



THE GREAT EGGCASE HUNT CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!





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Established in 1997, the Shark Trust works at an international level to safeguard the future of sharks and their close relatives – the skates, rays and chimaera.



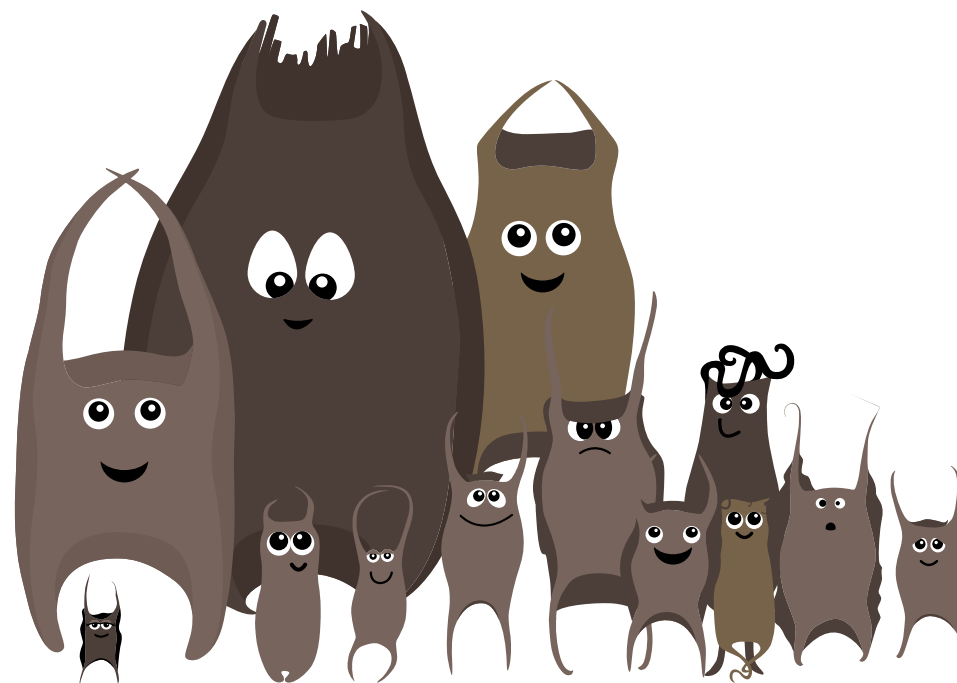
To record an eggcase visit recording.sharktrust.org or use the 'Shark Trust' mobile app.



To find out more about the project see eggcase.org



If you would like to get involved to develop a specific ID guide or as a partner organisation, please contact eggcase@sharktrust.org



The Great Eggcase Hunt is the Shark Trust's flagship citizen science project!

Running since 2003, this project has engaged people from all walks of life, with eggcases coming in from all around the world. It is a fantastic way to get involved in shark conservation and to help our understanding of these species, without needing to get your feet wet!

Starting from a chance eggcase find in 2003, this project has grown and spread faster and further than we could have dreamed. 2023 marks **20 years** of this citizen science project, with thousands of people having taken part over the years. Through the tireless effort and commitment of the public and our citizen scientists, the Great Eggcase Hunt now holds records of **over 440,000 eggcases!**

The Great Eggcase Hunt is split into four main pillars:

- **Search** – finding eggcases, where they might be and what to do with them.
- **Identify** – identifying eggcases, what key features to look for.
- **Record** – reporting what you've found, how to lay them out and take a good picture.
- **Discover** – what have you been finding, what are the outputs and results of the project?

We have developed training videos and a how-to guide for people running their own Great Eggcase Hunts.

Scan the QR code to find out more!

Scan to find out more



 For a results map from the recording form entries, you can see our [Great Eggcase Hunt Results page](#)

 For all summary reports and outputs, see the main [Great Eggcase Hunt landing page](#)



Small-eyed Ray eggcases
Ali Hood | GEH

PLEASE NOTE: All numbers in this report are correct as of **25/08/2023**. As such, they do not represent the full dataset for 2023.

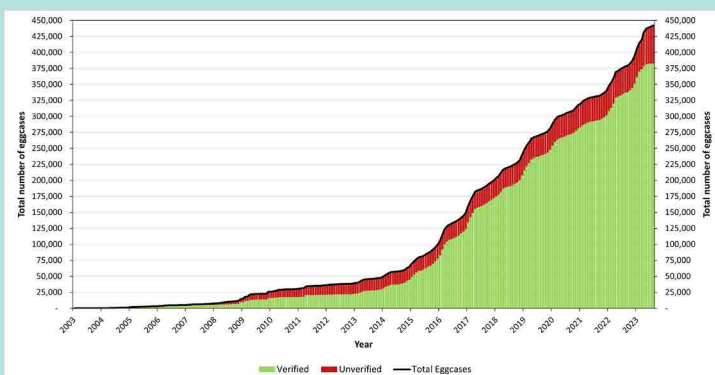
If you have an interest in using eggcase data, please contact us at: eggcase@sharktrust.org

THE GROWTH OF THE GREAT EGGCASE HUNT

Since its inception in 2003, the project has continued to grow. With developments in technology and the growth of social media, the project has been able to reach a wider audience, with more and more eggcases coming in each year.

As of August 2023, we've now received **over 440,000** eggcase records (from **nearly 30,000** submissions) from **over 30** countries!

Starting from just 127 eggcases reported in 2003 from around 50 people, we have had over 40,000 eggcases reported in the first half of 2023 alone, from nearly 5,000 people!



Total number of eggcases reported to the Great Eggcase Hunt from 2003 - August 2023.

Bars in green and red show the proportion of records that are verified (by specimen, photo or expert opinion) or unverified.

Better still, with digital cameras and smart phones becoming more and more common, a greater proportion of our records have been coming through with images attached; **87% of our records so far have been verified.**

Once the data has been verified, that means we can trust these records enough to be used in scientific research and reports. The more verified entries we get, the better – so an extra thank you to everyone who has submitted a photograph with your record!

However, no system is perfect. With the launch of the new app in 2023 (see right) some teething issues meant that many records came through without images, reducing the verification levels for the records received at the start of 2023.

As well as an increasing number of eggcases reported year on year, the number of submissions per year and the number of people taking part each year has also been increasing!

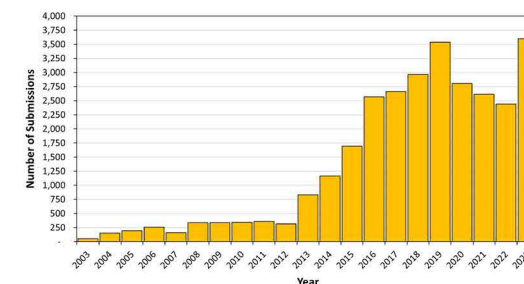
Interestingly, when you look at the time of year that people submit, January to April tend to be the months with both the most eggcases reported and the highest number of submissions. Conversely the summer has the lowest numbers of submissions and eggcases.

This is likely due to several key factors:

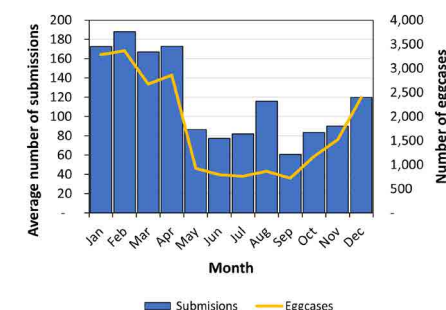
- Winter tends to be stormier, and so this rough weather is more likely to dislodge eggcases which can then wash ashore to be found and recorded.
- In the summer, people are typically more likely to be in the water, sunbathing, or going on holiday, whereas the winter is great for beach-side walks.
- Furthermore, people don't often report if they don't find an eggcase (a negative record), further reducing the number of submissions.

While receiving eggcase records from a new location or a new species is always exciting, receiving regular data from the same location is incredibly helpful. Getting regular reports from the same beach can help us unpick these patterns and gain a better understanding of where and when eggcases from different species wash ashore.

We are hoping to start digging into some of these details soon, so stay tuned for some interesting research in the future!



Total number of submissions to the Great Eggcase Hunt from 2003 - August 2023



The average number of submissions and the average number of eggcases reported to the Great Eggcase Hunt per month (averaged 2003 - August 2023)

The new **Shark Trust app** launched at the end of 2022, boosting recording from all around the world.

If you haven't already, **download the app** using the QR code and then you can submit your eggcase finds on the go!

Scan to download the app



EGGCASES IN THE UK

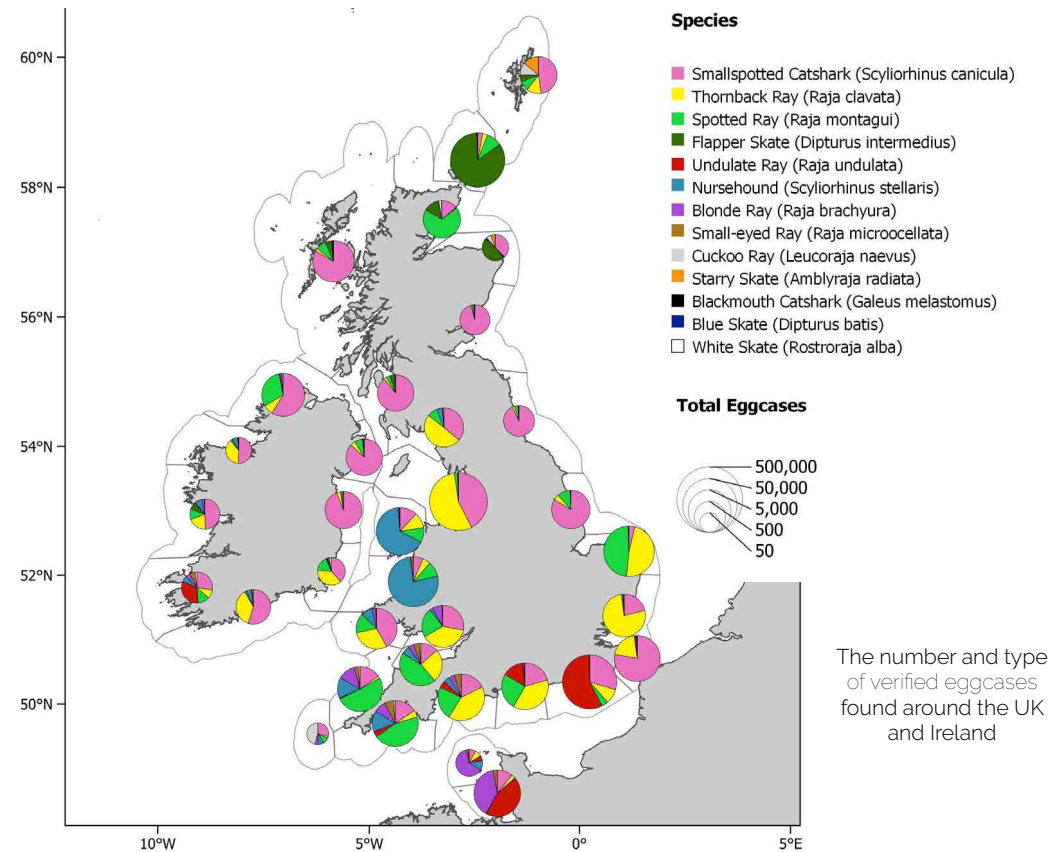
The Great Eggcase Hunt has helped us to build a clearer picture of which species are present around the world, and more specifically around the British Isles. To date, **98% of our records** come from around the British Isles, totalling over a whopping **430,000 eggcases**; **87%** of which have been verified by either an image, a specimen or expert ID.

Though there are around 30 egg-laying species that occur around the British Isles and Ireland, many of these are offshore or deeper water species. Due to this, our ID guide for the Northeast Atlantic contains the species that are most likely to wash ashore; giving us **13 key species** for this region.

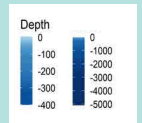
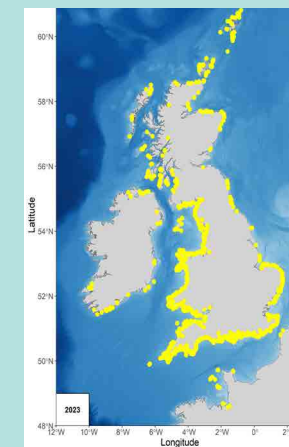
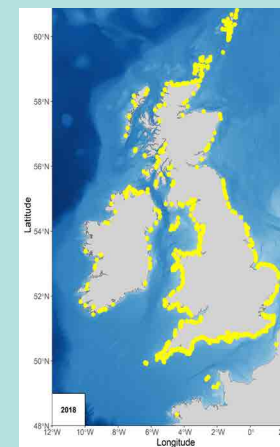
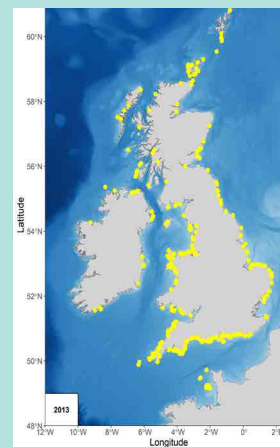
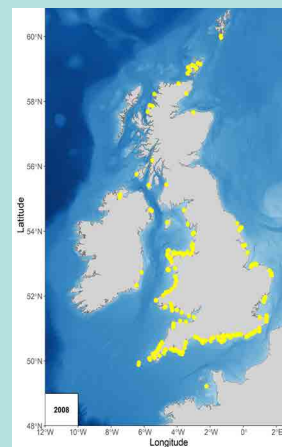
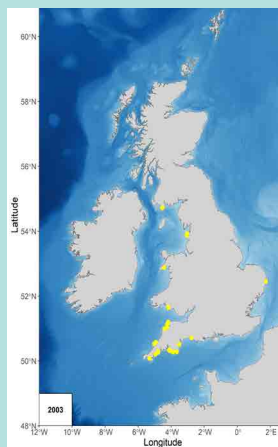
Although the Starry Skate, Blue Skate, White Skate and Blackmouth Catshark are rarely reported, there have been beach finds for these species. In contrast, **nearly 55% of eggcases** come from just two species: the Thornback Ray and the Smallspotted Catshark!



A Nursehound eggcase (*Scyliorhinus stellaris*) from Anglesey, Wales
©Sally Aston | GEH



The growth of the Great Eggcase Hunt over time (2003 - August 2023), showing the increasing spread of eggcases reported from around the UK and Ireland.



GLOBAL SUMMARY 2003 - 2023

Total number of
**EGGCASES
RECORDED:**

440,000+

Total number of
RECORDERS:

~15,000

Total number of
EGGCASE HUNTS:

29,000+

PARTNER SUMMARY 2003 - 2023

PORTUGUESE
**EGGCASES
RECORDED:**

1,400

DUTCH
**EGGCASES
RECORDED:**

3,200

AUSTRALIAN
**EGGCASES
RECORDED:**

1,500



UK SUMMARY 2003 - 2023

Total number of
**EGGCASES
RECORDED:**

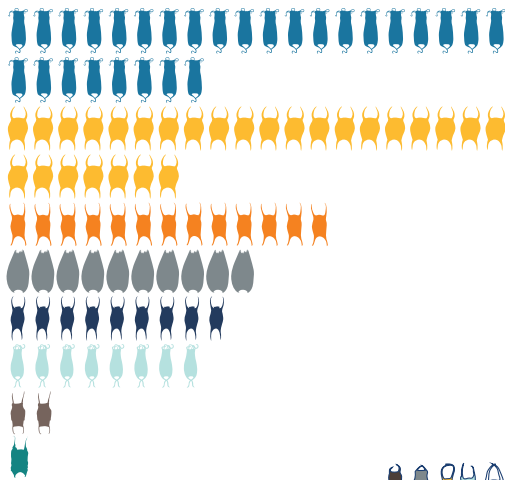
430,000+

Total number of
RECORDERS:

~9,000

Total number of
EGGCASE HUNTS:

26,500+



Each = 1% of records

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

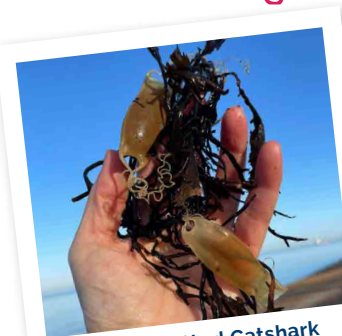
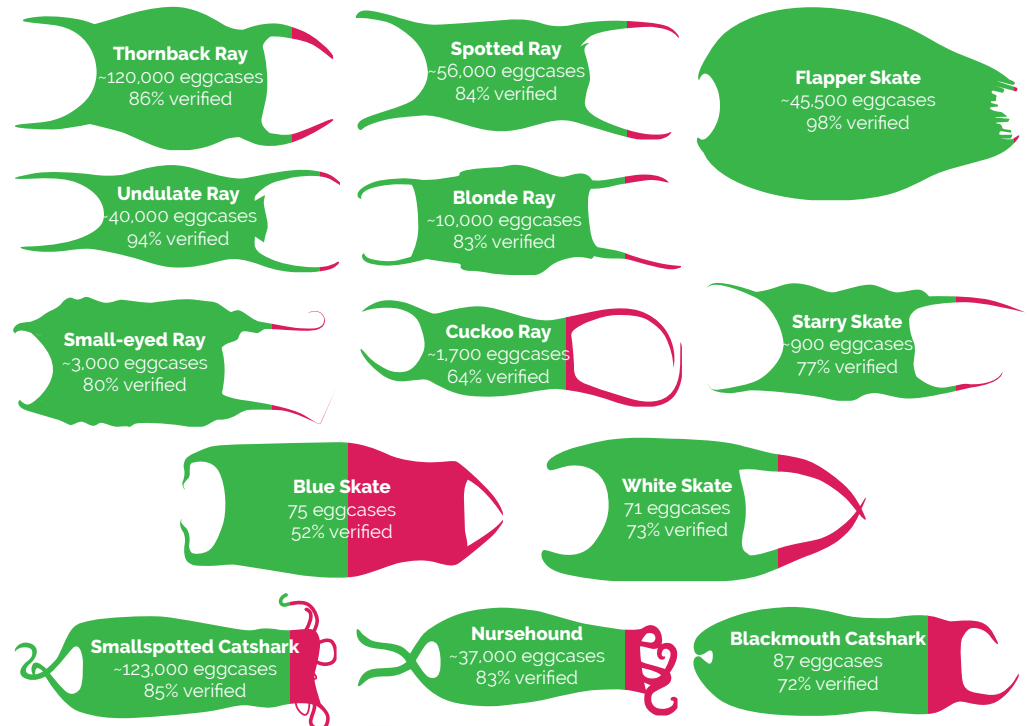
Each = < 1% of records

- Blackmouth Catshark
- Blue Skate
- Cuckoo Ray
- Starry Skate
- White Skate
- Other species



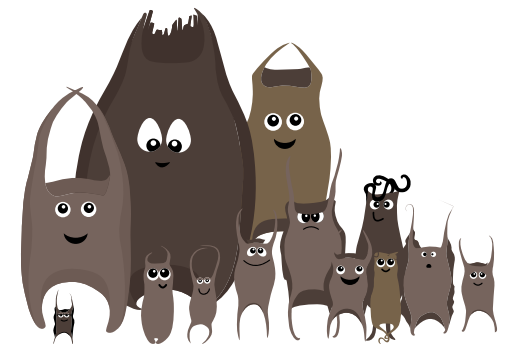
EGGCASES IN THE UK

The number of eggcases reported for each of the 13 key species in the UK and Ireland, and the proportion of verified (green) and unverified (red) eggcases for each species.



Smallspotted Catshark eggcases (*Scyliorhinus canicula*) from the Isle of Wight

© Blue Seas Protection | GEH

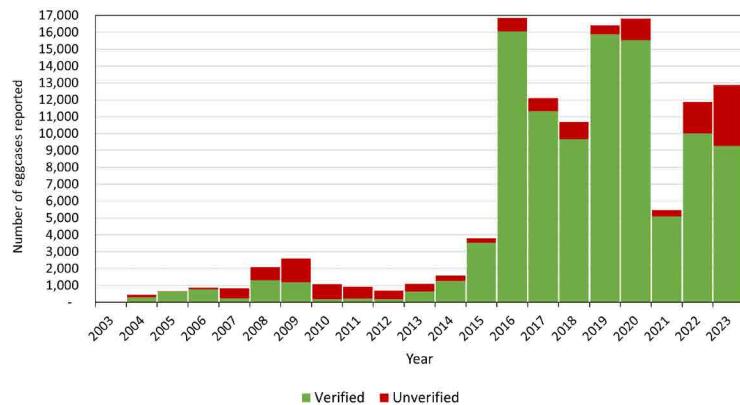


THORNBACK RAY

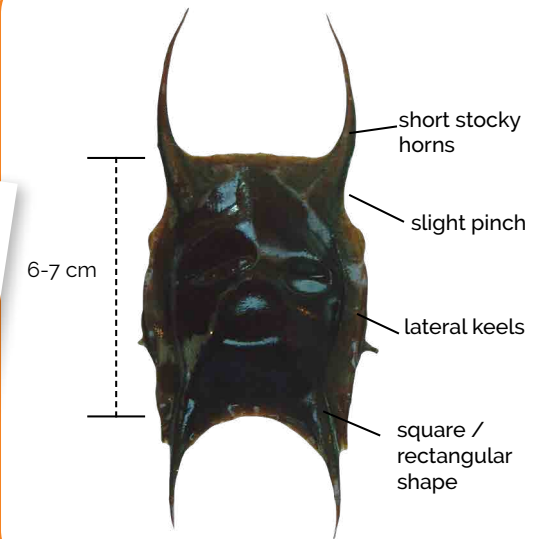
Raja clavata

NT

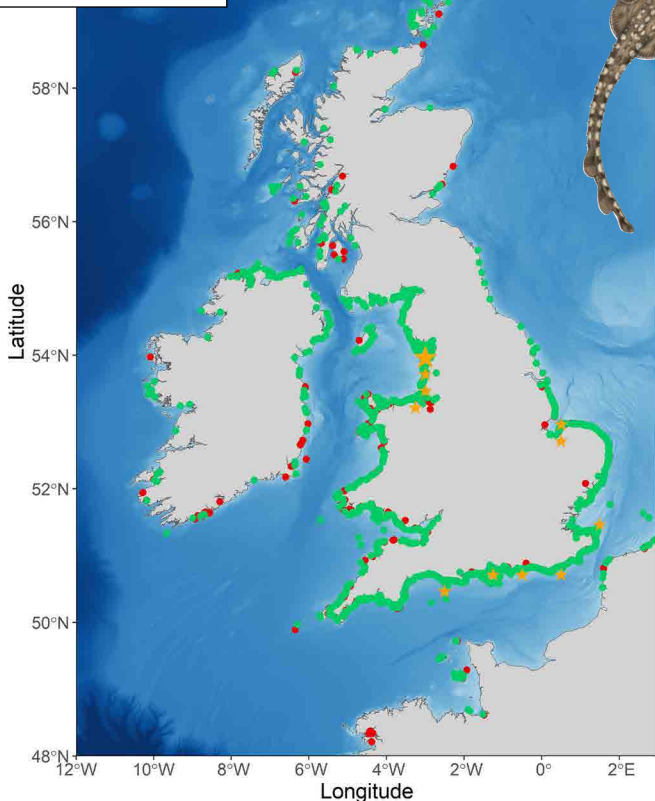
NEAR
THREATENED



The number of Thornback Ray eggcases reported each year, and the proportional split between verified and unverified records.



All Thornback Ray eggcases reported around the British Isles from 2003-2023.



Eggcase verified

- No
- Yes

Hotspots

- ★ 1,000 +
- ★ 10,000 +

Depth

- 0
- 1000
- 2000
- 3000
- 4000
- 5000

*Please note that hotspots can be generated from high or regular search effort, as well as high numbers of eggcases



- One of the most commonly recorded skate eggcases submitted to the Great Eggcase Hunt - 27% of all reported eggcases!
- Distribution:** reported from around much of the British coastline.
- Records:** High numbers reported from North Norfolk (10,000+ eggcases) and from North Wales round to Cumbria (55,000+ eggcases), with other hotspots along the south coast.

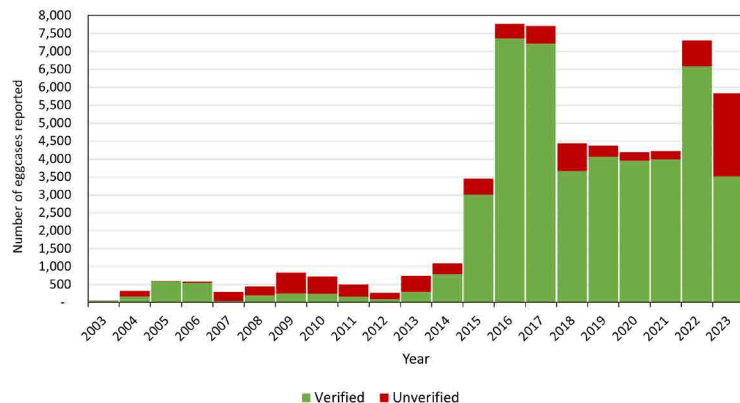
For more information on this species see the relevant entry in [our Shark and Ray ID guide](#) or on the [IUCN Red List](#)

SPOTTED RAY

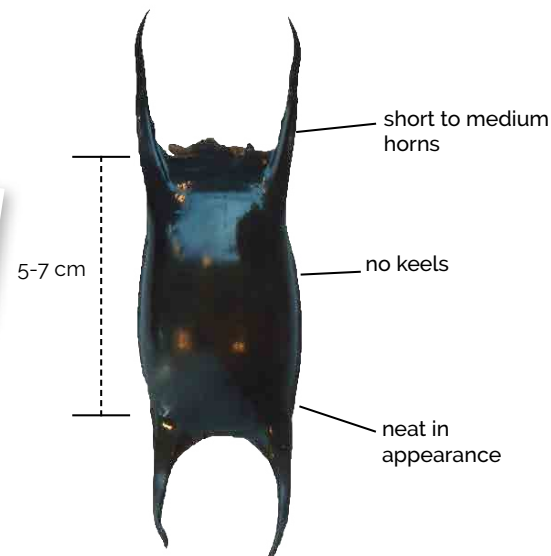
Raja montagui

LC

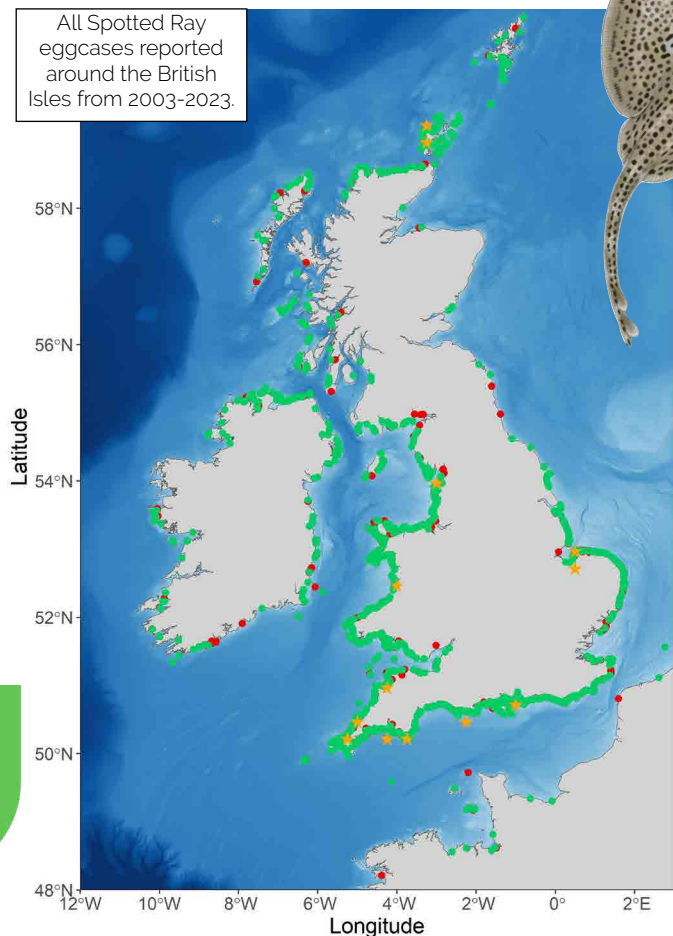
LEAST
CONCERN



The number of Spotted Ray eggcases reported each year, and the proportional split between verified and unverified records.



All Spotted Ray eggcases reported around the British Isles from 2003-2023.



Eggcase verified

• No
• Yes

Hotspots

★ 1,000 +

Depth

0
-100
-200
-300
-400
0
-1000
-2000
-3000
-4000
-5000

*Please note that hotspots can be generated from high or regular search effort, as well as high numbers of eggcases



On south coasts, these eggcases can be confused with those of the Undulate Ray. These eggcases can look very similar and the ranges overlap, so we sometimes informally refer to them as 'Spundulates'.

Distribution: reported from around much of the British coastline.

Records: lots reported from the North Norfolk coast (10,000+ eggcases) with other hotspots dotted around the UK, particularly in the Southwest.

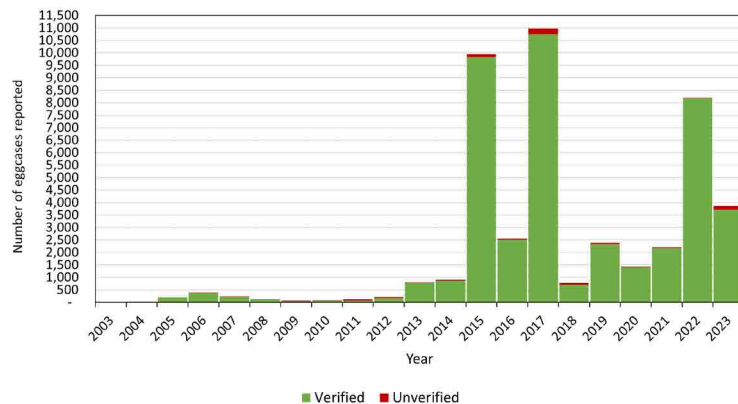
For more information on this species see the relevant entry in [our Shark and Ray ID guide](#) or on the [IUCN Red List](#)

FLAPPER SKATE

Dipturus intermedius

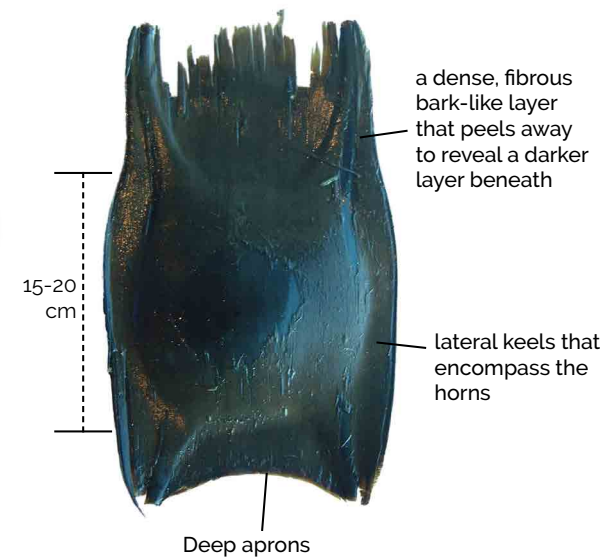
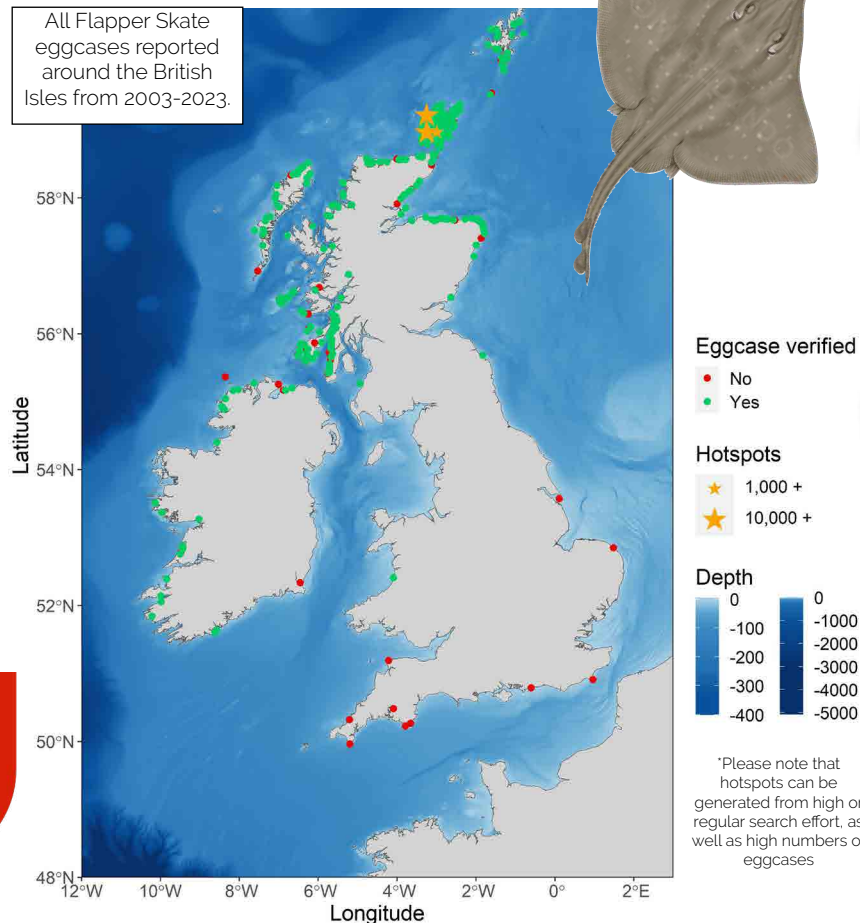
CR

CRITICALLY
ENDANGERED



The number of Flapper Skate eggcases reported each year, and the proportional split between verified and unverified records.

All Flapper Skate eggcases reported around the British Isles from 2003-2023.



Previously included in the Common Skate Complex (along with the Blue Skate), this species was officially recognised in 2010.

This is Europe's largest skate!

Distribution: limited in range, eggcases are rarely found outside of Scotland and the Northern Isles.

Records: The Orkney islands are a definite stronghold for Flapper Skate eggcases, with over 40,000 eggcases reported (98% of all verified Flapper Skate eggcases).

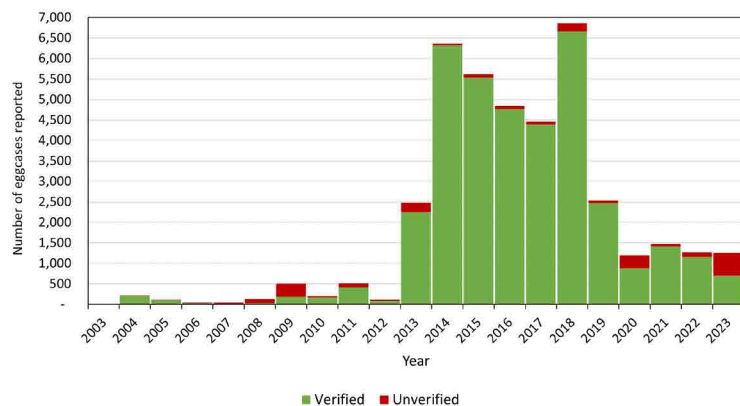
For more information on this species see the relevant entry in our [Shark and Ray ID guide](#) or on the [IUCN Red List](#)

UNDULATE RAY

Raja undulata

EN

ENDANGERED



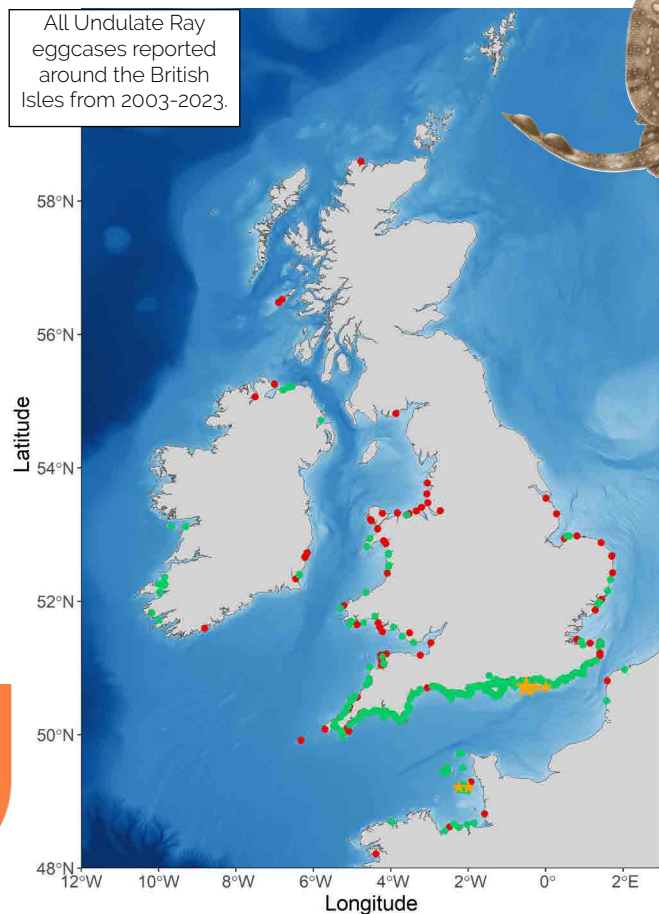
The number of Undulate Ray eggcases reported each year, and the proportional split between verified and unverified records.



An Undulate Ray eggcase reported from West Sussex
© Jemma Cambier | GEH



All Undulate Ray eggcases reported around the British Isles from 2003-2023.



Eggcase verified

- No
- Yes

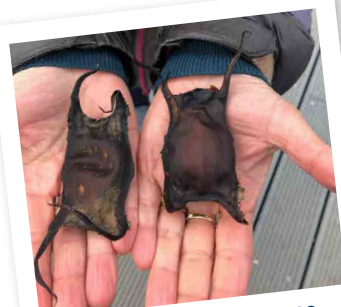
Hotspots

- 1,000 +
- 10,000 +

Depth

- 0
- 100
- 200
- 300
- 400
- 0
- 1000
- 2000
- 3000
- 4000
- 5000

*Please note that hotspots can be generated from high or regular search effort, as well as high numbers of eggcases



Undulate Ray eggcases reported via the Shark Trust App from Brighton
© User Wc3PgWzdTpYdqkwgmwIFGdvO3gL2

On south coasts, these eggcases can be confused with those of the Spotted Ray. These eggcases can look very similar and the ranges overlap, so we sometimes informally refer to them as 'Spundulates'.

Distribution: The south coast of the British Isles represents the northern most limit of their range

Records: 78% of all verified eggcase come from the Sussex coast (25,000+ eggcases)!

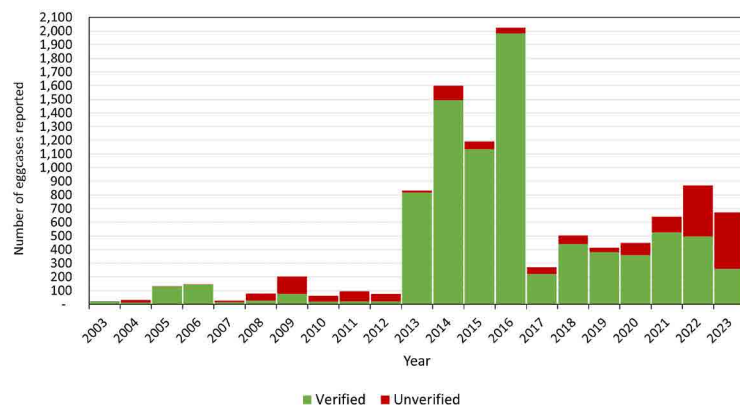
For more information on this species see the relevant entry in our [Shark and Ray ID guide](#) or on the [IUCN Red List](#)

BLONDE RAY

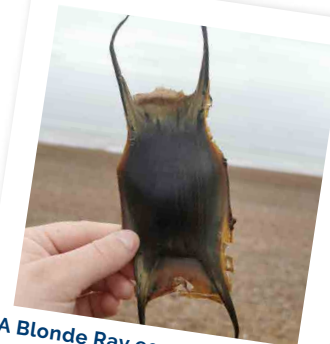
Raja brachyura

NT

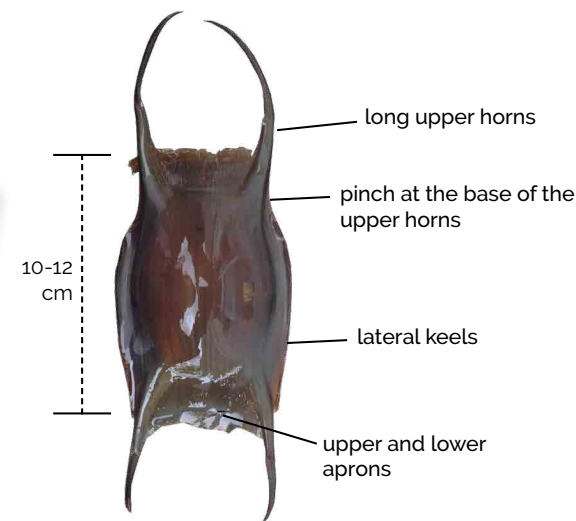
NEAR
THREATENED



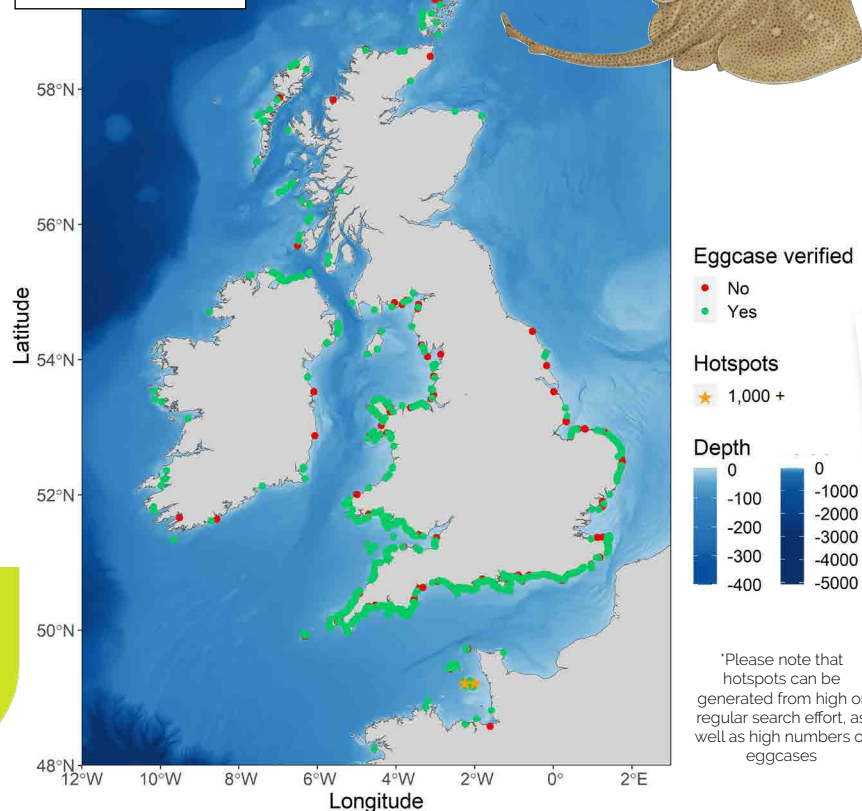
The number of Blonde Ray eggcases reported each year, and the proportional split between verified and unverified records.



A Blonde Ray eggcase reported via the Shark Trust App from Dungeness, Kent
© Bethan Clyne | GEH



All Blonde Ray eggcases reported around the British Isles from 2003-2023.



*Please note that hotspots can be generated from high or regular search effort, as well as high numbers of eggcases



A Blonde Ray eggcase reported from Anglesey
© Ruth Flynn | GEH

- This is one of the larger, commonly found eggcases around the UK coast
- Distribution:** more common on the Southern and Western coasts of the British coastline.
- Records:** The Channel Islands are a definite hotspot, with Jersey accounting for over 50% of all verified Blonde Ray eggcases! The Société Jersiaise has reported over 10,000 eggcases over the years, with about 40% of these being Blonde Ray eggcases.

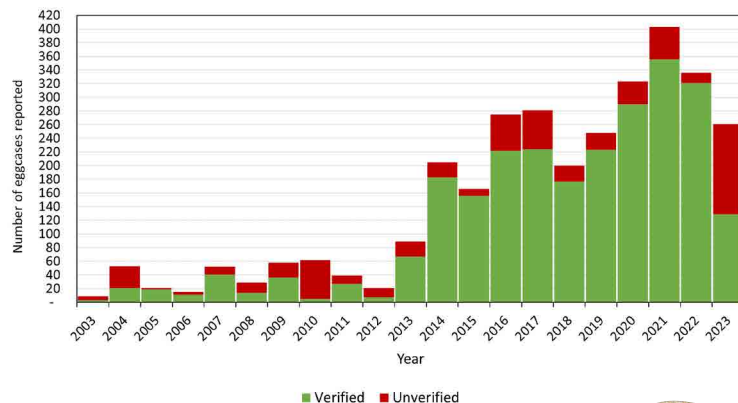
For more information on this species see the relevant entry in our [Shark and Ray ID guide](#) or on the [IUCN Red List](#)

SMALL-EYED RAY

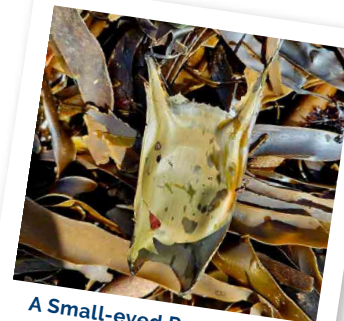
Raja microocellata

NT

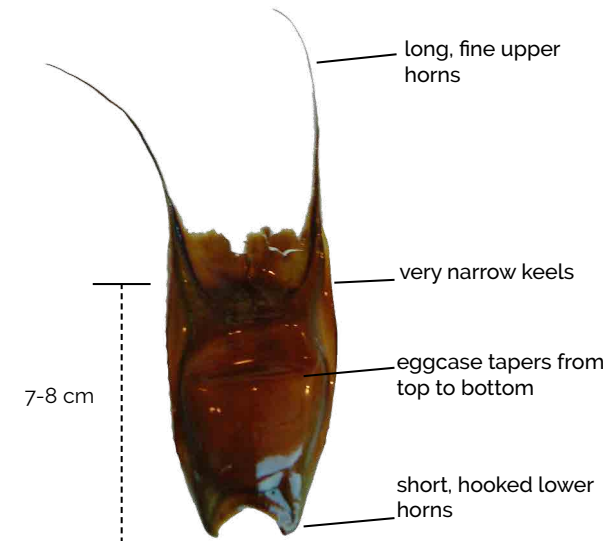
NEAR
THREATENED



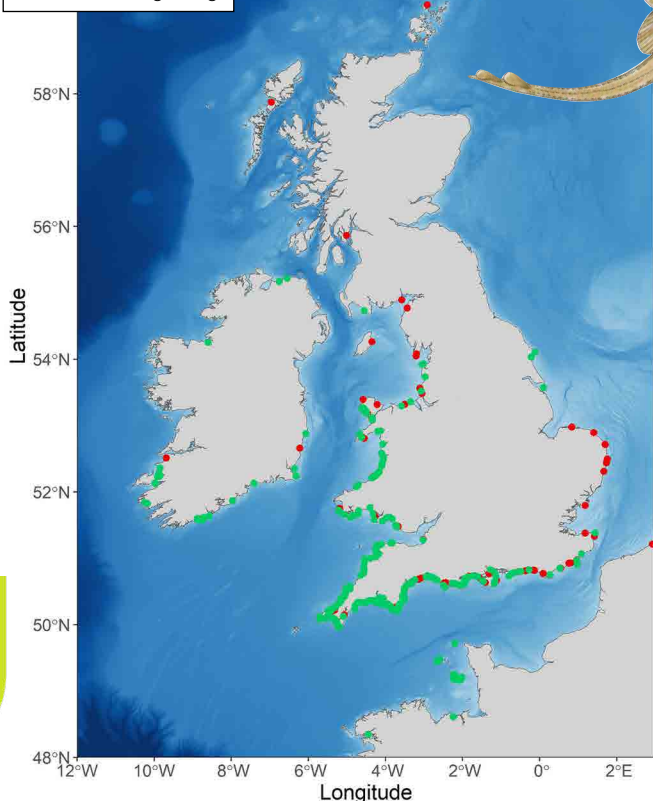
The number of Small-eyed Ray eggcases reported each year, and the proportional split between verified and unverified records.



A Small-eyed Ray eggcase reported from Devon
©Matt Staddon | GEH



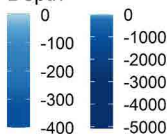
All Small-eyed Ray eggcases reported around the British Isles from 2003-2023.



Eggcase verified

- No
- Yes

Depth



*As an uncommon eggcase, not enough eggcases have been reported from any one place to generate a hotspot



A Small-eyed Ray eggcase reported from Portugal
© Charcos Companhia | GEH

Distribution: mostly recorded from the southern and southwestern coasts of British Isles.

Records: Small-eyed Rays are not one of our 'common' eggcases. However, many have been reported from the south coasts of Cornwall, Devon and Dorset.

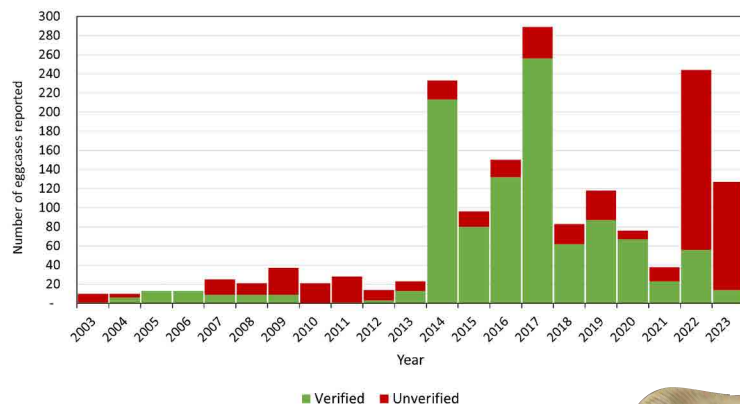
For more information on this species see the relevant entry in our [Shark and Ray ID guide](#) or on the [IUCN Red List](#)

CUCKOO RAY

Leucoraja naevus

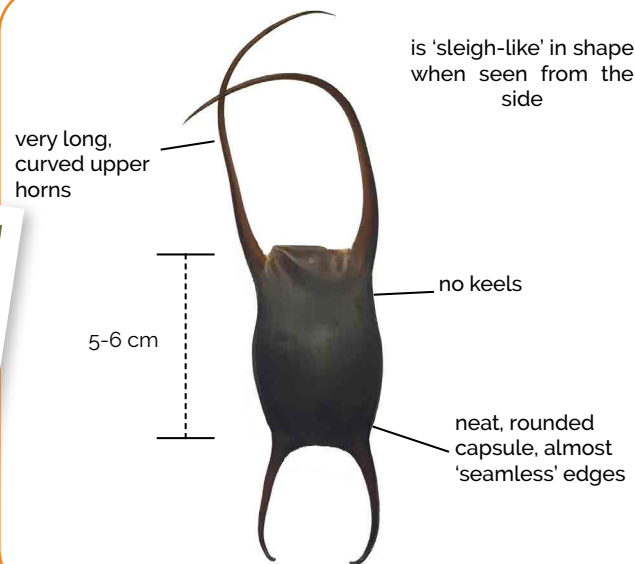
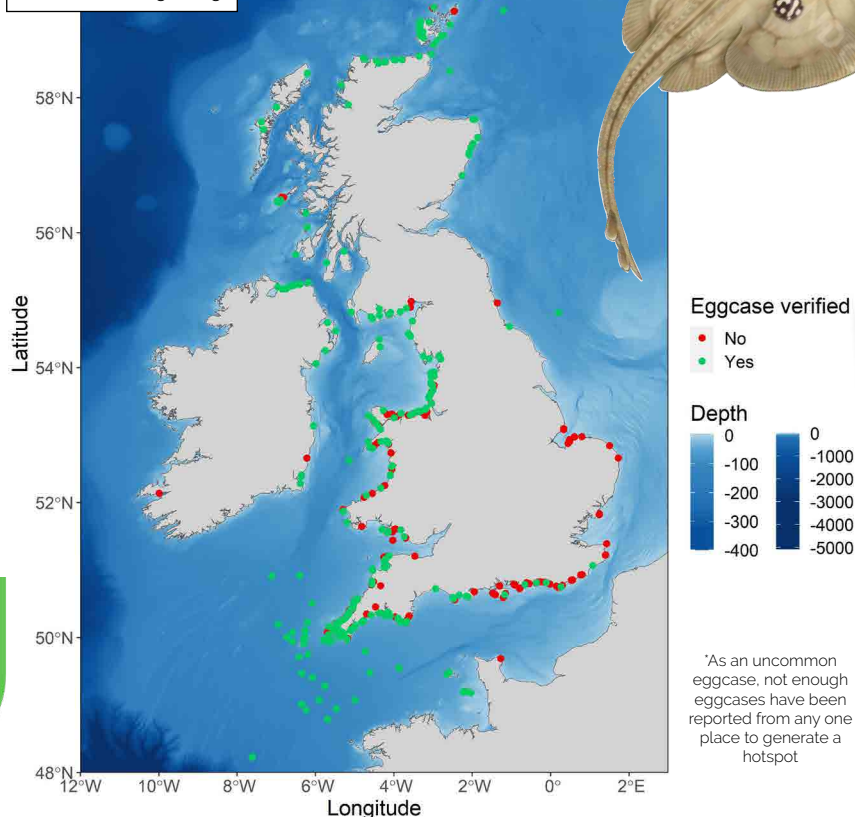
LC

LEAST
CONCERN



The number of Cuckoo Ray eggcases reported each year, and the proportional split between verified and unverified records.

All Cuckoo Ray eggcases reported around the British Isles from 2003-2023



 This is the eggcase that features in our logo!

 **Distribution:** more common on the Southwestern and Western coasts

 **Records:** Areas with higher numbers of eggcases include the Lancashire coast, the Shetland Islands, and the coastlines of Devon and Cornwall, although several of these areas also represent where we have higher search effort, which may account for the higher numbers.

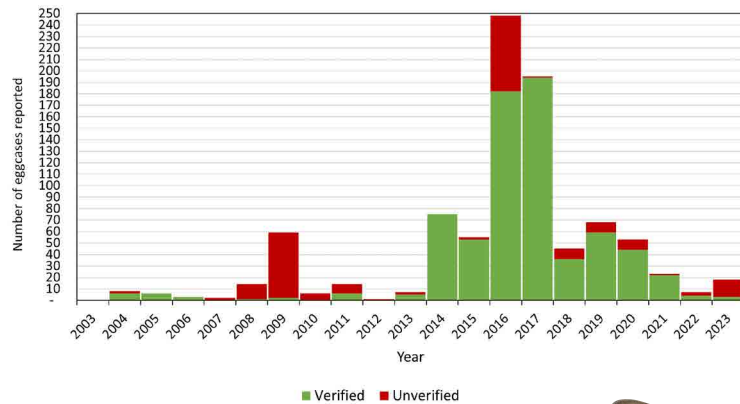
For more information on this species see the relevant entry in our [Shark and Ray ID guide](#) or on the [IUCN Red List](#)

STARRY SKATE

Amblyraja radiata

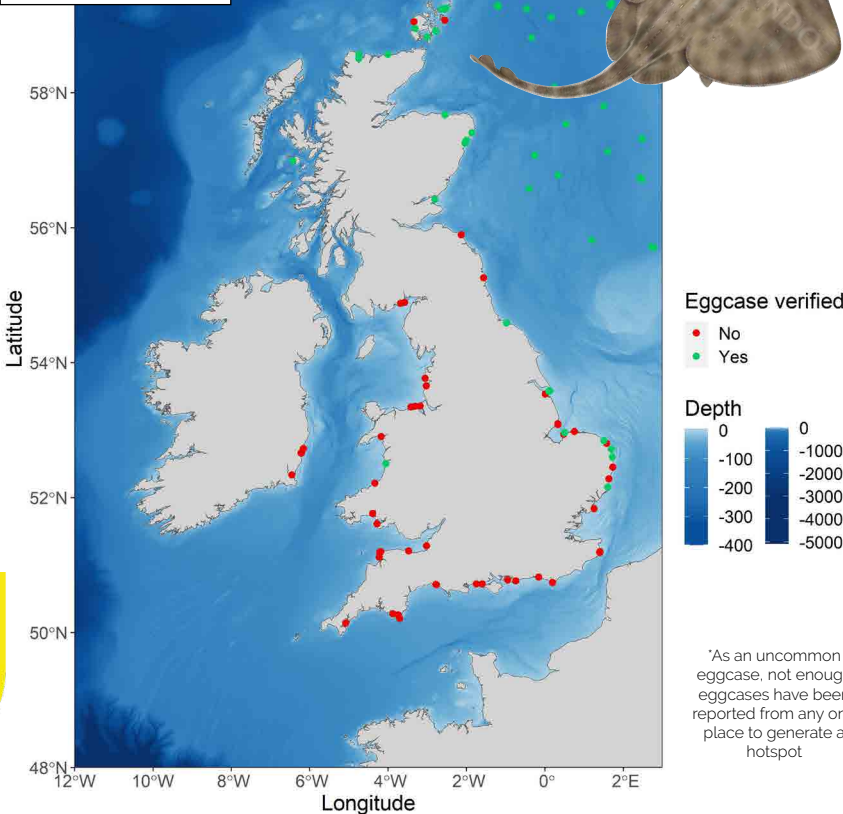
VU

VULNERABLE

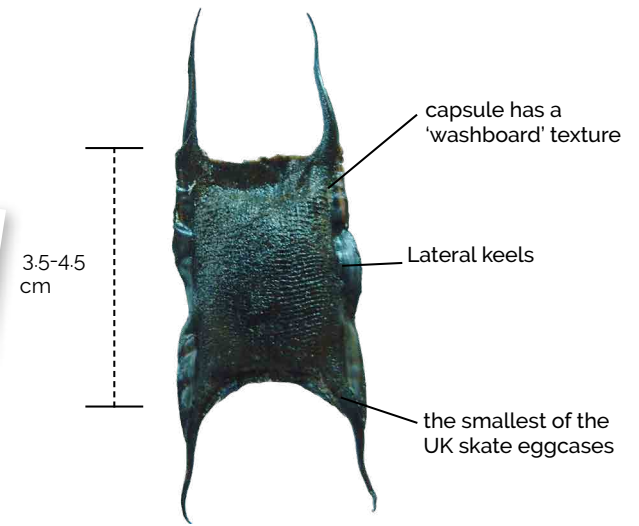


The number of Starry Skate eggcases reported each year, and the proportional split between verified and unverified records.

All Starry Skate eggcases reported around the British Isles from 2003-2023.



*As an uncommon eggcase, not enough eggcases have been reported from any one place to generate a hotspot



Starry Skate reach a much larger size in the Northwest Atlantic (where it's known as the Thorny Skate) than in European waters. We had one large eggcase wash up in Wales – could this have washed over from the Northwest Atlantic?

Distribution: eggcases are mostly reported from North Sea coasts.

Records: of our ~250 eggcases reported from beach finds, 57% of all verified Starry Skate eggcases come from Shetland

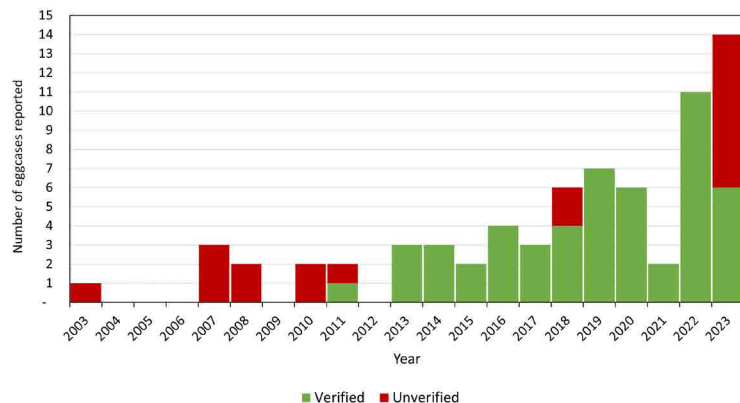
For more information on this species see the relevant entry in our [Shark and Ray ID guide](#) or on the [IUCN Red List](#)

WHITE SKATE

Rostroraja alba

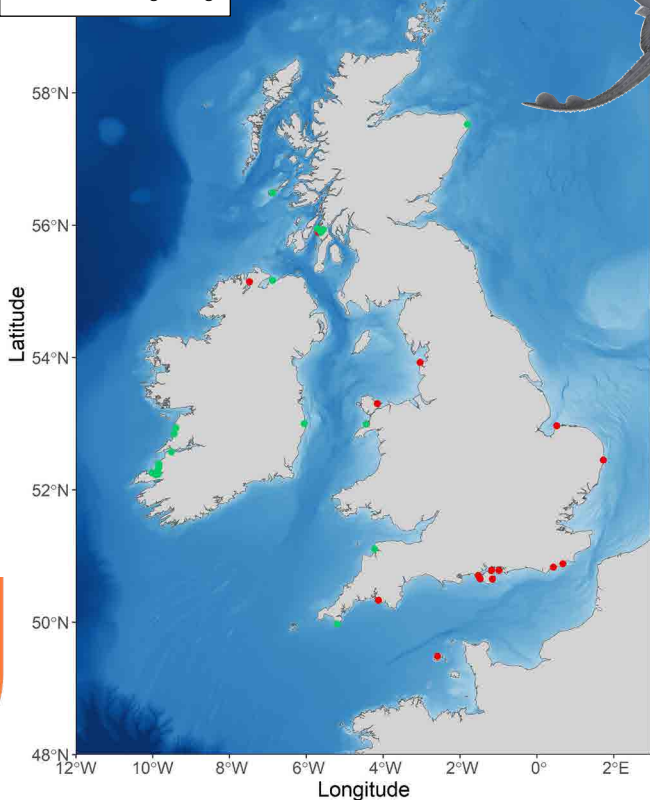
EN

ENDANGERED



The number of White Skate eggcases reported each year, and the proportional split between verified and unverified records.

All White Skate eggcases reported around the British Isles from 2003-2023.



Eggcase verified

• No
• Yes

Depth

0 -1000
-100 -2000
-200 -3000
-300 -4000
-400 -5000

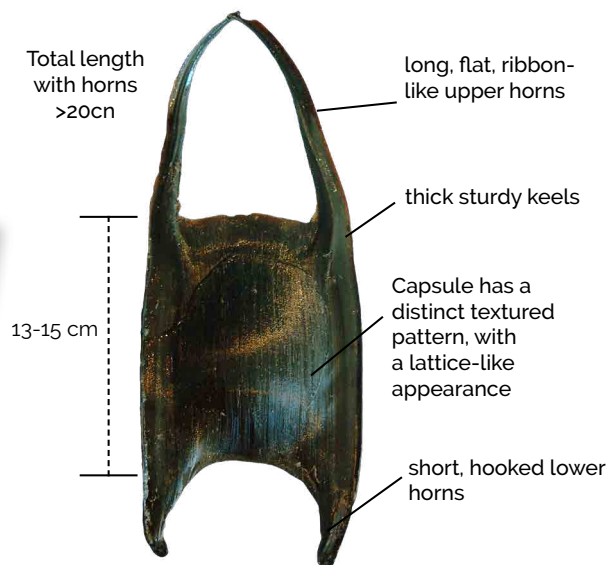
*As an uncommon eggcase, not enough eggcases have been reported from any one place to generate a hotspot



A White Skate eggcase from Argyll and Bute, Scotland
© Lynsey Gibson | GEH



A White Skate eggcase from South Africa
© Ruanlie Oosthuizen | GEH



One of the largest eggcases found in the UK and Ireland.

This species is very rarely recorded to the Great Eggcase Hunt, with only 52 verified eggcases reported so far, and only 22 of these come from the coasts of the UK and Ireland!

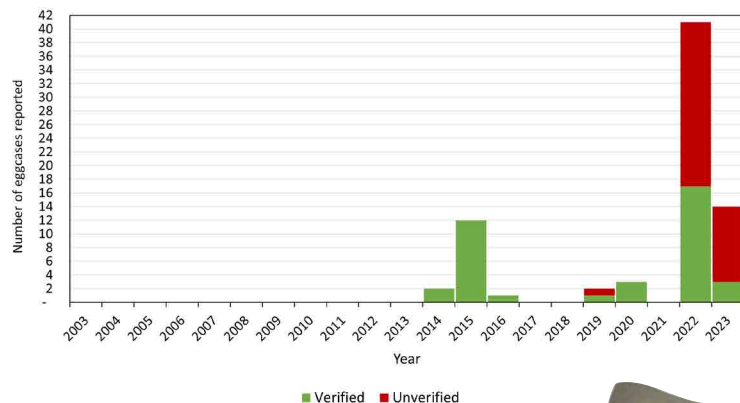
Distribution: most reports come from the west coast of Ireland.

Records: the south west coast of Ireland holds the most records from the British Isles to date.

For more information on this species see the relevant entry in our [Shark and Ray ID guide](#) or on the [IUCN Red List](#)

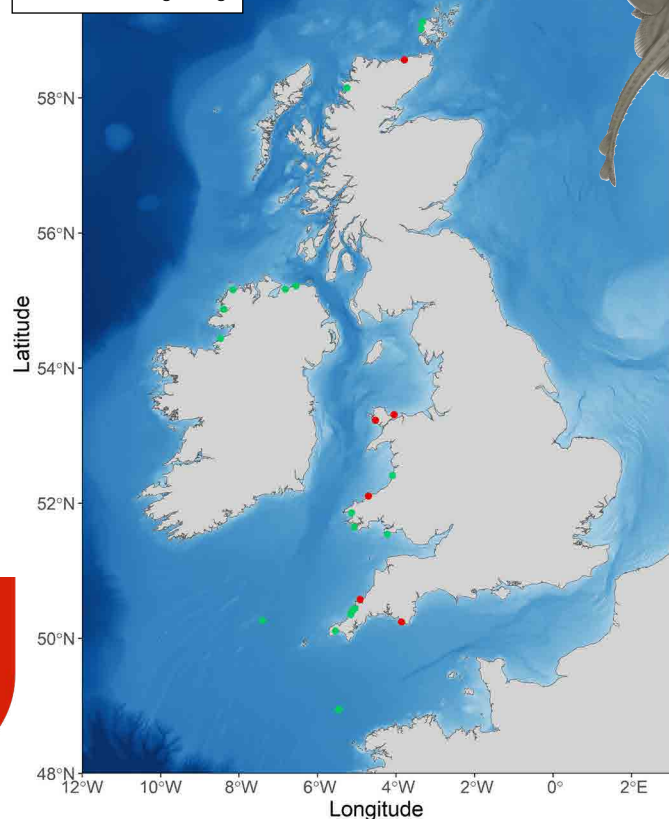
BLUE SKATE

Dipturus batis



The number of Blue Skate eggcases reported each year, and the proportional split between verified and unverified records.

All Blue Skate eggcases reported around the British Isles from 2003-2023.



*As an uncommon eggcase, not enough eggcases have been reported from any one place to generate a hotspot



A Blue Skate eggcase reported from Fistral beach, Cornwall
© Jo Brookbanks | GEH



A Blue Skate eggcase reported from Watergate Bay, Cornwall
© Tracey Williams | GEH



The Blue Skate was previously included in the Common Skate complex (along with the Flapper Skate), with the two only being recognised as distinct species in 2010!

Rarely reported, with only 39 verified eggcases reported so far, and only 27 of these come from the UK and Ireland!

Distribution: most reports come from the west coast of Ireland and Southwest of England.

Records: The west of Ireland holds the most records from the British Isles to date.

For more information on this species see the relevant entry in our [Shark and Ray ID guide](#) or on the [IUCN Red List](#)

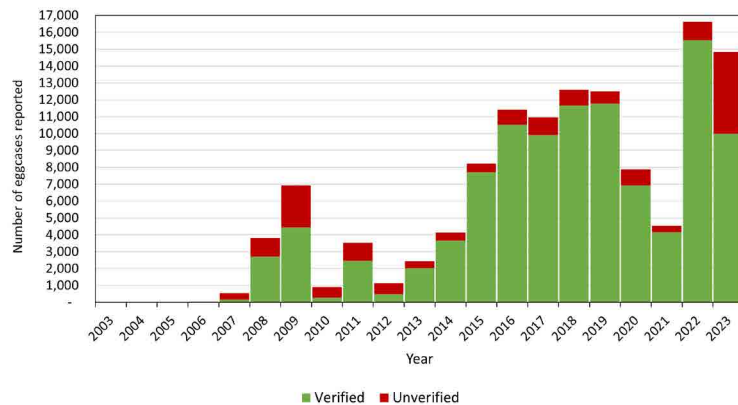
CR
Critically Endangered

SMALLSPOTTED CATSHARK

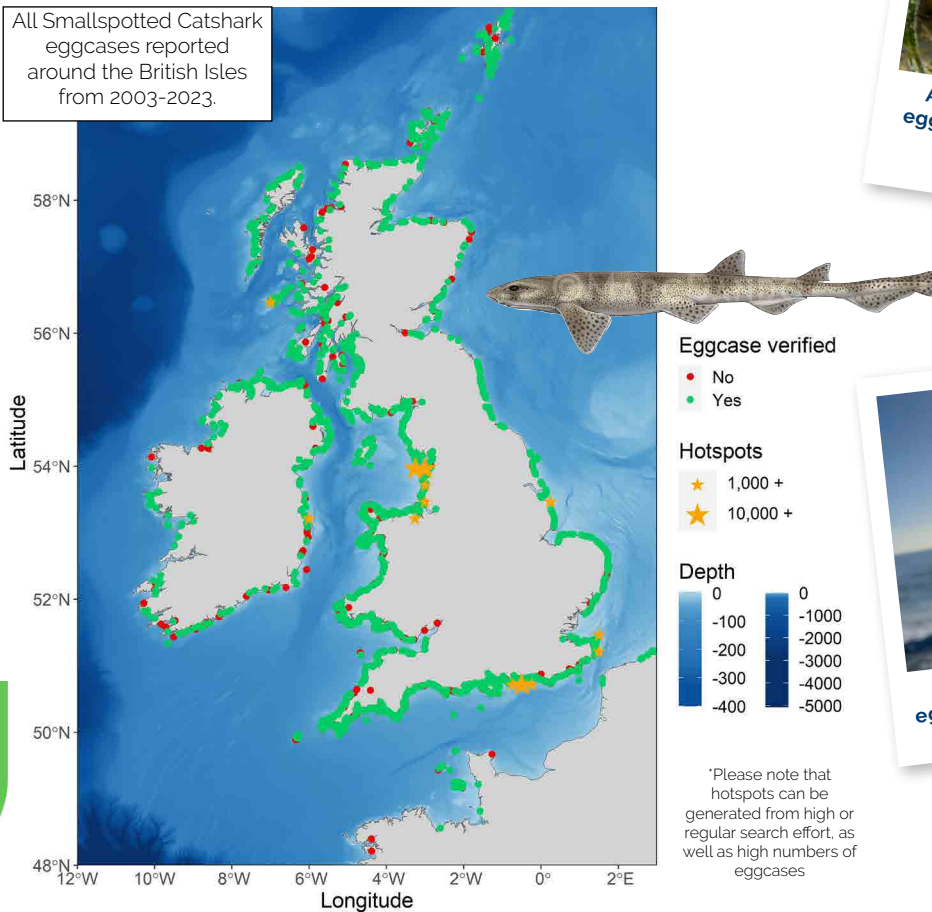
Scyliorhinus canicula

LC

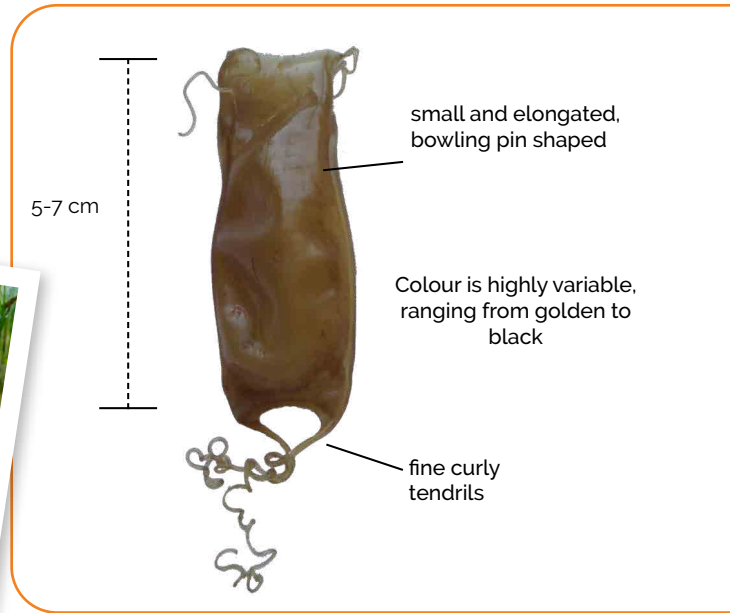
LEAST
CONCERN



The number of Smallspotted Catshark eggcases reported each year, and the proportional split between verified and unverified records.



*Please note that hotspots can be generated from high or regular search effort, as well as high numbers of eggcases



The most commonly reported shark eggcase to the Great Eggcase Hunt – accounting for nearly 28% of all reported eggcases!

Distribution: reported from all around the British coastline.

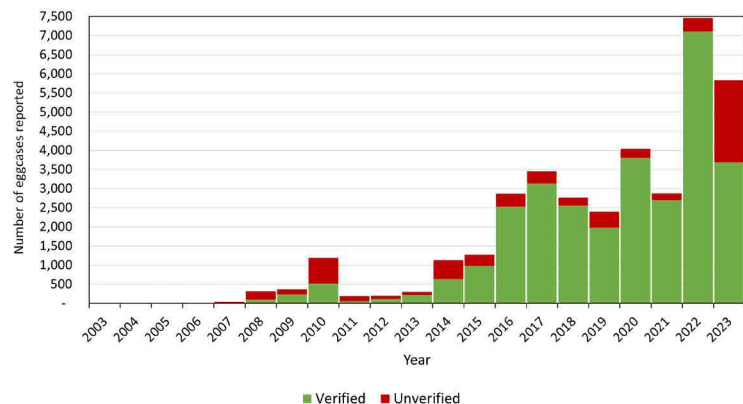
Records: Areas of note include the North Wales to Cumbria coastline (with a whopping 45,000+ eggcases), and the Kent and Sussex coastlines (22,000+ eggcases). These hotspots have had some mammoth eggcase hauls – 3 reports of over 2,000 eggcases from Cumbria (2 of which were over 3,000!) and a report of 2500 eggcases

For more information on this species see the relevant entry in [our Shark and Ray ID guide](#) or on the [IUCN Red List](#)

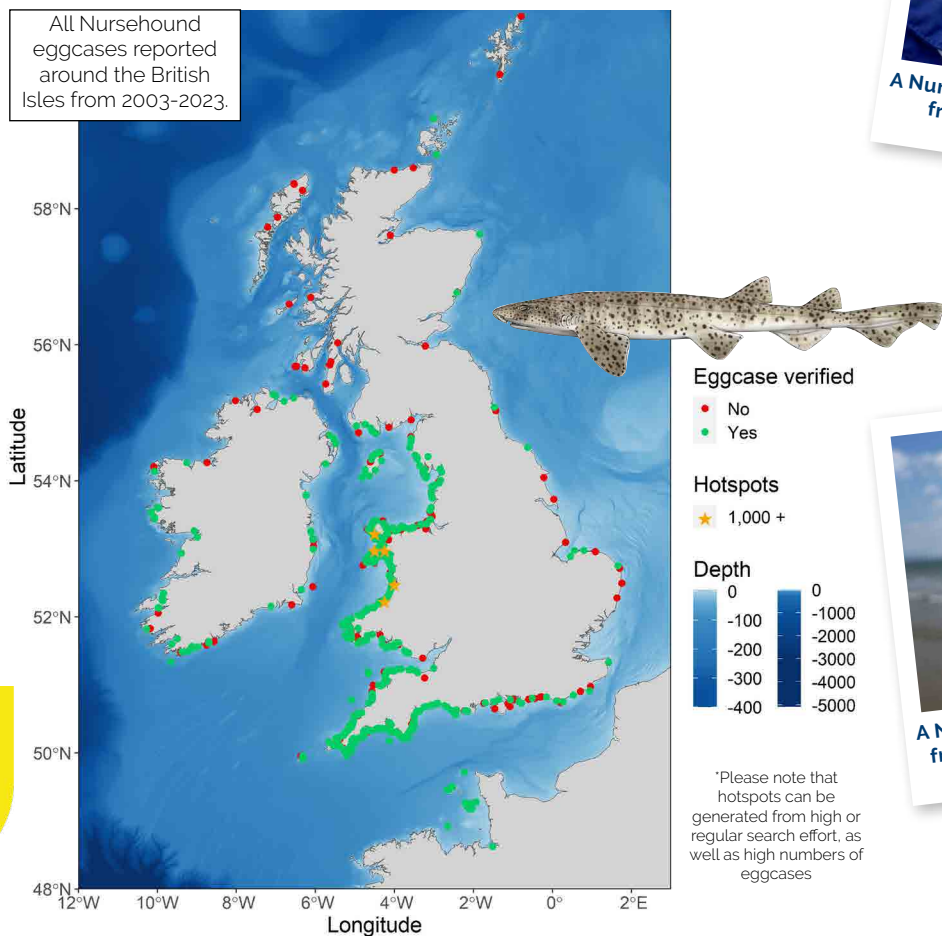
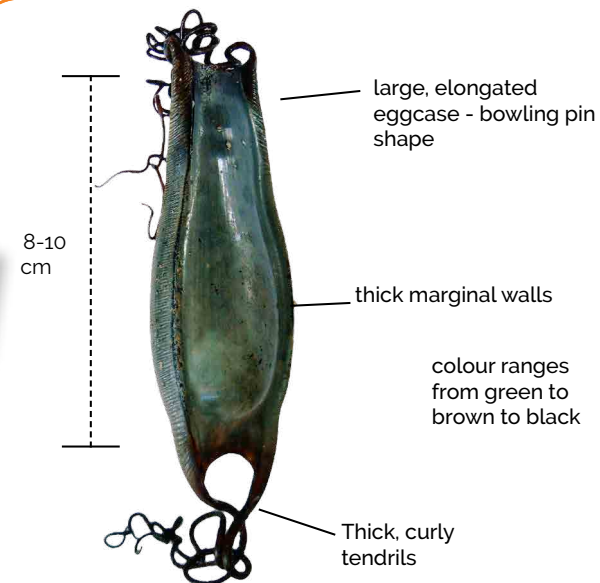
Nursehound *Scyliorhinus stellaris*

VU

VULNERABLE



The number of Nursehound eggcases reported each year, and the proportional split between verified and unverified records.



- 🐾 The largest shark eggcase found in UK waters!
- 🐾 **Distribution:** southwestern coasts of England and the western coasts of Wales.
- 🐾 **Records:** every hotspot is concentrated on the west coast of Wales, with the Welsh coast boasting over 26,000 eggcases, accounting for 86% of all verified Nursehound eggcases.

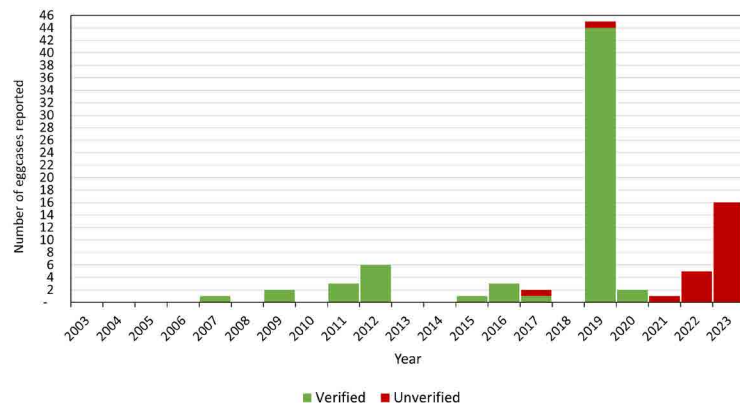
For more information on this species see the relevant entry in [our Shark and Ray ID guide](#) or on the [IUCN Red List](#)

BLACKMOUTH CATSHARK

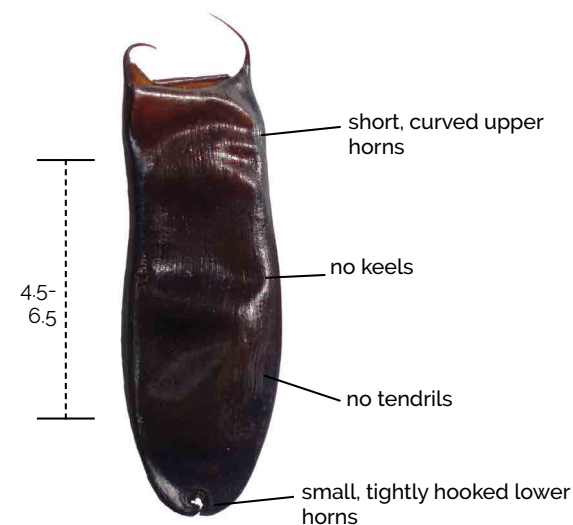
Galeus melastomus

LC

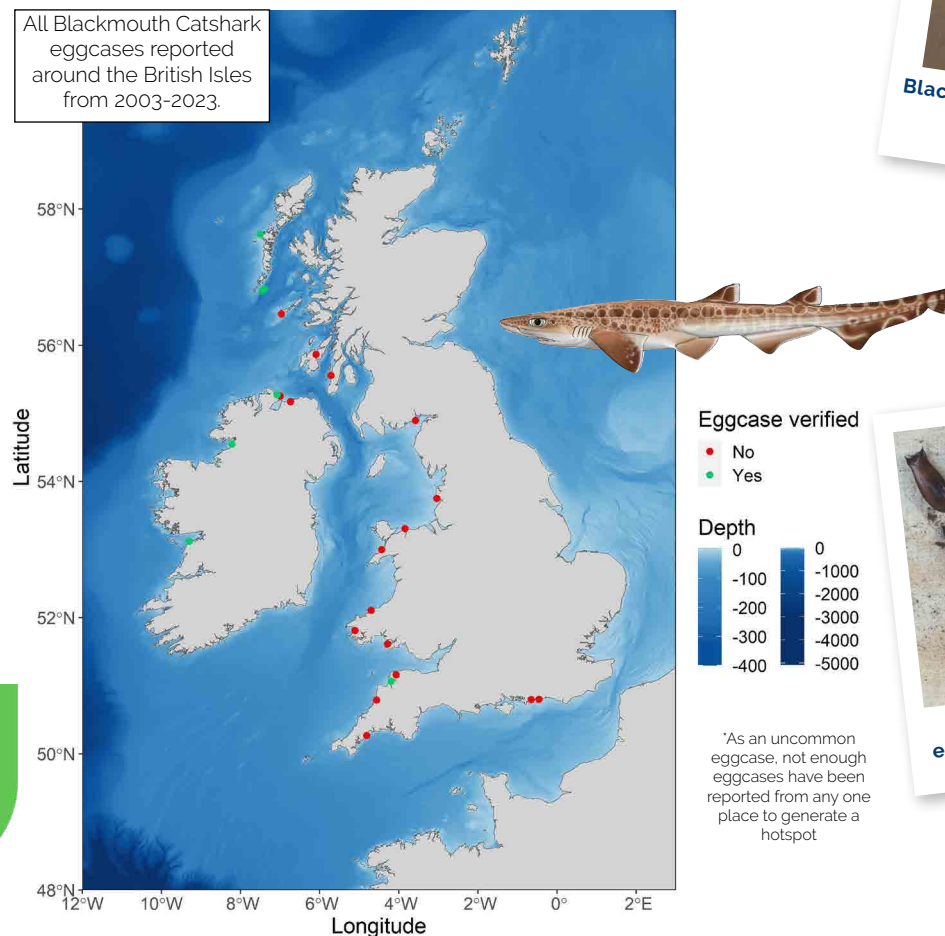
LEAST
CONCERN



The number of Blackmouth Catshark eggcases reported each year, and the proportional split between verified and unverified records.



All Blackmouth Catshark eggcases reported around the British Isles from 2003-2023.



*As an uncommon eggcase, not enough eggcases have been reported from any one place to generate a hotspot



⚔ This is an offshore species (mostly at 200 - 500m depth), so eggcases are rarely washed ashore and reported to the Great Eggcase Hunt.

⚔ **Distribution:** Within the British Isles, most eggcases have been reported from Porcupine Bank – which is an area off western Ireland.

⚔ **Records:** so far we have had 63 verified records, 16 of which have come from the UK and Ireland.

For more information on this species see the relevant entry in our [Shark and Ray ID guide](#) or on the [IUCN Red List](#)

UNDERWATER EGGCASES

The Great Eggcase Hunt has helped improve our knowledge of the distribution of egg-laying elasmobranchs, but eggcases washed ashore only tell part of the story!

Eggcases spotted underwater by snorkellers or divers can provide us with vital information that can further unpick the habitat use and behaviour of these species. Information on underwater eggcases can help us identify the type of seabed or seaweed that these species prefer to lay their eggs on, as well as helping us to identify potential egg-laying grounds or 'nurseries'.

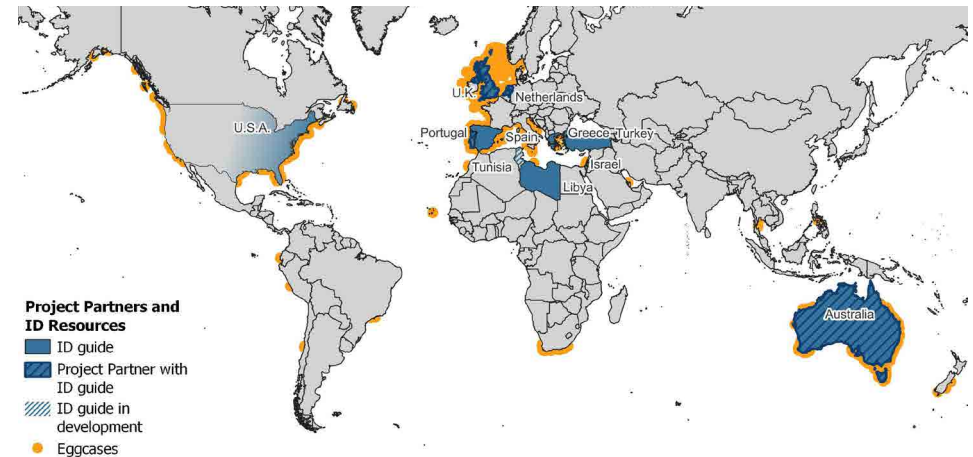
Having records of both underwater eggcases and beach finds will also allow us to understand how currents affect where eggcases wash up, helping us to further understand the data we have collected over the last 20 years.



So far only **1% of the eggcases** reported to the Great Eggcase Hunt have been from underwater finds. So, if you are a snorkeller or a diver, we need you! If you see an eggcase developing underwater please take a picture and let us know. But remember, underwater eggcases will likely contain an embryo that is still developing, so **please do not touch or remove these eggcases!**

INTERNATIONAL EGGCASES

The Great Eggcase Hunt has received records from over 30 countries, and it continues to spread.



The Great Eggcase Hunt has been set up in three other countries. These countries all have their own online recording form and identification materials:

Our International GEH projects are:

-  GEH the Netherlands with the Dutch Shark Society - 2015
-  GEH Portugal with APECE - 2018
-  GEH Australia with CSIRO - 2023

International Sister Projects include:

-  France
-  South Africa
-  Republic of Ireland

INTERESTING FINDS

Although it is always exciting to receive an eggcase record, it is particularly exciting when we receive reports of a new (to us) or uncommon eggcase. As well as the species that feature on our ID guides, the Great Eggcase Hunt has also received verified eggcases for the following species:

USA & CANADA

(WEST COAST)

Bering Skate
Bathyraja interrupta
Big Skate
Beringraja binoculata
California Horn Shark
Heterodontus francisci
California Skate
Beringraja inornata
Longnose Skate
Beringraja rhina
Spotted Ratfish
Hydrolagus coliei
Swell Shark
Cephaloscyllium ventriosum

USA & CANADA

(EAST COAST)

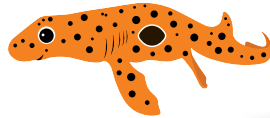
Chain Catshark
Scyliorhinus retifer
Clearnose Skate
Rostroraja eglanteria
Jensen's skate
Amblyraja jenseni
Little Skate
Leucoraja erinacea
Winter Skate
Leucoraja ocellata

ASIA PACIFIC

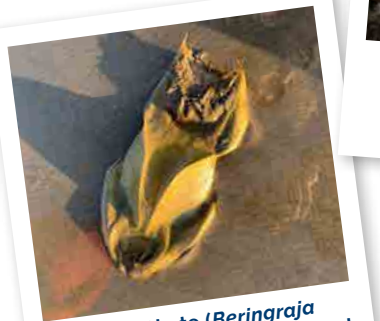
Bamboo Shark
Chiloscyllium spp.
Carpet Shark
Cephaloscyllium isabellum

MEDITERRANEAN

Brown skate
Raja miraletus
Starry Ray
Raja asterias



A Puffadder Shyshark
(*Haploblepharus edwardsii*)
eggcase from South Africa
© Lisa Hamblin | GEH



A Big Skate (*Beringraja binoculata*) eggcase reported from Oregon
© Stefanie Brown | GEH

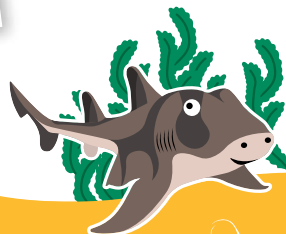
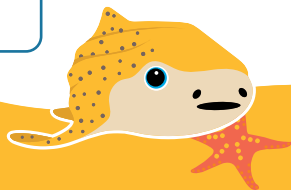
SOUTH AFRICA

Brown Shyshark
Haploblepharus fuscus
Brown skate
Raja miraletus
Dark Shyshark
Haploblepharus pictus
Pyjama Shark
Poroderma africanum
Roughnose Legskate
Cruriraja parcomaculata
St. Joseph Shark
Callorhynchus capensis

BRITISH ISLES

(FROM SURVEY)

Deep-water Skate
Bathyraja richardsoni
Rabbitfish
Chimaera monstrosa



Great Eggcase Hunt

OUR RESOURCES

We have ID materials available for many different regions/languages, which have been developed in collaboration with other regional partners:

Dutch - The Dutch Shark Society

Portuguese - APECS

Australian x7 (QLD, NSW, VIC, TAS, SA, WA, NT) - CSIRO

Welsh - Project SIARC

Spain (Spanish) - Sanamares

Türkiye (Turkish) - MerSea

North Carolina - North Carolina Aquariums

Greece (Greek) - iSea

Libya (English and Arabic) - Marine Biology in Libya Society

Tunisia (English and Arabic) - ASCOB-Syrtis

Israel (Hebrew) - Sharks in Israel (coming soon)



Scan to access our regional and translated ID guides



We also have junior resources available on our website!



Record your eggcase finds
www.eggcase.org

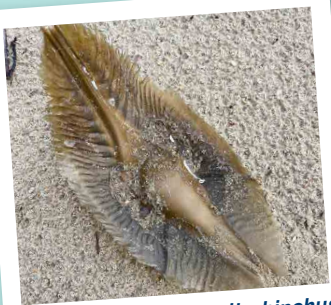
WWW.EGGCASE.ORG

GREAT EGGCASE HUNT AUSTRALIA

2023 saw the launch of the Great Eggcase Hunt Australia, in collaboration with The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). This saw the creation of an Australian eggcase ID key in the Shark Trust app, an Australia-specific Recording Form and an eggcase identification guide for each Australian state/territory.



Although we were receiving some eggcase records from Australia beforehand, now the Great Eggcase Hunt has really taken off, and we're seeing a massive increase in reports of eggcases!



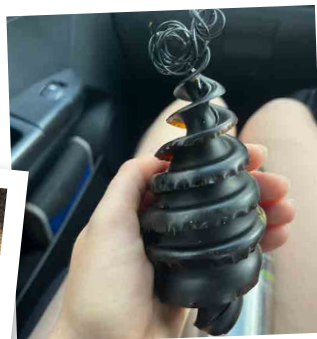
An Elephant Fish (*Callorhynchus milii*) eggcase reported from Tasmania, Australia

© Miriam G | GEH



An Australian Swellshark (*Cephaloscyllium laticeps*) eggcase reported from VIC, Aus

© Caitlin Traynor | GEH



A Crested Hornshark (*Heterodontus galeatus*) eggcase from NSW, Australia

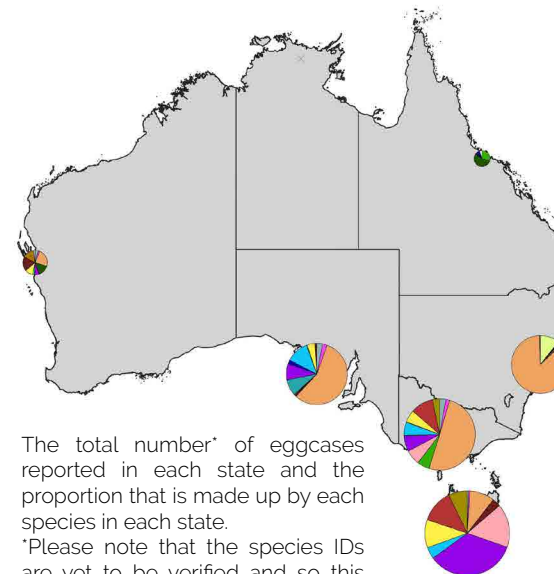
© Selena Shannon | GEH

So far in Australia there have been over 500 submissions from over 650 people (though more may have participated as part of group events) totalling over 1,500 eggcases! Although some of these eggcases still need checking, these records come from a potential 23 species, only five of which were recorded before the GEH Australia launched. We've had records coming in from all around the country – Tasmania has had the most eggcases recorded so far (500+), with Victoria close behind with nearly 400 eggcases reported. We haven't had any eggcases reported from Northern Territory yet, so if you go to the NT coast, make sure to keep your eyes peeled!



A Port Jackson Shark eggcase (*Heterodontus portusjacksoni*) reported from TAS, Australia

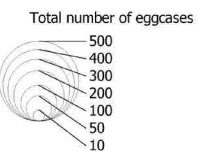
© Fi Stvensen | GEH



The total number* of eggcases reported in each state and the proportion that is made up by each species in each state.

*Please note that the species IDs are yet to be verified and so this data may change.

- Species
- Crested Hornshark (*Heterodontus galeatus*)
 - Grey Spotted Catshark (*Asymbolus analis*)
 - Gulf Catshark (*Asymbolus vincenti*)
 - Melbourne Skate (*Spiriraja whitleyi*)
 - Port Jackson Shark (*Heterodontus portusjacksoni*)
 - Thornback Skate (*Dentiraja lemprieri*)
 - Collared Carpetshark (*Parascyllium collare*)
 - Epauvette Shark (*Hemiscyllium ocellatum*)
 - Grey Carpetshark (*Chiloscyllium punctatum*)
 - Zebra Shark (*Stegostoma tigrinum*)
 - Australian Swellshark (*Cephaloscyllium laticeps*)
 - *Parascyllium* spp.
 - Peacock Skate (*Pavoraja nitida*)
 - Pygmy Thornback Skate (*Dentiraja flindersi*)
 - Rusty Carpetshark (*Parascyllium ferrugineum*)
 - Unknown
 - Varied Carpetshark (*Parascyllium variolatum*)
 - Variegated Catshark (*Asymbolus submaculatus*)
 - Elephant Fish (*Callorhynchus milii*)
 - Longnose Skate (*Dentiraja confusa*)
 - Black Spotted Catshark (*Aulohalaelurus labiosus*)
 - Speckled Carpetshark (*Hemiscyllium trispiculare*)
 - ✕ No eggcases reported



THANK YOU

This wouldn't be possible without all our citizen scientists, whether you have recorded one eggcase or thousands, it all adds up to create this amazing database!

We are very fortunate to have some dedicated eggcase hunters that have spent years recording eggcases from their local beaches, providing us with regular, reliable information from specific locations. As such we wanted to give a particular thank you to these Eggcase Champions:

TOP
5

Top 5 recorders for the most eggcases:

- 1 The Bay: A blueprint for Recovery (Wyre), Lancashire Wildlife Trust – **74,000+ eggcases**
- 2 Penny Martin – **33,000+ eggcases**
- 3 Rustington Beach Group – **30,000+ eggcases**
- 4 Diane Westwood & Steve Rowland – **22,000+ eggcases**
- 5 **JOINT:** Société Jersiaise **AND** Chloe Griffiths (Penparcau Community Forum) – **10,000+ eggcases**

Top 5 recorders for the most entries:

- 1 The Bay: A blueprint for Recovery (Wyre), Lancashire Wildlife Trust – **800+ submissions**
- 2-4 **JOINT:** Penny Martin; Société Jersiaise; Billy Moran – **650+ submissions**
- 5 Diane Westwood & Steve Rowland – **500+ submissions**



With special thanks to:

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openstreetmap.org

Content © Shark Trust 2023

Citation Allen, H. & Gordon, C. (2023). The Great Eggcase Hunt: Celebrating 20 years! The Shark Trust.

The Great Eggcase Hunt has been supported by Save our Seas Foundation, Defra, The Co-operative, Countryside Council for Wales and Crown Estates – we are extremely grateful for all support given over the years.

Thank you to all organisations and people that have helped developed our **translated and/or regional ID guides** and to all **partner projects** and **sister projects**, including (but not limited to):

