

ABOUT US

2024 was another great year for eggcases....

Over the last year our citizen scientists have been very busy, recording a whopping 57,351 eggcases! A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has submitted an eggcase record, whether you are one of our regular eggcase hunters or if you found your first ever eggcase in 2024, every eggcase helps! 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!

HALF A MILLION EGGCASES!!

2024 saw us shoot past the milestone of 500,000 eggcases - we couldn't have done it without all of your time and effort, so thank you! Here is a quick summary of the project since 2003:

530,000+ eggcases have been recorded

57 species have been recorded

84% of the eggcases have been verified

14,775+ people have submitted eggcases from

34 countries

37,700+ eggcase hunts have been carried out



ANNUAL SUMMARY 2024*

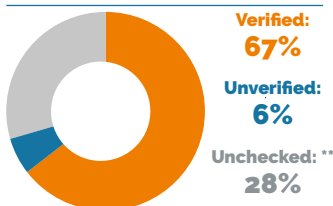
* Please note that these numbers may change as records from the end of 2024 are still being submitted and verified. The total number of participants often isn't known, so the number of people will likely be higher than reported.

Total number of
EGGCASE HUNTS

4,621

Total number of
RECORDERS

5,294



Top Eggcase Reporting
COUNTRIES

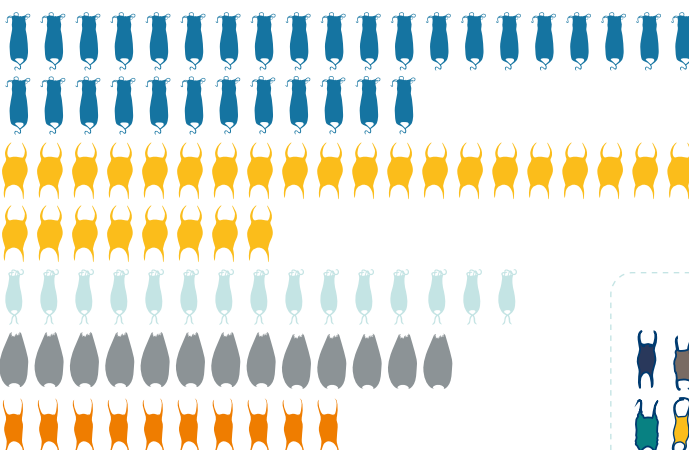
- 1st **UK**
95.8% of eggcases
- 2nd **Australia**
1.7% of eggcases
- 3rd **Ireland**
1.3% of eggcases



Total number of

EGGCASES RECORDED: **57,351**

VERIFIED EGGCASES BY SPECIES



Each shark icon = 1% of records

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

Each skate icon = < 1% of records

- Undulate Ray
- Blonde Ray
- Small-eyed Ray
- Cuckoo Ray
- Starry Skate
- White Skate
- Blue Skate

other verified species include: Iceland Catshark, Big Skate, Clearnose Skate, Little Skate, Varied Carpetshark, Port Jackson Shark, Twineye Skate, Variegated Catshark, Elephant Fish, Winter Skate, Peacock Skate, Roundel Skate

** The number of verified records will eventually be higher, with no 'Unchecked' records. However, we have a lot of records left to approve in the database, so we have flagged these as unchecked for now.



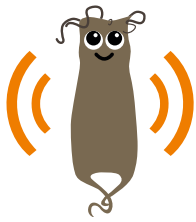
EGGCASE HOTSPOTS

The prime spots around the British Isles for eggcase finds during 2024 were:

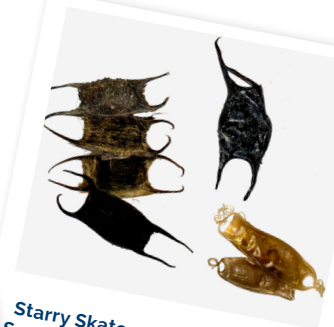
Number of Eggcases

- 1 - 5
- 5 - 10
- 10 - 50
- 50 - 100
- 100 - 500
- 500 - 1000
- 1000 - 5000
- 5000+

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A massive haul of Smallspotted Catshark eggcases reported from Cumbria!



Starry Skate, a Spotted Ray and Smallspotted Catshark eggcases from Shetland

Key stats for eggcases from the British Isles:

- Just like 2023, February was our best eggcase hunting month during 2024, with over 11,000 eggcases reported! January, March and April were close runners up, all with over 7,000 eggcases reported each month.
- Our top five areas with the most eggcases reported in 2024 were: Lancashire, Cumbria, North Wales, Orkney & Norfolk.
- Some notable finds from 2024 include:
 - » More Cuckoo Ray, Starry Skate, White Skate and Blue Skate eggcases - these species aren't that common, so it's always exciting to get more reports!
 - » Three eggcase hunts that both found over 1,000 eggcases: one run in Dinas Dinlle (Bangor University Endeavour Society as part of Project SIARC) and two eggcase hunts run in Walney (The Bay: A Blueprint For Recovery (Barrow - Cumbria Wildlife Trust)).

UNDERWATER EGGCASES

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

However, **less than 1%** of our eggcase records represent 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.



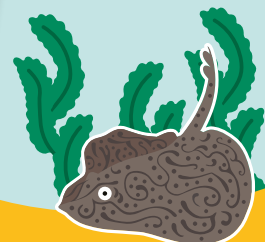
Smallspotted Catshark eggcase
Scyliorhinus canicula



Nursehound eggcase
Scyliorhinus stellaris



Undulate Ray eggcase
Raja undulata



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TOP
5

TOP REPORTING ORGANISATIONS

We're very lucky to have several organisations who have taken on the Great Eggcase Hunt and run dedicated events or include eggcase hunting within their beach activities or surveys.

A special thank you to all of the organisations that do so!

The organisations that reported the most eggcases in 2024 were:

- 1 The Bay: A Blueprint for Recovery (Wyre), Lancashire Wildlife Trust - **17,989**
- 2 Project SIARC - **8,711**
- 3 The Bay: A Blueprint for Recovery (Barrow), Cumbria Wildlife Trust - **3,169**
- 4 Orkney Skate Trust - **2,329**
- 5 MARECO - **1,068**

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.

For those of you that submit regularly as an organisation, you would have been included in the above numbers, so you won't get a specific shout out here, but thank you for all your hard work!

Shoutouts for the most eggcases reported in 2024 go to:

- 1 Diane Westwood & Steve Rowland - **2,877**
- 2 Penny Martin - **2,427**
- 3 Sally Marsh - **1,217**
- 4 Amanda Bayley - **1,121**
- 5 Leslie Fettes - **499**

NEW LOGO

Some of the more eagle-eyed readers among you may have already spotted that the Great Eggcase Hunt logo has been given a slight refresh!

The change is simply an update of the font, to bring it more in-line with our other (newer) Shark Trust logos. We will be updating all our resources over the coming months, so if you intend to do any printing, please let us know and we can send over the new versions!

Great
Eggcase
Hunt



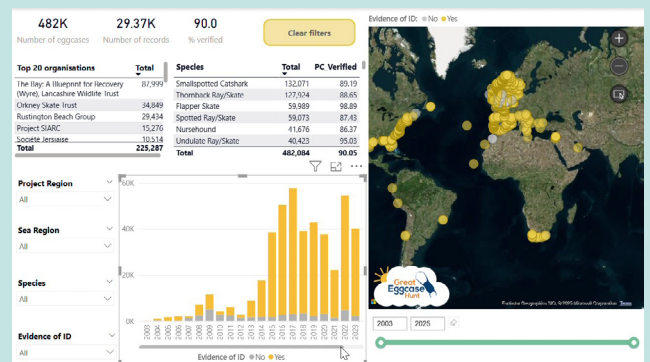
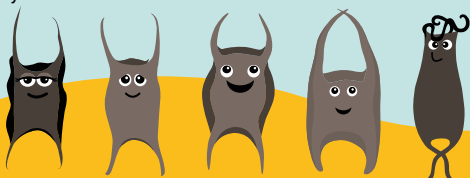
SCAN TO RECORD
YOUR EGGCASES



RESULTS PAGES - coming soon!

Thank you for sticking with us over the last year while we have been running vital back-end improvements to the Great Eggcase Hunt app and database. We are pleased to announce that the project results pages will soon be BACK - and better than ever!

We have developed interactive results pages that will allow you to filter the data by species, organisation, region and more! We hope that this will allow all of our citizen scientists to interrogate the data yourselves and maybe even identify some areas that could do with some focussed effort! We can't wait to launch these pages and hear your views!

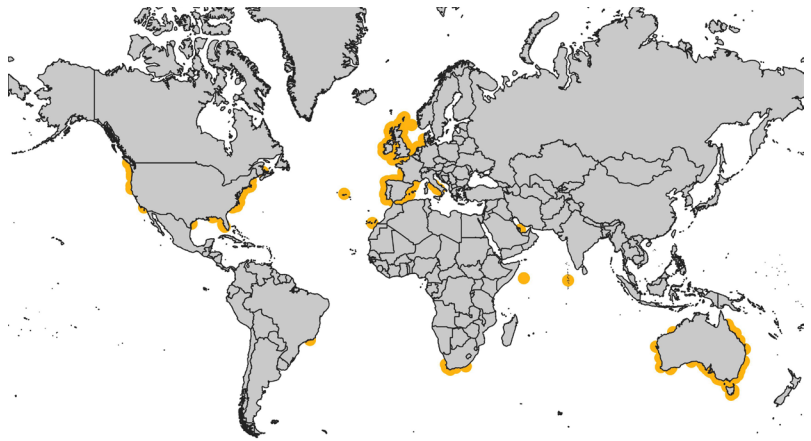


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SHARK
TRUST

EGGCASES AROUND THE WORLD

- Although 97% of our eggcases recorded this year came from around the British Isles, we had eggcases recorded from many different countries including: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Spain, South Africa and the USA. We love getting photos of eggcases from all around the world, so please keep them coming!
- 2023 saw the launch of the [Great Eggcase Hunt in Australia](#), in collaboration with our partners at CSIRO. Over the last two years there have been over 3,000 eggcases reported from around the Australian coastline.
- We now have translated and/or regional ID guides for eleven different countries/regions - keep your eyes peeled for more ID guides in the near future!
- We had over 200 eggcases reported from the USA this year, from six different species. This brings our total count for the USA to over 1,800 eggcases! We are in the process of developing some new USA ID guides - so stay tuned!



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Yvonne Frauchiger | Ellamarie Ramos-Piscino

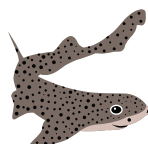
GLOBAL FINDS

- 2024 saw our first report of Iceland Catshark eggcases - reported from Gran Canaria!
- Port Jackson Sharks were the most reported species from Australia, with over 350 eggcases reported in 2024!
- We had another White Skate reported from the Balearic Islands, bringing our Spanish total to three!
- We had another 35 eggcases reported from South Africa, including the Twineye Skate and the St. Joseph Shark.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Great Eggcase Hunt keeps getting bigger and better, so keep an eye out for some exciting developments and get involved! What can you expect from 2025?

- Stay tuned for the release of more translated and/or regional eggcase ID guides.
- We are working on some exciting developments including the creation of an eggcase image recognition model. Keep your eyes peeled for updates on this in 2025!



GET INVOLVED!

- Refresh your ID skills using our online training materials
- Check out our interactive online tour for the Great Eggcase Hunt and test your ID skills and eggcase knowledge using the quizzes!
- Get involved with local eggcase hunts and/or beach cleans near you. Find as many eggcases as you can and make sure to record them online or using our app!
- "Adopt" a beach - if you want to get involved and regularly survey a beach near you, let us know and become one of our Eggcase Champions!