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JOIN *the* GREAT EGGCASE HUNT

HELP SHARKS AND SKATES BY
BECOMING AN EGGCASE HUNTER

WHAT IS AN EGGCASE?

Some small sharks and all skates reproduce by laying eggs. These are protected by a tough, leathery capsule. After growing for several months these will hatch and the empty eggcases (or **mermaid's purses**) may wash ashore. Eggcases come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. So, we can tell by their features which species laid them.

YOU can learn to identify eggcases too. Join in the hunt and we'll show you how...



SEARCH

Eggcases can be found all year round. They may be newly hatched or could have been lying empty on the seabed for some time before being dislodged and washing ashore.

The best places to search are:

- Among the seaweed (in the strandline).
- At the back of the beach.
- In grass/sand dunes.

TOP TIP! Stormy weather washes up lots of seaweed and debris. So, when it's safe to do so, this is a great time to find eggcases.

SEARCH

IDENTIFY

Once you've found an eggcase, you need to identify what species it belongs to. Soaking your eggcases makes them much easier to identify. Just pop them in water for a few hours! Larger eggcases will take longer to hydrate.



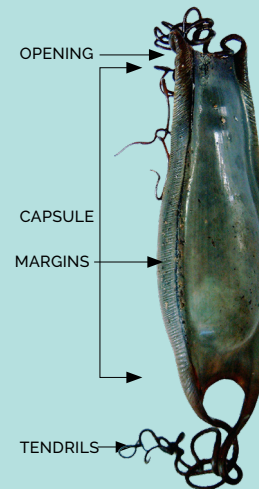
ID GUIDES

Next, you can use our eggcase ID guide to identify your finds.

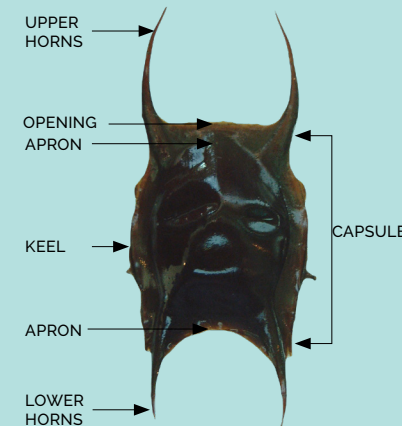
Look closely at...

- FEATURES** - Including horns, tendrils, keels.
- SIZE** - Eggcases can vary from 4cm to a whopping 20cm!
- SHAPE** - For example, eggcases shaped like a bowling pin are from catsharks, while squarer eggcases with pointed horns are from skates.

SHARK



SKATE



IDENTIFY

RECORD

Take a photo of your eggcase with a coin/ruler to provide scale. This helps us verify your find. Upload this, along with details of where and when you found your eggcase by...



USING THE ONLINE RECORDING FORMS

www.eggcase.org



RECORDING
FORM



DOWNLOADING OUR CITIZEN SCIENCE APP

search for 'Shark Trust' in the
relevant app store



APP



EMAILING US

at eggcase@sharktrust.org

EGGCASES UNDERWATER

Seen eggcases while snorkelling or diving? We want to know about those too! Underwater records help us link beach records with egg-laying grounds. Please take photos if you can, but **NEVER** disturb or remove them, as there may still be a live shark or skate developing inside.

RECORD

EGGCASE IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

BRITISH ISLES & NORTHWEST EUROPE

WHAT SPECIES HAVE YOU FOUND?

By joining the Great Eggcase Hunt you're helping us discover more about egg-laying sharks and skates. The more we know about these species, the better we can act to protect or manage them.

SHARK EGGCASES

SKATE EGGCASES

Some skates are confusingly called rays. But true rays give birth to live young and don't lay eggs.

