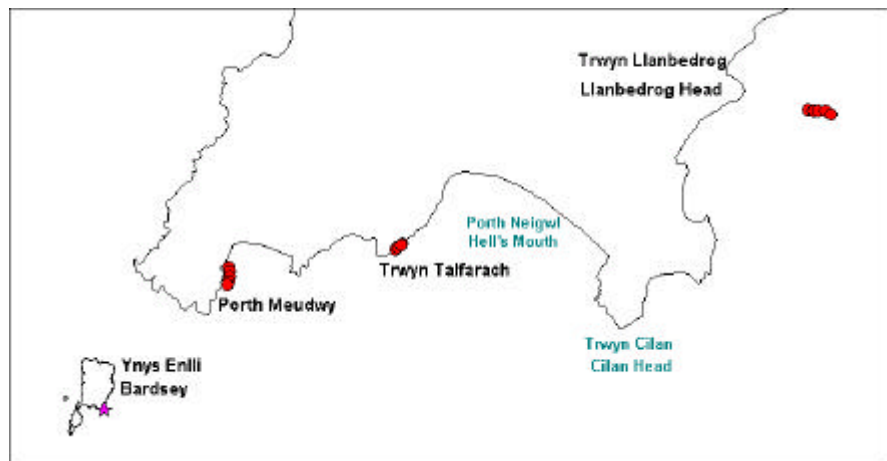


The 24/25 May Marine Conservation Society member's dive was a Seasearch trip diving off the hardboat Shearwater, skippered by Al Grey. Appalling weather in the days leading up to the trip led many of us to despair of getting any diving done at all, let alone reaching Bardsey Island. However, at the last moment the wind obligingly turned north-westerly, putting the South side of the Llyn Peninsula into the lee. On Saturday we did two Seasearch dives, one on the west side of Porth Neigwl (or Hell's Mouth) and the other in Tremadog Bay. The seabed at the Porth Neigwl site (Trwyn Talfarach) consisted of a boulder and cobble slope down to about 16m, with the usual zonation of kelp forest, algal turf and animal turf. The Ross 'coral' *Pentapora foliacea* was recorded here and wrasse were unusually abundant. The second site was in Tremadog Bay (off Llanbedrog Head) and here a variety of different seabed types were encountered, with mostly mixed ground of pebbles, cobbles and sand. The first dive on Sunday was a fun dive on Bardsey Island, to look at the species-rich walls with yellow star anemones *Parazoanthus axinellae*. After lunch listening to a group of seals bickering about who was going to lie on the highest rock as the tide came in we headed off to Porth Meudwy for another Seasearch dive. The seabed at Porth Meudwy was a mixture cobbles, pebbles and boulders, with kelp forest and many species of red algae, which taxed everyone's identification skills! On both days the dolphins around Cilan Head put on a spectacular display as we passed and there was far more sunshine than we dared to hope for on the Friday.



Species recorded on the Sealife Surveys list (MarLIN and Seasearch).

*The presence of climate change species does not show that climate change is taking place, we will only know if the results are significant when we have collected several years' worth of data and can establish whether the ranges of these species are changing. BAP = Biodiversity Action Plan .

Species	Common name	Why on list?	Site(s) where found
<i>Anemonia viridis</i>	Snakelocks anemone	climate change*	Trwyn Talfarach, Porth Meudwy, Off Llanbedrog Head
<i>Maja squinado</i>	Spiny spider crab	climate change*	Trwyn Talfarach, Porth Meudwy, Off Llanbedrog Head
<i>Pentapora foliacea</i>	Ross 'coral'	climate change*	Trwyn Talfarach, Porth Meudwy
<i>Styela clava</i>	Leathery sea squirt	non-native	Off Llanbedrog Head
<i>Centrolabrus exoletus</i>	Rock cook	climate change*	Trwyn Talfarach, Porth Meudwy
<i>Ctenolabrus rupestris</i>	Goldsinny wrasse	climate change*	Trwyn Talfarach, Porth Meudwy
<i>Lithothamnion glaciale</i>	Maerl	key species, BAP, climate change*	Off Llanbedrog Head
<i>Alaria esculenta</i>	Dabberlocks	climate change*	Porth Meudwy



The team! (minus Paul and George)



Dolphin off Trwyn Cilan
(Photographs by Paul Brazier)

Names of surveyors on the trip:

Vicki Billings	Paul Brazier	Teresa Darbyshire	Fiona Hay
Carol Jones	David Jones	Kath Keirle	Kirsten Ramsay
Ruth Sharratt	Kate Smith (Sunday)	George Stoye (Saturday)	Tim Theobalds

Many thanks to you for all the useful data that you have collected!

List of the number of species recorded from each Phylum and some common species found.

Phylum	Common Name	Number of Species	Common species
Porifera	Sponges	20	Purse sponge <i>Scypha ciliata</i> Carrot sponge <i>Esperiopsis fucorum</i>
Cnidaria	Anemones, hydroids, etc.	19	Antenna hydroid or sea beard <i>Nemertesia antennina</i>
Platyhelminthes	Flatworms	1	Candy stripe flatworm <i>Prostheceraeus vittatus</i>
Annelida	Segmented worms	11	Keel worm <i>Pomatoceros</i> sp
Crustacea	Lobsters, crabs, barnacles	20	Hermit crab <i>Pagurus bernhardus</i> Spider crab <i>Maja squinado</i>
Mollusca	Topshells, Dogwhelks, Limpets	36	Topshell <i>Gibbula</i> spp
Bryozoa	Bryozoans or sea mats	16	White moss sea mat <i>Crisia</i> spp Hornwrack <i>Flustra foliacea</i>
Echinodermata	Starfish, urchins etc.	12	Common starfish <i>Asterias rubens</i> Bloody Henry starfish <i>Henricia</i> sp
Subphylum Tunicata	Seasquirts	17	Star seasquirt <i>Botryllus schlosseri</i>
Subphylum Pisces	Fish	24	Ballan wrasse <i>Labrus bergylta</i> Dogfish <i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i>
Rhodophycota	Red seaweeds	37	Cock's comb seaweed <i>Plocamium cartilagineum</i>
Chromophycota	Brown seaweeds	16	Kelp <i>Laminaria hyperborea</i>
Chlorophycota	Green seaweeds	2	

Produced by Kirsten Ramsay for Seasearch on 18 July 2003.
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