

Phylum	Common name	No of species recorded	Species names	
PORIFERA	Sponges	16	Goosebump sponge Shredded carrot sponge Mermaids glove	<i>Dysidea fragilis</i> <i>Amphilectus fucorum</i> <i>Haliclona oculata</i>
CNIDARIA	Anemones, corals, hydroids, jellyfish	10	Antenna hydroid Oaten pipe hydroid Daisy anemone White striped anemone	<i>Nemertesia antennina</i> <i>Tubularia indivisa</i> <i>Cereus pedunculatus</i> <i>Actinothoe sphyrodeta</i>
ANNELIDA	Segmented worms	7	Keel Worm Sand mason worm Double spiral worm	<i>Pomatoceros spp</i> <i>Lanice conchilega</i> <i>Bispira volutacornis</i>
CRUSTACEA	Crabs, lobsters, barnacles	9	Hermit crab Velvet swimming crab Leach spider crab Lobster	<i>Pagurus bernhardus</i> <i>Necora puber</i> <i>Inachus phalangium</i> <i>Homarus gammarus</i>
MOLLUSCA	Shells, seaslugs, cuttlefish	16	Grey Top Shell Slipper limpet Common Whelk eggs Common Whelk adults Sea lemon And ribbon eggs Oysters Netted dogwhelk	<i>Gibbula cineraria</i> <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> <i>Buccinum undatum</i> <i>Buccinum undatum</i> <i>Archidoris pseudoargus</i> <i>Ostrea edulis</i> <i>Hinia reticulata</i>
BRYOZOA	Sea mats	4	Finger bryozoan Sea Mat	<i>Alcyonidium diaphanum</i> <i>Membranipora membranacea</i>
TUNICATA	Sea squirts	10	Leathery sea squirt Gooseberry sea squirt Star sea squirt Lightbulb sea squirt	<i>Styela clava</i> <i>Dendrodoa grossularia</i> <i>Botryllus scholsseri</i> <i>Clavelina lepadiformis</i>
PISCES	Fish	14	Ballen wrasse Tompot blenny Pollack Bib Goldsinny	<i>Labrus bergylta</i> <i>Parablennius gattorugine</i> <i>Pollachius pollachius</i> <i>Trisopterus luscus</i> <i>Ctenolabrus rupestris</i>
ALGAE	Seaweeds	14	Sea beech Oar weed Curvie Japweed	<i>Delesseria sanguinea</i> <i>Laminaria digitata</i> <i>Laminaria hyperborea</i> <i>Sargassum muticum</i>
ANGIOSPERMAE	Flowering plants	1	Common eelgrass	<i>Zostera marina</i>

Seasearch 2006

In 2006 four Seasearch observer courses took place within Hampshire with a total of 29 participating students. A total of nine sites were dived under the Seasearch programme and with additional data from 5 individual volunteer dives, therefore a total of 40 Seasearch forms were completed in 2006.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust would like to thank both the dive company The Dive Connection and the vessel Wightdiver for all their assistance with the Seasearch dives. Also a thank you to all the volunteer divers who surveyed and completed survey forms in 2006: Jolyon Chesworth, Lisa Browning, Rachel Boschen, Bill Chilton, Sue White, Derrick White, Tiki Leggett, Chris Pirie, Judy Jarvis, Barry Jarvis, Jo New, Gordon Bird, Andy Nelson, Ian Fraser, Catherine Darton, Toni Bates, Simon Gurney, Frank Elgar, Richie Grice, Paul Grey, Alison Bessell, Ray Drabble, John Mann, Emma Watkin, Lorraine Holdstock, Ian Barefoot, Gavin Parnaby, Martin Davies, Alison Mayor, Jon Bramley and Stephanie Bell.



Site 3 *Styela clava* by Alison Bessell



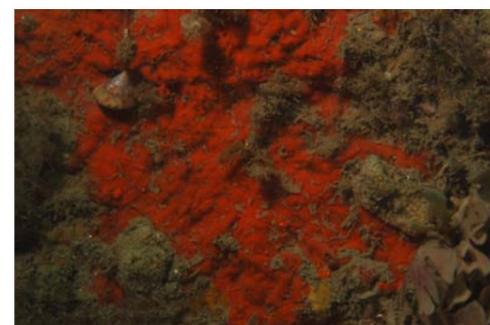
Site 6 *Suberites ficus* by Alison Bessell



Site 3 *Crepidula fornicata* with sand, silt and shells by Alison Bessell



Site 4 Piddock *Pholas dactylus* holes by Alison Bessell



Site 1 Encrusting red sponge with *Dysidea fragilis* by Alison Bessell



Hampshire & Isle of Wight

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Seasearch

Summary 2006



In 2006 divers took the plunge throughout Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to participate in several Seasearch dives. In May, Vicky Swales took on the role as Marine Officer at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and delivered a total of nine Seasearch dives throughout the summer. The Seasearch dives were funded by English Nature through Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, the Environment Agency and the Marine Conservation Society.

The Seasearch surveys had two aims, firstly to investigate **Sand and Gravel habitats** in the Solent and around the Isle of Wight. Secondly to look for the elusive **Mantis Shrimp** *Rissoides desmaresti* in association with the Mantis Shrimp Project run by Roger Herbert at Medina Valley Education Centre, Isle of Wight.

Sand and Gravel

Several dives throughout the Solent and Isle of Wight took place on or near sand and gravel seabed. The aggregates industry extracts sand and gravel for use in the construction industry, which has particular importance in the South East of England. Seasearch dives were conducted to investigate the marine species present on these sand and gravel habitats.



Site 1 South East of Nab Tower 50° 39.73 N 000° 52.86 W

Nab tower is a 28m high fort that has guided ships into the deep water channel since the 1920s. South East of the tower, the seabed lies at about 18 to 20 meters and is made up of mixed ground mainly rocky reefs and boulders along with sand and gravel. Attempts were made to dive this area at slack water but during the dive the survey team encountered some current which made surveying difficult. The rocky reefs were covered in a mixture of short and tall animal turf. Dead man fingers *Alcyonium digitatum* were common along with painted top shells *Calliostoma zizphinum*. Sponges included the goosebump sponge *Dysidea fragilis* which was found on the gravel and in rock crevices, while Keelworm *Pomatoceros triquter* covered the boulders.

Site 2 St Helens Fort, North Bembridge, Isle of Wight 50° 42.21 N 001° 04.73 W

St Helens Fort is situated at the entrance to Bembridge harbour on the North East coast of the Isle of Wight. A shallow dive at 5m, it consists of a large round fort with numerous rocks at the base. The mixed seabed has sand, gravel, cobbles and pebbles present. Attached to the large boulders are brown seaweeds such as *Laminaria hyperborea* and *Laminaria saccharina*. On the South side of the tower is a small bed of common eelgrass *Zostera marina* and abundant throughout the area is Japweed *Sargassum muticum*. *Patella* and *Gibbula* species were frequently found while the only fish observed were the occasional Ballen wrasse *Labrus bergylta*.

Site 3 Near Outfall, Sandown Bay, Isle of Wight 50° 39.163 N 001° 07.298 W

At 12m the flat seabed was made up of sand and gravel mixed with cobbles and pebbles. This site had a rich amount of species present such as leathery sea squirts *Styela Clava* and the hydroid *Nemertesia antennina*. Anemonies included dahlia anemonies *Urticina felina*, daisy anemone *Cereus pedunculatus* and the white striped anemone *Actinotroche sphyrodeta*. The golf ball sponge *Tethya citrina (aurantium)* and *Polymastia mamillaris* were present and *Crepidula fornicata* was found frequently at the site. Hermit crabs *Paguridae*, netted dogwhelk *Hinia reticulata* and spiral bryozans *Bugula spp* were also found.

Site 4 South Culver Cliff, Sandown Bay, Isle of Wight 50° 39.230 N 001° 07.251 W

The dominant seabed was rocky reef with patches of large boulder leading to sand and gravel with a depth range of 11 to 13 meters. Boulders were covered with encrusting pink algae, mixed seaweeds and short animal turf. Dead maerl *Coralline algae* was found over several areas; along with piddock *pholas dactylus* holes present and the goosebump sponge *Dysidea fragilis*.

Site 5 Shanklin Chine, Sandown Bay, Isle of Wight 50° 37.470 N 001° 09.775 W

The dominant seabed was rocky reef with boulders, cobbles and pebbles at a depth of 8 meters. Mixed seaweeds and encrusting pink algae covered the boulders and reef. The most dominant species included goosebump sponge *Dysidea fragilis*, spiralworm *Bispira volutacornis* and sea mat *Membranipora membranacea*. Several velvet swimming crabs *Necora puber* were found throughout the dive while netted dogwhelk *Hinia reticulata* and piddock *pholas dactylus* holes were found to be common in the area. Fish present included ballen wrasse *Labrus bergylta*, goldsinny *Ctenolabrus rupestris* and tompot blennys *Parablennius gattorugine*.

Site 6 Nr Fossil Beds, Hampshire/Sussex border 50° 44.63 N 000° 51.81 E

The seabed profile had large boulders at between 12 and 14 meters with overhangs and crevices and areas of silt and shells. There area was dominated by several sponges including elephant hide sponge *Pachymatisma johnstonia*, golf ball sponge *Tethya citrina (aurantium)*, *Suberites sp.* *Polymastia mamillaris*, shredded carrot sponge *Amphilectus (Esperiopsis) fucorum*, mermaids glove *Haliclona oculata* and goosebump sponge *Dysidea fragilis*. Sea mat *membranipora membranacea* and keelworms *pomatoceros* were also frequent and fish such as goldinny *Ctenolabrus rupestris* and tompot blennys *Parablennius gattorugine*.

Site 7 Bracklesham Bay Hampshire/ Sussex border 50°44.820 N 000°51.591 E

The seabed at 8 to 10 meters was made of silt and small boulders and bedrock. Several types of gobies were found including the black goby *Gobius niger*, rock goby *Gobius paganellus* and common goby *Pomatoschistus microps* while tompot blennies *Parablennius gattorugine* were also observed. Sponges included the shredded carrot sponge *Amphilectus fucorum*, goosebump sponge *Dysidea fragilis* and other unknown sponges *Porifera spp.* Hydroids such as kelp fur *Obelia geniculata* were present and annelids notably sand mason *lanice conchilega* and peacock worm *Sabella pavonina*.

Site 8 Peel Wreck Buoy, Isle of Wight 50°44.085 N 001° 13.18 W

The Mantis shrimp *Rissoides desmaresti*, is a large shrimp up to 10cm long. The flattened, stripe and buff coloured body is usually hidden in burrows in sandy mud. Seasearch volunteer divers were to search for these nationally scarce populations. Dives took place in June, July and August at the North of the IOW near 'Peel Wreck Buoy'. The seabed lies at 7-8m and the area is exposed to strong currents so dives had to take place on slack water. The Seasearch forms recorded suitable conditions for the shrimps with flat sediment of sand, gravel and soft grey mud with finer fragments of gravel and shells. Large amounts of alive and dead slipper limpets *Crepidula fornicata* were present along with various sea squirts and sponges. Burrows and mounds were common on all dives with an average of 4 - 5 small burrows every square meter. Unfortunately even with the most determined and experienced Seasearch divers, no mantis shrimp were actually seen on any of the dives. However several were caught by local fishermen at the same location suggesting that the species is present at this region.



Stage 3 Female mantis shrimp by Alison Bessell.

Site 9 HMS Impregnable 50° 45.88 N 000° 57.55 W

Members of Seasearch were invited by the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology (HWTMA) to dive with them on the HMS Impregnable wreck lying just off the Hampshire coast. At around 6 -7 meters the wreck remains lie on sand and gravel. While the archaeology team surveyed the condition of the wreck, Seasearch divers recorded the abundance of life notably fish, that were found at this dive site. Adult and juvenile bib *Trisopterus luscus* and pollack *Pollachius pollachinus* were common and hidden between the remains were several tompot blennies *Parablennius gattorugine*. Molluscs were common particularly grey top shell *Gibbula cinerari*, slipper limpets *Crepidula fornicata* and common whelks and eggs *Buccinum undatum*. Sea squirt *Styela clava* were abundant on the wreck and there were also lots of mixed red algae.



Divers preparing to enter the water by Vicky Swales