



2021 REPORT



ABOUT US

The Great Eggcase Hunt has been engaging members of the public in shark conservation since 2003. By recording shark, skate and ray 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.

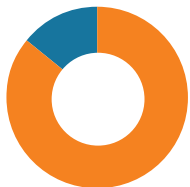
Over the past year, we've been thrilled to see records continue to come in from all over the UK, and further afield. To date, over 300,000 eggcases have been recorded to the Great Eggcase Hunt, with over 21,000 eggcases recorded in 2021 alone! A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who has submitted an eggcase record. **Here is what you found...**

YEAR IN REVIEW

Total number of
**EGGCASES
RECORDED**

2003 - Dec 2021

313,745

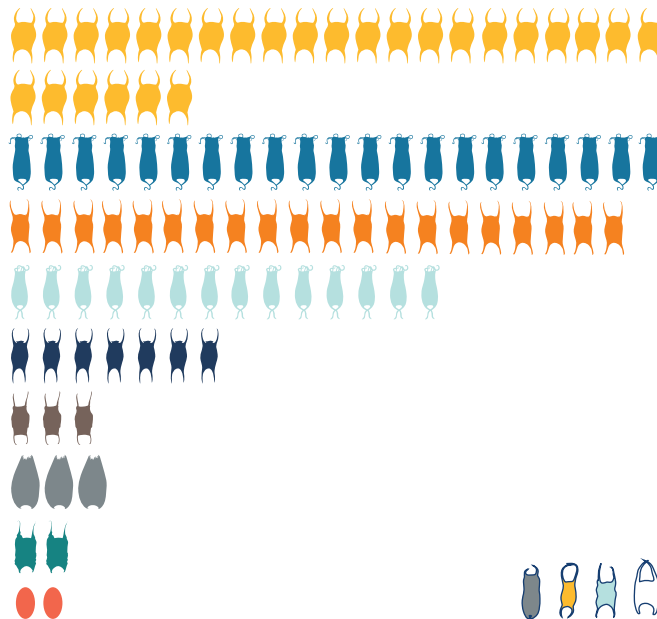


Verified | 271,129 (86%)
Unverified | 42,616 (14%)



Total number of

EGGCASES RECORDED IN 2021: 21,120



Each = 1% of records

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

Each = < 1% of records

- Blackmouth Catshark
- Cuckoo Ray
- Starry Skate
- White Skate

COLLABORATION

We're delighted to have partnered with other organisations and projects, including:

- APECE** continue to collect records for the *Grande Caça Ovos* in Portugal.
- Dutch Shark Society** helped develop the *Grote Eikapsel Jacht* in the Netherlands.
- Project SIARC** has enabled us to translate our ID guide into Welsh.
- Wild Coast Sussex** uses the Great Eggcase Hunt to educate communities about sharks.
- Shetland Community Wildlife Group** encourage collection of natural history records, including eggcases.



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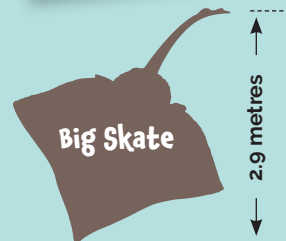


EGGCASES AROUND THE WORLD

We received our first ever eggcase record from Tasmania in 2021! An Australian Ghostshark (*Callorhynchus milii*) was submitted to the Great Eggcase Hunt from Rokeby. We're currently speaking with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), to develop the project in Australia, so watch this space for further updates...

Eggcases are continuing to be submitted from around the world. In 2021 we received records from South Africa, Norway, Australia, Portugal, and the USA to name but a few. Including three records of **Big Skate** (*Beringraja binoculata*) eggcases found off the West Coast of the USA (two in California and one in Oregon). The skate itself (and the eggcase!) is, as the name suggests...BIG!

The Big Skate can grow to lengths of ~2.9 metres. Interestingly it's one of only two skates known to have more than one embryo per eggcase.



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TOP RECORDERS FOR 2021

We're grateful to have dedicated eggcase champions who continue to find and submit impressive numbers of eggcases year on year. We'd like to give a shoutout to the following top five recorders for 2021:

- 1 Diane Westwood & Steve Rowland from Norfolk - **2881**
- 2 Karl Renouf and Elaine Doonan from Devon - **1641**
- 3 Carol and Owen Fawcett on behalf of Wyre Coast and Countryside Rangers in Lancashire - **1395**
- 4 Billy from County Donegal - **1007**
- 5 Dawn Thomas on behalf of North Wales Wildlife Trust - **1005**

EGGCASE HOTSPOTS

The prime spots around the British Isles for eggcase finds in 2021 were:



EXCITING NEWS!



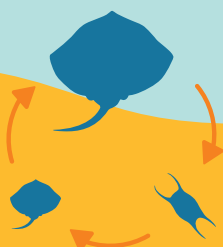
We've updated the Great Eggcase Hunt ID poster for the British Isles and Northwest Europe! We're also in the process of translating this into additional languages with the support of partner organisations in Greece, Turkey, Israel, and Spain. As well as the ID poster, we're also giving our popular ID Key a revamp, so that will be released soon.

If you've got the Great Eggcase Hunt app downloaded on your phone,

you'll likely have noticed that it's no longer functioning as it should. We'll be removing that app shortly and are currently developing a new citizen science app where you can record your eggcase finds - this will be available for download in the coming months so keep your eyes peeled on our social media!

Keep eggcase hunting!

Rebecca Gillham
Conservation Officer



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