



PROJECT UPDATE SUMMER 2022



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.

To date, over 344,000 eggcases have been recorded to the Great Eggcase Hunt. Since January 2022 we've been thrilled to see records continue to come in from all over the UK, as well as further afield. Our citizen scientists have been very busy in the last six months, recording a whopping 30,000 eggcases between January and June 2022 – our second highest season yet, second only to Spring/Summer 2016! A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has submitted an eggcase record.

Here is what you found...

THE PROJECT SO FAR

344,688 eggcases have been recorded

88% of the eggcases have been verified

46 species have been recorded

7,340 people have submitted eggcases

22,810 eggcase hunts have been carried out since 2003



THE LAST SIX MONTHS January - June 2022

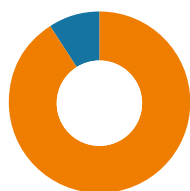
Total number of
**EGGCASE
HUNTS**

1,285



Total number of
RECORDERS

641

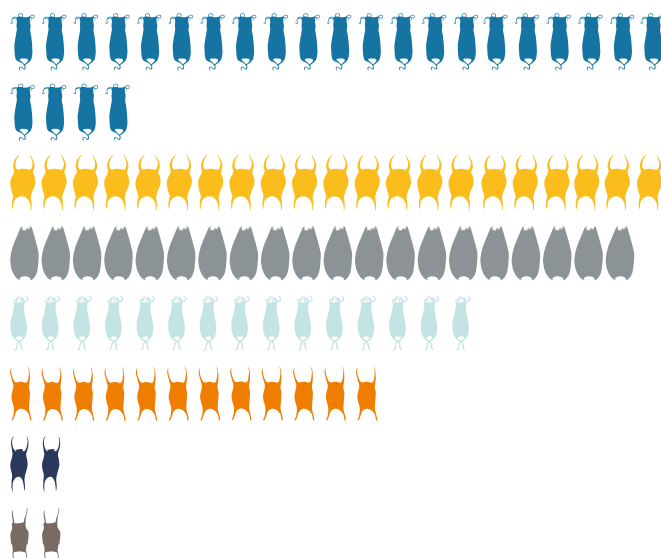


Verified:
91%

Unverified:
9%

Total number of

EGGCASES RECORDED: 30,000



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 that eggcases have been recorded for from the last six months include: Port Jackson Shark, Brown Skate, Little Skate, Clearnose Skate, Swell Shark, Big Skate and California Hornshark

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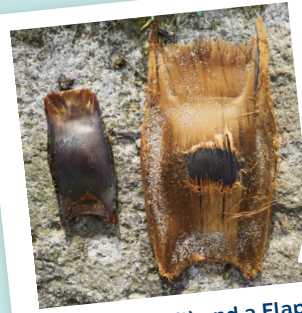
EGGCASES AROUND THE WORLD

From around the British Isles and the Northeast Atlantic:

- We have received verified records of 8 more Blue Skate eggcases! Previously we only had 17 eggcases of this species recorded (6 beach records and 11 from scientific surveys), 16 of which were verified. This is an increase to our dataset of 50%!
- Two White Skate eggcases were recorded in Argyll, Scotland, bringing the total to 20 verified records in the British Isles and 35 verified records globally.
- Our first Flapper Skate eggcase from Wales was recorded on South beach, Aberystwyth!

From further afield:

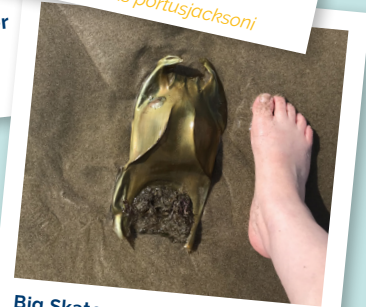
- Two more Big Skate eggcases have been recorded from the Oregon/Washington coast. So far, we have had 26 eggcases of this species recorded.
- A further 21 Brown Skate eggcases have been recorded (in Israel and South Africa), bringing our total up to 24 verified eggcases for this species, which is a growth of 700%! This includes our first record of a Brown Skate eggcase submitted from Israel.
- One more California Hornshark eggcase has been reported, bringing the total number to three.
- 22 new Port Jackson Shark eggcases have been added to the database from Australia. Previously the database only had 10 verified eggcases!



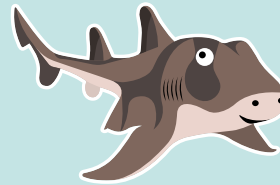
Blue Skate (left) and a Flapper Skate (right) from Orkney
Dipturus batis (left)
Dipturus intermedius (right)



Port Jackson Shark from South Australia
Heterodontus portusjacksoni



Big Skate eggcase from Oregon
Beringraja binoculata



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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!

2022 shoutouts for the most eggcases so far this year go to:

- 1 Penny Martin - **6426**
- 2 The Bay: A Blueprint For Recovery - **3313**
- 3 Carol and Owen Fawcett, Wyre Coast & Countryside Rangers - **2459**
- 4 Chloe Griffiths and the Penparcau Wildlife Group - **2145**
- 5 Blue Seas Protection - **1705**

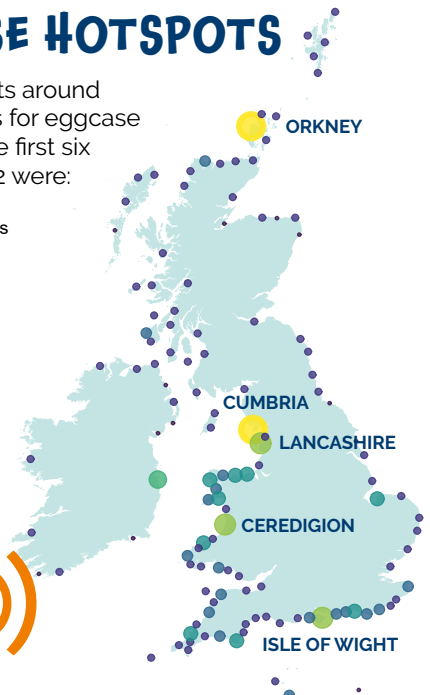


EGGCASE HOTSPOTS

The prime spots around the British Isles for eggcase finds during the first six months of 2022 were:

Number of eggcases

- 1
- 1-100
- 100-500
- 500-1000
- 1000-2000
- 2000-3000
- 3000+



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COLLABORATION

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

- **Project SIARC** - the [recording form](#), [ID guide](#) and [ID key](#) are now all available in Welsh.
- **Mersea** - the [eggcase ID guide](#) is now available for Türkiye.
- **CSIRO** - an ID guide for Australian eggcases is in progress - coming soon!



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