

2025 was another fabulous year for all things eggcase....

Over the last year our citizen scientists have been very busy, recording a whopping 55,727 eggcases! Even better, we only had SIX days from the whole year where an eggcase wasn't reported. That's incredible work - a massive THANK YOU to everyone who submitted an eggcase record in 2025!

By recording shark and skate eggcases that wash up on the beach, or those seen developing underwater, we can get a better understanding of the presence and diversity of egg-laying species in British waters and beyond!

THE PROJECT SO FAR

Here is a quick summary of the project since 2003:

586,800+ eggcases have been recorded

65 species have been recorded

88% of the eggcases have been verified

15,000+ people have submitted eggcases from

38 countries

40,900+ eggcase hunts have been carried out

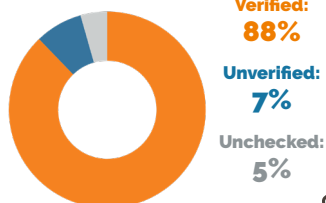
ANNUAL SUMMARY 2025*

* Please note that these numbers may change as records from the end of the year are still being submitted and verified.

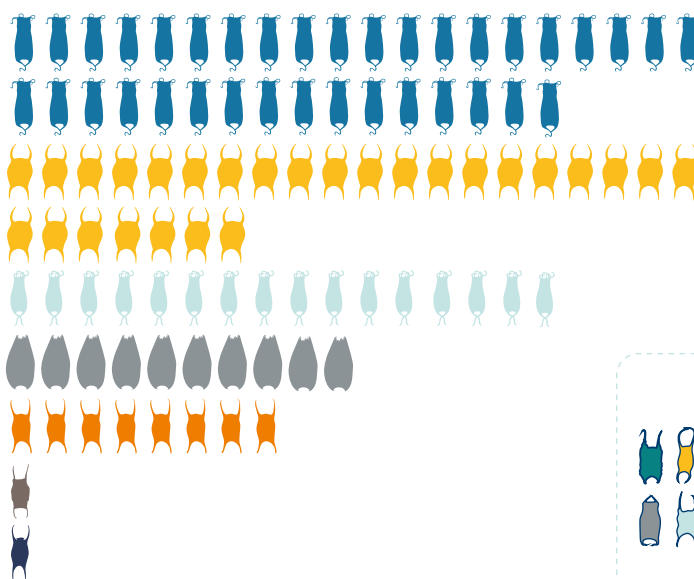
Total number of
EGGCASE HUNTS
2,667

Largest number of
EGGCASES
From one hunt
6,632

Found by The Bay: Cumbria Wildlife Trust



Total number of
EGGCASES RECORDED: 55,727

VERIFIED EGGCASES BY SPECIES

Each = 1% of records

- Smallspotted Catshark
- Thornback Ray
- Nursehound
- Flapper Skate
- Spotted Ray
- Blonde Ray
- Undulate Ray

Each = < 1% of records

- Small-eyed Ray
- Cuckoo Ray
- Blue Skate
- Starry Skate

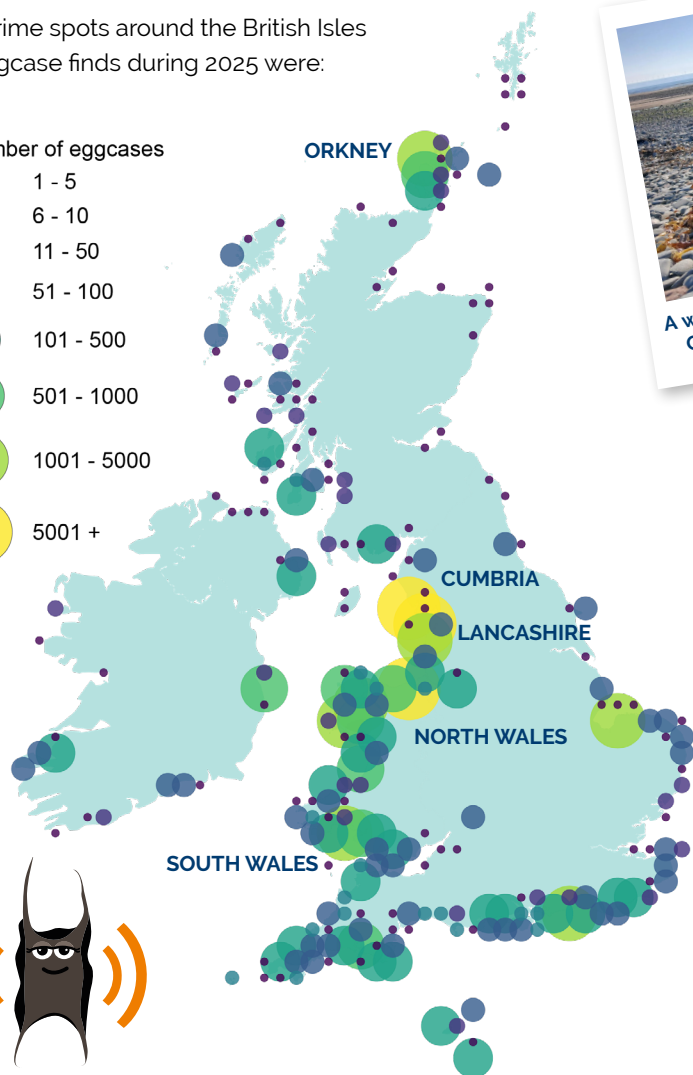
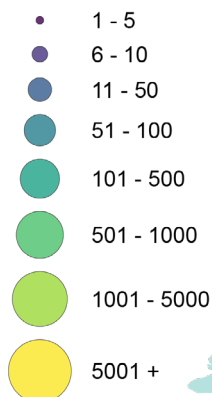
other verified species include: Winter Skate, Port Jackson Shark, Clearnose Skate, Australian Swellshark, Collared Carpetshark and the California Hornshark, to name but a few!

EGGCASE HOTSPOTS

The prime spots around the British Isles for eggcase finds during 2025 were:

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Number of eggcases



A whopping 6,000 Smallspotted Catshark eggcases reported from Cumbria!



A gorgeous Blue Skate found along the north coast of Cornwall

Key stats from the British Isles:

- January was our biggest month for eggcases with over 12,000 eggcases reported, with April coming in at a close second.
- In terms of the number of eggcase hunts, March was our winner with a whopping 457 eggcase hunts!
- If we're looking at bang-for-your-buck, February had the highest average number of eggcases per eggcase hunt!
- Our top five areas with the most eggcases reported in 2025 were: Cumbria, Lancashire, North Wales, Orkney and South Wales.
- This year we received verified records of five more Blue Skate eggcases, 28 more Cuckoo Ray eggcases and two more Starry Skate - these species aren't that common, so it's always exciting to get more reports!

TOP
3

TOP REPORTING ORGANISATIONS

We're lucky to have several organisations who run dedicated events or include eggcase hunting within their beach activities or surveys.

The organisations that reported the most eggcases in 2025 were:

1

Project SIARC - **16,648**

2

The Bay: A Blueprint for Recovery (Barrow),
Cumbria Wildlife Trust - **6,632**

3

The Bay: A Blueprint for Recovery (Wyre),
Lancashire Wildlife Trust - **6,462**

TOP
5

TOP INDIVIDUAL REPORTERS

We're always so grateful to have dedicated eggcase champions who continue to find and submit impressive numbers of eggcases.

If you record eggcases as part of an organisation, you would have been included in the above numbers, so you won't get an individual shout out here, but thank you for all your hard work!

Shoutouts for the most eggcases reported in 2025 go to:

1

Penny Martin - **4,322**

2

Amanda & Jon Bayley - **3,236**

3

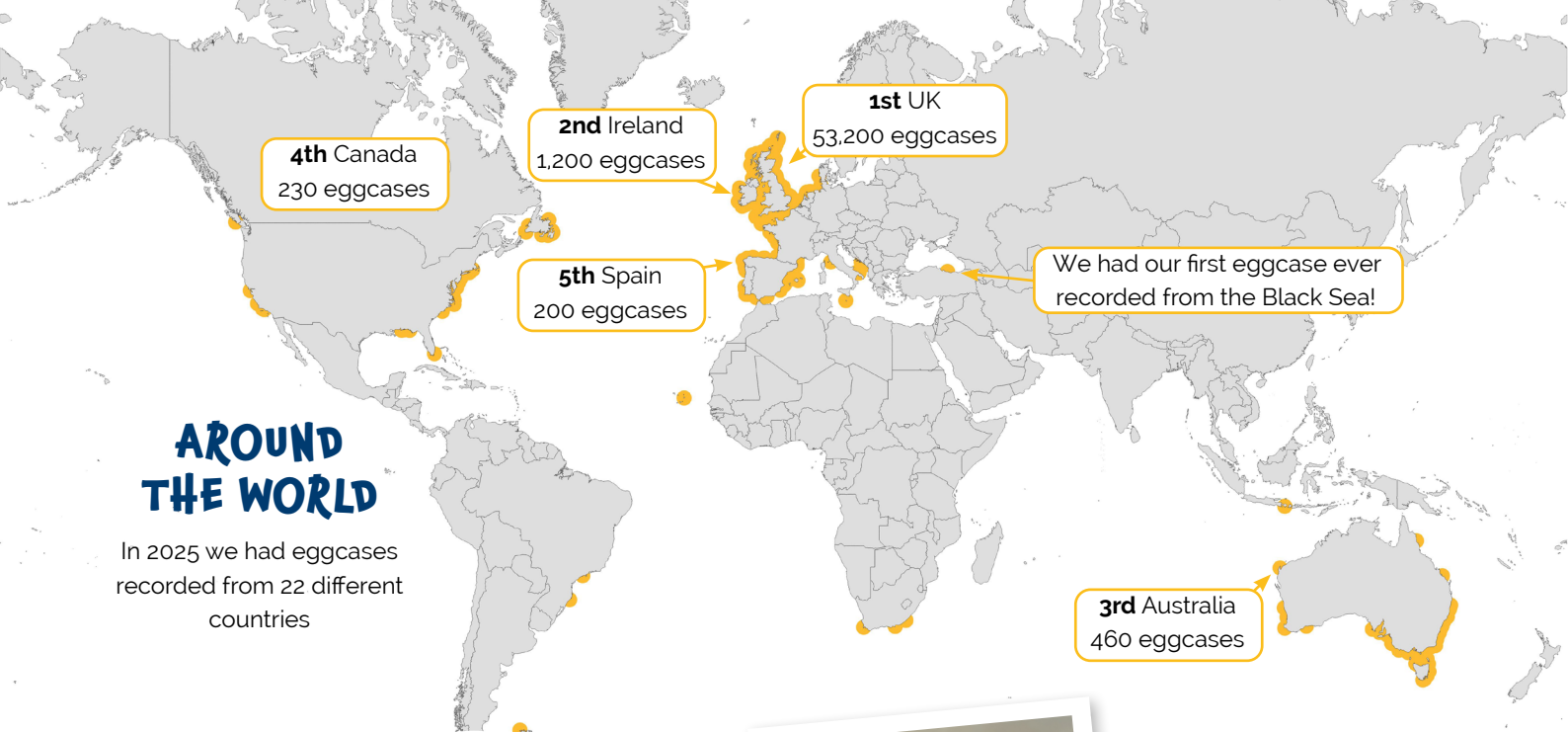
Diane Westwood & Steve
Rowland - **1,650**

4

Romana van Kuijk - **830**

5

Rachael Iveson-Brown - **664**

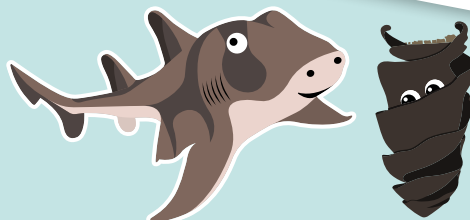


AROUND THE WORLD

In 2025 we had eggcases recorded from 22 different countries

GLOBAL FINDS

- Port Jackson Shark eggcases (*Heterodontus portusjacksoni*) were the most reported species from Australia, with over 270 eggcases reported in 2025!
- Winter Skate (*Leucoraja ocellata*) were the most reported eggcases from North America, with 210 eggcases being reported. A whopping 208 of these were from Newfoundland!
- We had our 4th record of a California Horn Shark eggcase (*Heterodontus francisci*), this time reported from Santa Barbara!
- We had our first record from the Black Sea - a Thornback ray eggcase (*Raja clavata*) recorded from Türkiye.



NEW EGGCASE ID GUIDES

2025 saw the development of even more eggcase ID guides, bringing our total to 21 different regional ID guides.

Our newest eggcase ID guides are:

- Spain (in Galician)
- Gulf of Mexico
- USA Pacific coast
- USA Atlantic coast (updated)
- Israel (in Hebrew)



SCAN TO SEE OUR ID RESOURCES



Important Shark and Ray Areas

Through a huge international effort, 2025 saw the deliniation of over 120 Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) across the 'European Atlantic'.

These ISRAs were identified according to specific categories such as the vulnerability of that species and the life history functions in that area – e.g. are they feeding, resting or (crucially for our eggcase data!) reproductive areas (e.g. breeding, pupping or nursery grounds).

Reproductive areas for egg-laying species were identified by repeated sightings of in-situ / underwater eggcases in a specific location over a series of years. This process really highlighted the importance of underwater records to this project!

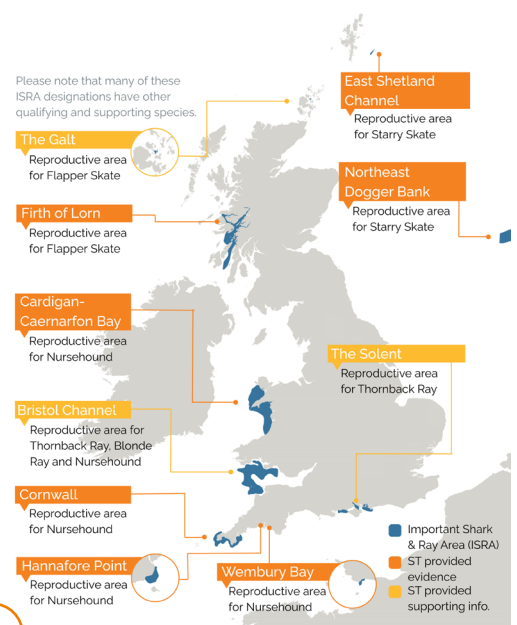
Thanks to all your hard work over the years, our Great Eggcase Hunt data contributed to the creation of 14 ISRAs around the UK! See our blog post for more details. www.sharktrust.org/Blog/citizen-science-isras

ISRA Spotlight: Wembury Bay

We are particularly pleased with the recognition of Wembury Bay as an important area for Nursehound (*Scyliorhinus stellaris*) reproduction. Not only is this ISRA very close to home for the Shark Trust team, but it is also a powerful example of the impact that one dedicated individual can have!

Between 2014 and 2024, this site was monitored by an enthusiastic citizen scientist on a fortnightly or monthly basis (weather and availability dependant!), often bringing friends and volunteers, but also going alone on occasion. Snorkel surveys were carried out, monitoring Nursehound eggcases laid in a shallow gully. New eggcases were recorded and the eggcase condition and development status of previously laid eggcases was monitored. Over the span of ten years, over 290 eggcases were recorded in this one site, with over 150 monitored through to hatching.

This study showed that this site is used regularly and reliably as an egg-laying site by Nursehounds, meeting the conditions needed to be an Important Shark and Ray Area!



UNDERWATER EGGCASES

Eggcases seen developing in-situ are incredibly helpful, as they can help us to identify egg-laying grounds.

However, this year **less than 0.1%** of our eggcase records were from underwater records!

HELP US BY RECORDING UNDERWATER EGGCASES!

We want more records of underwater eggcases. So, if you are a **diver** or a **snorkeller**, please take photos of any eggcases that you might see.

Please also comment the **depth** and the **substrate** that the eggcase was seen on. This will help us to identify preferred habitat types for egg-laying grounds.

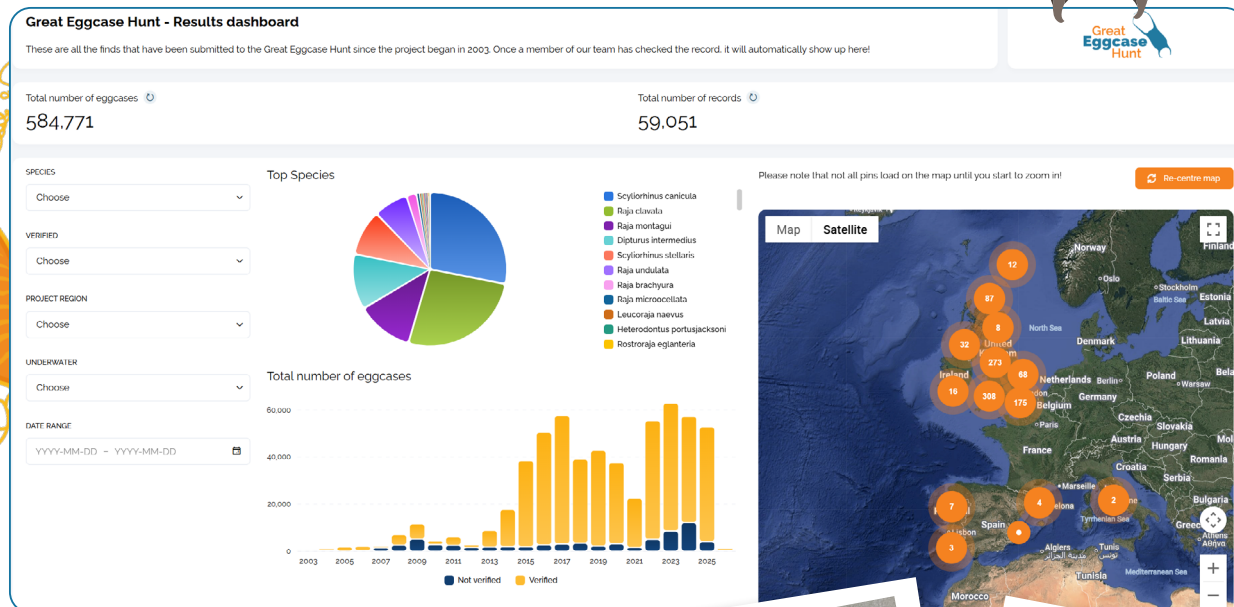
But remember - **please do not disturb the eggcase!** Eggcases seen in-situ may still be developing, so they shouldn't be handled or disturbed.

RESULTS PAGES

OUR RESULTS PAGES ARE NOW LIVE!

Our results pages are live and show all the eggcases reported to the project. Once a member of the team has checked your eggcase record, it'll pop up on the map and be added into all the tallies. On this page, you can filter for specific years, regions and species and see how many of the records have been verified.

Head to [the new results dashboard](#) and have an explore!



COMING UP IN 2026

Keep your eyes peeled for exciting developments in 2026!

Community Verification Platform - with funding from SeaChangers, we have been developing a platform that allows you to put your eggcase ID skills to the test by checking eggcases submitted to the project. This will help us stay on top of the mountains of eggcases that you all are reporting! This is currently in the testing stages and will be going live in the spring!

Open access data - the Great Eggcase Hunt data (2003-2024) will soon be available online, free to use by researchers, organisations and other interested parties. This has been a huge undertaking to get the data ready, and it will be available on several data portals by the summer!

Citizen Science Networks - we're engaged with a number of networks and supporting the development of best practice toolkits for coastal and marine citizen science projects.

Sharks International - a big shark event in 2026 is the 5th Sharks International conference, this year held in Sri Lanka. We'll be hosting a dedicated citizen science themed session and a side event to bring together those working on citizen science initiatives relating to sharks and rays.



A Flapper Skate eggcase from County Kerry, Ireland



IL:R] Smallspotted Catshark, Blonde Ray, Undulate Ray and Thornback Ray eggcase from Jersey, ft our champions ruler!

GET INVOLVED

Online training - if you want to brush up on your ID skills, we have a lot of free resources available online, including how-to guides and helpful videos. See [sharktrust.org/geh-training](#) for more info.

Online tour - learn all about the Great Eggcase Hunt, work through our training resources, and test your knowledge on our interactive online tour. See [eggcase.org](#) for more info.

Keep recording eggcases! Every eggcase helps, whether you just want to record them as you find them, join organised events, or even 'adopt' a stretch of beach near you. Keep scouring the beaches and let's see if we can make 2026 our best year yet!

