



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



ABOUT US

The Great Eggcase Hunt has been engaging members of the public in shark conservation since 2003, which means that 2023 is our 20th ANNIVERSARY!! 2023 should be an exciting year for all things eggcase, so stay tuned. But before we get carried away with turning 20, let's sum up what happened in 2022.

To date, over 372,000 eggcases have been recorded to the Great Eggcase Hunt. Over the last year our citizen scientists have been very busy, recording a whopping 51,696 eggcases in 2022 alone – our best eggcase year to date!

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 2022, every eggcase helps! 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.

THE PROJECT SO FAR*

* Please note that these numbers may change as records from the end of 2022 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.

372,597 eggcases have been recorded

49 species have been recorded

88% of the eggcases have been verified

8,170 people have submitted eggcases from

30 countries

22,472 eggcase hunts have been carried out



ANNUAL SUMMARY 2022

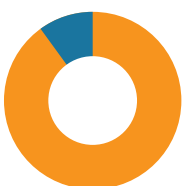
Total number of
**EGGCASE
HUNTS**

2,230



Total number of
RECORDERS

995

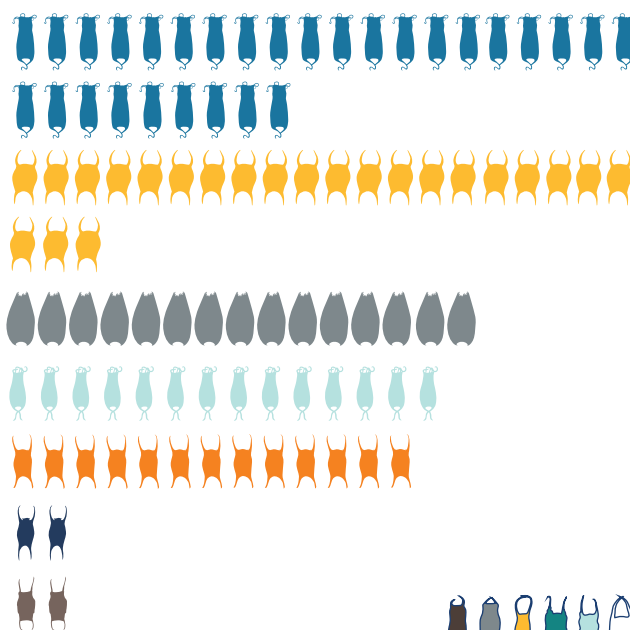


Verified:
90%

Unverified:
10%

Total number of

EGGCASES RECORDED: 51,696



Each = 1% of records

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

Each = < 1% of records

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

other species include: Big Skate, Brown Skate, California Horn Shark, Chain Catshark, Clearnose Skate, Little Skate, Port Jackson Shark, Puffadder Shyshark, Pyjama Shark, Swell Shark and Winter Skate



WWW.EGGCASE.ORG



Our new Shark Trust App is here!

At the end of 2022 we had the soft launch of our shiny new mobile app. The Shark Trust App is a mobile portal for all our Citizen Science recording projects, including the Great Eggcase Hunt! We hope that this will make it easier to record eggcases on the go, and that it will make eggcase hunting more fun and accessible for a wider audience. Each time you submit an eggcase or a shark sighting you will unlock a random reward card - with 50 to collect in total!

Please note that this replaces our 2014 Great Eggcase Hunt app, so please remove the old one if you have it downloaded!

We just want to say a huge thank you to all of you that have used the app to record your findings and for the feedback you have provided. So far we've had over 50 eggcase hunts from nearly 30 people recorded via the app, totalling over 200 eggcases!

Scan the relevant QR code to download the app...

Android



Apple

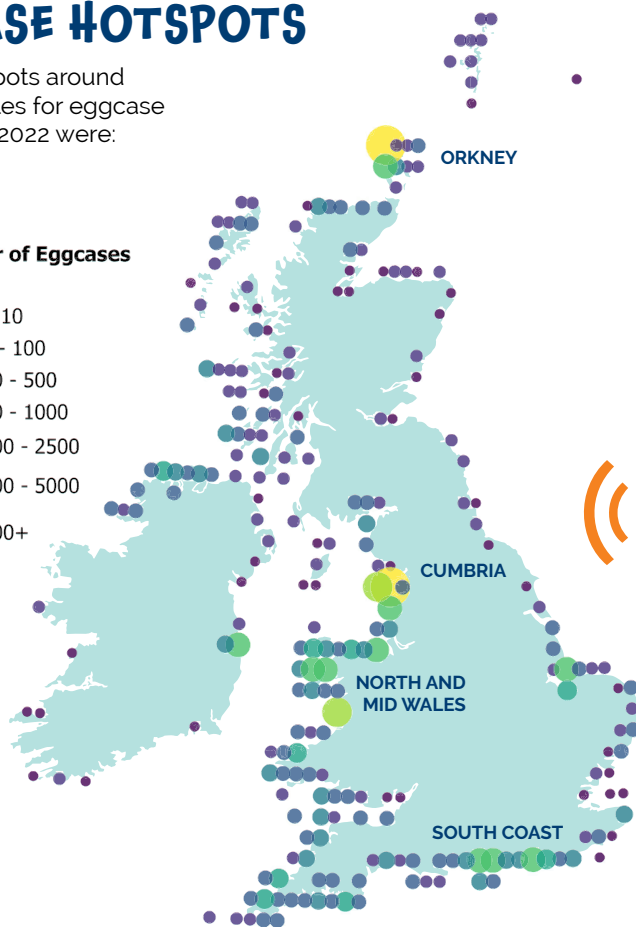


EGGCASE HOTSPOTS

The prime spots around the British Isles for eggcase finds during 2022 were:

© OpenStreetMap contributors | openstreetmap.org

Number of Eggcases



Cat and Harriet from the Shark Trust trying out the new app



Diane Westwood and Michaela Strachan filming for BBC Winterwatch

© James Harris | Pat McKeeman

TOP
5

TOP RECORDERS FOR 2022

We're grateful to have dedicated eggcase champions who continue to find and submit impressive numbers of eggcases. A special thank you to all our regular reporters!

Shoutouts for the most eggcases reported in 2022 go to:

- 1 Wyre Coast and Countryside Rangers - **7,241**
- 2 Penny Martin - **6,977**
- 3 Project SIARC - **6,333**
- 4 The Bay, a Blueprint for Recovery - **4,024**
- 5 Penparcau Community Forum - **3,040**



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COLLABORATION

We're delighted to have partnered with several other organisations and projects this year to create new ID resources. Watch out for more ID guides coming soon!

- **CSIRO** - an ID guide for Australian eggcases is coming soon.
- **APECE** - the [eggcase ID guide](#) for Portugal has been updated.
- **Sanamares** - the [eggcase ID guide](#) for Spain covers both the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts.
- **Project SIARC** - the [recording form](#), [ID guide](#) and [ID key](#) are now all available in Welsh.
- **Mersea** - the [eggcase ID guide](#) for Türkiye was our first eggcase ID guide in the Mediterranean.



EGGCASE FINDS IN 2022

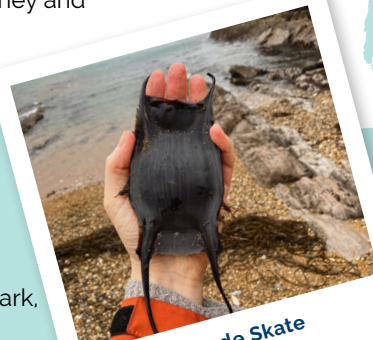
From around the British Isles:

- April was our best eggcase hunting month, with nearly 10,000 eggcases reported! Thank you to everyone who took part in any Easter Eggcase Hunts. Lets see if we can beat this record in 2023!
- Some notable finds from 2022 include:
 - » A White Skate eggcase in the west coast of Scotland
 - » Four more verified Starry Skates, from Orkney and Denmark
 - » Nine more verified Blue Skate eggcases

From further afield:

- Although 99% of our eggcases recorded this year came from around the British Isles, we had eggcases recorded from many different countries including: Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Israel, South Africa and the USA. We love getting photos of eggcases from all around the world, so please keep them coming!
- Some notable finds include:
 - » Our first ever record of a Puffadder Shyshark, from South Africa!
 - » This was our best year so far for Brown Skate (22 eggcases) and Port Jackson Sharks (23 eggcases)
 - » Our second ever Chain Catshark eggcase and our third California Horn Shark eggcase were reported from the USA

EGGCASES AROUND THE WORLD 2022



Blonde Skate
Raja brachyura
Dorset, UK



Puffadder Shyshark
Haploblepharus edwardsii
South Africa



Blue skate
Dipturus batis
France



Nursehound
Scyliorhinus stellaris
Devon, UK

WHAT'S NEXT?

With the Great Eggcase Hunt turning 30 this year, keep an eye out for some exciting developments and get involved as we try and make 2023 the biggest eggcase hunting year yet!

- Stay tuned for the release of our Great Eggcase Hunt Australia identification resources, taking the Great Eggcase Hunt OFFICIALLY into the southern hemisphere
- 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!

ARE YOU A DIVER, SNORKELLER OR FREE DIVER? We need you!

In 2022 less than 1% of our eggcases came from underwater sightings. These records are super helpful in working out where and when these species deposit their eggs. If you spot an underwater eggcase please take a photo and let us know.
But...

Please do not disturb the eggcase!

Eggcases seen in-situ may still have an embryo developing inside, so they shouldn't be disturbed!

Take nothing but photos and leave nothing but bubbles...

