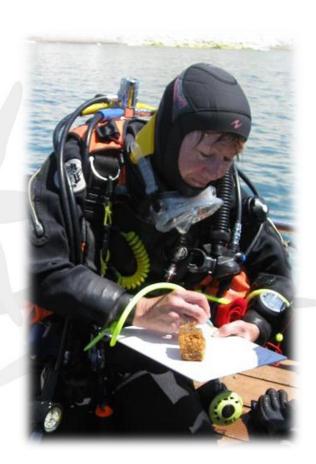
MPA Awareness & citizen science programmes

WP4.2: Mobilisation of divers as active practitioners and disseminators



Introduction: Mobilisation of divers

- ★ Engage public in MPAs by actively involving them in data collection
- ★ Develop core species list to assist cross-region comparability
- ★ Standardise survey protocols
- Share ideas and bed practice in survey development and engagement



Programme development

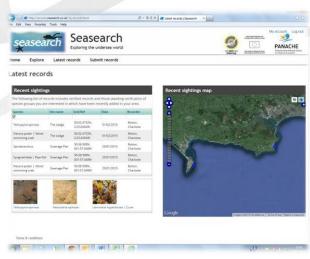
PANACHE key species

- Developed with statutory body advice
- Shortlist of 16 key species and 2 key fish groups
- Non-natives, climate change indicators, MCZ relevant etc
- ★ Targeted throughout surveys
- Range of species project area and/or local relevance
- ★ Identification Guide produced

Development of a standard subtidal survey methodology

- ★ Link to existing initiative in UK Seasearch
- ★ Well established survey protocols
- Core list adds an extra dynamic, similar to a specialist course
- Stand alone recording form and guidance document
- ★ Photographic monitoring manual
- ★ Online reporting toolkit





Training

★ 35 training events, 371 participants





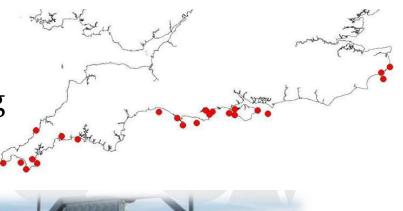




Surveys

★ 470 surveys, 993 participants

★ 158 sites – 94 % within existing or proposed MPAs





Records



Conger eel © Justin Evans

Sand smelt egg © Lin Baldock

Pink sea fan © Cat Wilding

Citizen science lessons learnt

What worked well

- ★ Coherent group of enthusiastic volunteers
- ★ Linking the PANACHE project to Seasearch
- ★ Social media and blogs
- ★ Core list of key species facilitated communication crossborder conservation to protect dynamic ecosystems
- ★ Invaluable role of citizen scientists highlighted
- Combining events expanded audiences
- ★ Strong social element



Citizen science lessons learnt

What worked less well

- High demands for data collection from statutory bodies for it to have greatest value for management
- ★ Broad key species list arguably too broad to engage participants

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- ★ Potential recruitment limited by experience
- Drop-off between course and survey attendance
- Adverse diving conditions did sometimes impact data collection and quality
 "This is

"This is ridiculous viz!"

Engaging across the channel

English Coast

- ★ Well established existing network of marine survey volunteers
- ★ Broad spectrum of prior experience and MPA knowledge
- Specialist difficult to recruit new volunteers despite promotion

French Coast

- ★ Diving citizen science less structured in France no established program, but...
- ★ New Initiative The Fish Watch Forum
- ★ Valuable cross-channel link for future development













