



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



## ABOUT US

The Great Eggcase Hunt has been engaging members of the public in shark conservation since 2003, which means that 2023 was our 20th anniversary! 2023 was an exciting year for all things eggcase, but the project continues to grow and evolve, so stay tuned for future developments!

Over the last year our citizen scientists have been very busy, recording a whopping 67,000 eggcases in 2023 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 2023, 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.

For more info on ALL our eggcase finds from 2003-2023, see our 20 year report!

Here is what you found in 2023...



## ANNUAL SUMMARY 2023\*

\* Please note that these numbers may change as records from the end of 2023 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**

**4,615**

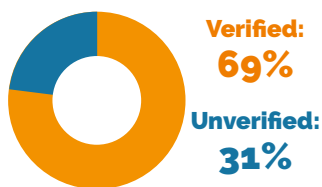


Total number of  
**RECORDERS**

**4,363**

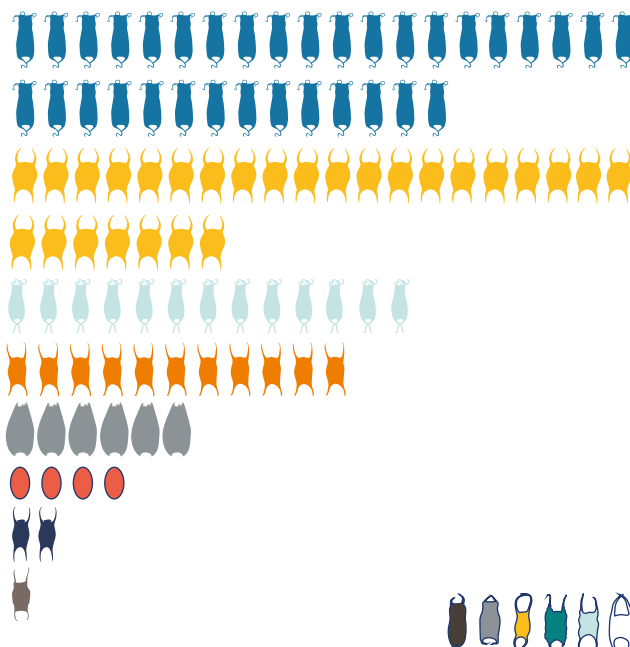
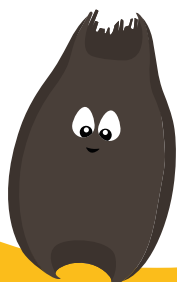
Total number of

**EGGCASES RECORDED: 67,450**



Top Eggcase Reporting  
**COUNTRIES**

- 1<sup>st</sup> UK**  
92.8% of eggcases
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ireland**  
3.2% of eggcases
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Australia**  
2.8% of eggcases



Each = 1% of records

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

Each = < 1% of records

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

other species include: Australian Swellshark, Big Skate, Brown Shyshark, Clearnose Skate, Crested Hornshark, Dark Shyshark, Elephant Fish, Grey Carpetshark, Gulf Catshark, Little Skate, Longnose Skate, Peacock Skate, Port Jackson Shark, Starry Ray, St. Joseph Shark, Thornback Skate (Australia) and Winter Skate



# The Shark Trust App

At the end of 2022 we launched our new mobile app. The Shark Trust App is a mobile portal for all our Citizen Science recording projects, including the Great Eggcase Hunt! Over the last year the app has seen over a whopping **25,000 eggcases** reported from over **3,500 people** from over 10 different countries.

A huge thank you to everyone that has downloaded and used our app so far! And an even bigger thank you to those of you have included images with your submissions. Images help us check your records, so if you see an eggcase make sure to snap a quick picture.

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

Android



Apple



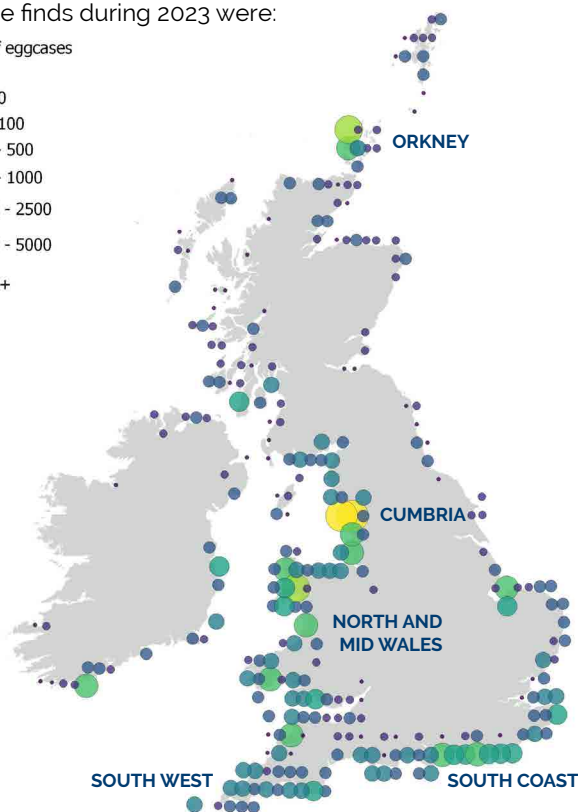
## EGGCASE HOTSPOTS

The prime spots around the British Isles for eggcase finds during 2023 were:

Number of eggcases

- 1
- 1 - 10
- 10 - 100
- 100 - 500
- 500 - 1000
- 1000 - 2500
- 2500 - 5000
- 5000+

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## TOP RECORDERS FOR 2023

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 2023 go to:

- 1 The Bay: A Blueprint for Recovery (Wyre), Lancashire Wildlife Trust - **10,566**
- 2 The Bay: A Blueprint for Recovery (Barrow), Cumbria Wildlife Trust - **6,691**
- 3 Project SIARC - **3,823**
- 4 Penny Martin - **3,517**
- 5 Diane Westwood & Steve Rowland - **1,690**



WWW.EGGCASE.ORG



# 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** - our Australian [recording form](#) and [ID guides](#) were released at the start of 2023!
- **ASCOP-Syrtis** - there is now an [eggcase ID guide](#) for Tunisia, in both Arabic and English.
- **Field Studies Council** - the Great Eggcase Hunt has partnered with the FSC to add an [eggcase ID guide](#) to their collection!
- **iSea** - we now have an [eggcase ID guide](#) available in Greek.
- **Marine Biology in Libya** - there is now an [eggcase ID guide](#) for Libya, in both Arabic and English.



## EGGCASE FINDS IN 2023

### From around the British Isles:

- February was our best eggcase hunting month, with over 16,000 eggcases reported! January and April were close runners up, both with over 11,000 eggcases.
- Some notable finds from 2023 include:
  - » Six more verified Starry Skates, from Shetland and Norfolk
  - » Three more verified Blue Skate eggcases from Cornwall and Orkney

### From further afield:

- Although 93% of our eggcases recorded this year came from around the British Isles, we had eggcases recorded from many different countries including: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain 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. So far there have been over 1,500 eggcases reported from around the Australian coastline - we can't wait to see more Australian eggcases in 2024!

## EGGCASES AROUND THE WORLD 2023



**Starry Skate**  
*Amblyraja radiata*  
Shetland, UK



**St. Joseph Shark**  
*Callorhynchus capensis*  
South Africa



**Australian Swellshark**  
*Cephaloscyllium laticeps*  
TAS, Australia



**Port Jackson Shark**  
*Heterodontus portusjacksoni*  
SA, Australia

## WHAT'S NEXT?

The Great Eggcase Hunt continues to grow, so keep an eye out for some exciting developments and get involved as we try and make 2024 the biggest eggcase year yet!

- Stay tuned for the release of more translated and/or regional eggcase ID guides.
- 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!

Despite having over 450,000 eggcases reported to the GEH, less than 1% of these come from underwater sightings. 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 be developing, so they shouldn't be disturbed!

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

