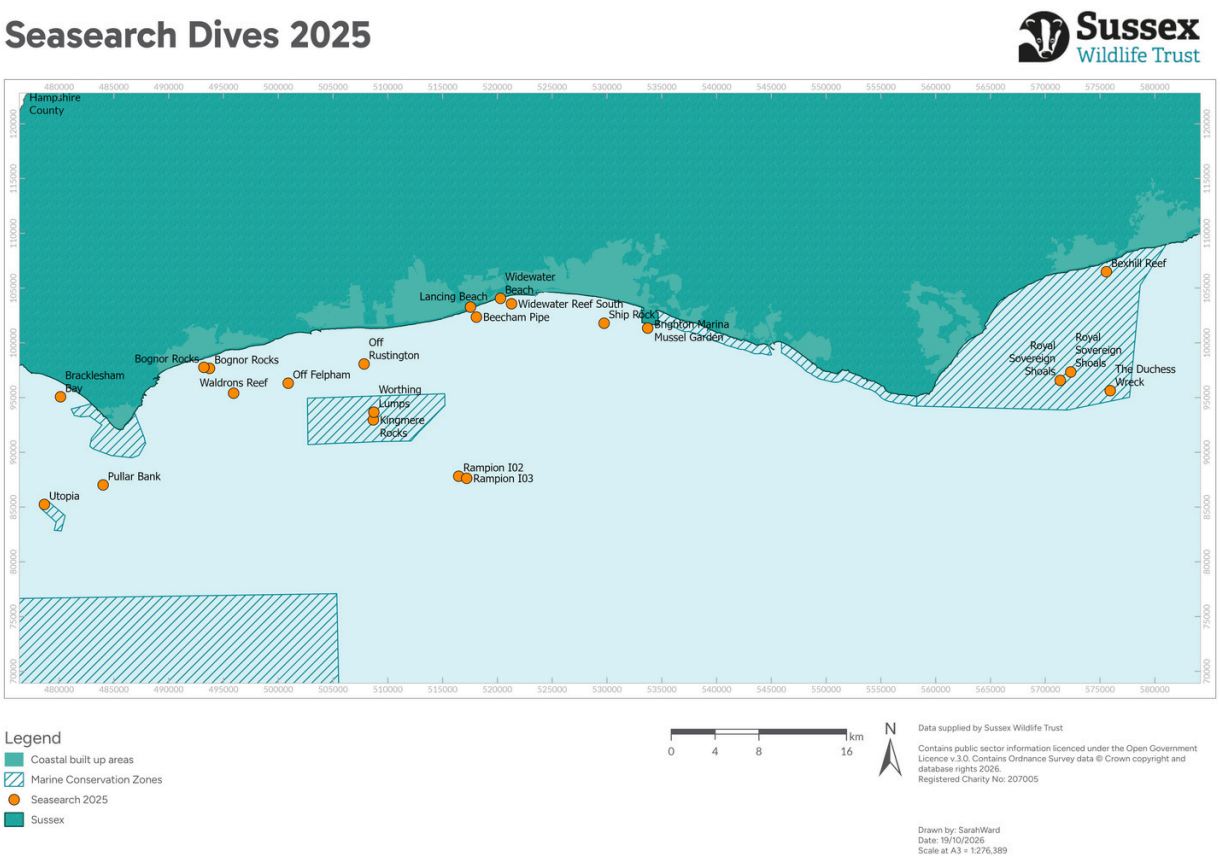
Sussex Seasearch

Summary Report 2025



2025 at a glance



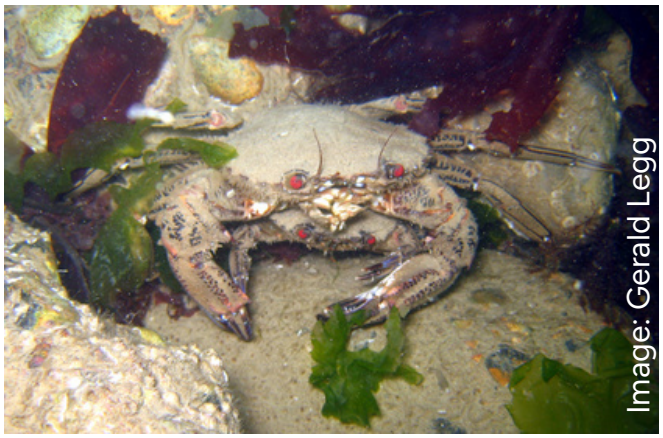
This year we:

- Surveyed **23** individual sites
- Received **64** survey forms
- Made **1,263** species records
- Recorded **365** different species / taxa
- Accumulated approximately **307** hours of volunteer time

2025 at a glance



Blue Mussels - *M. edulis*



Velvet Swimming Crab - *N. puber*

This year's most commonly recorded species was the Blue Mussel, *Mytilus edulis* (32 records) , followed by the Velvet Swimming Crab, *Necora puber* (27 records)

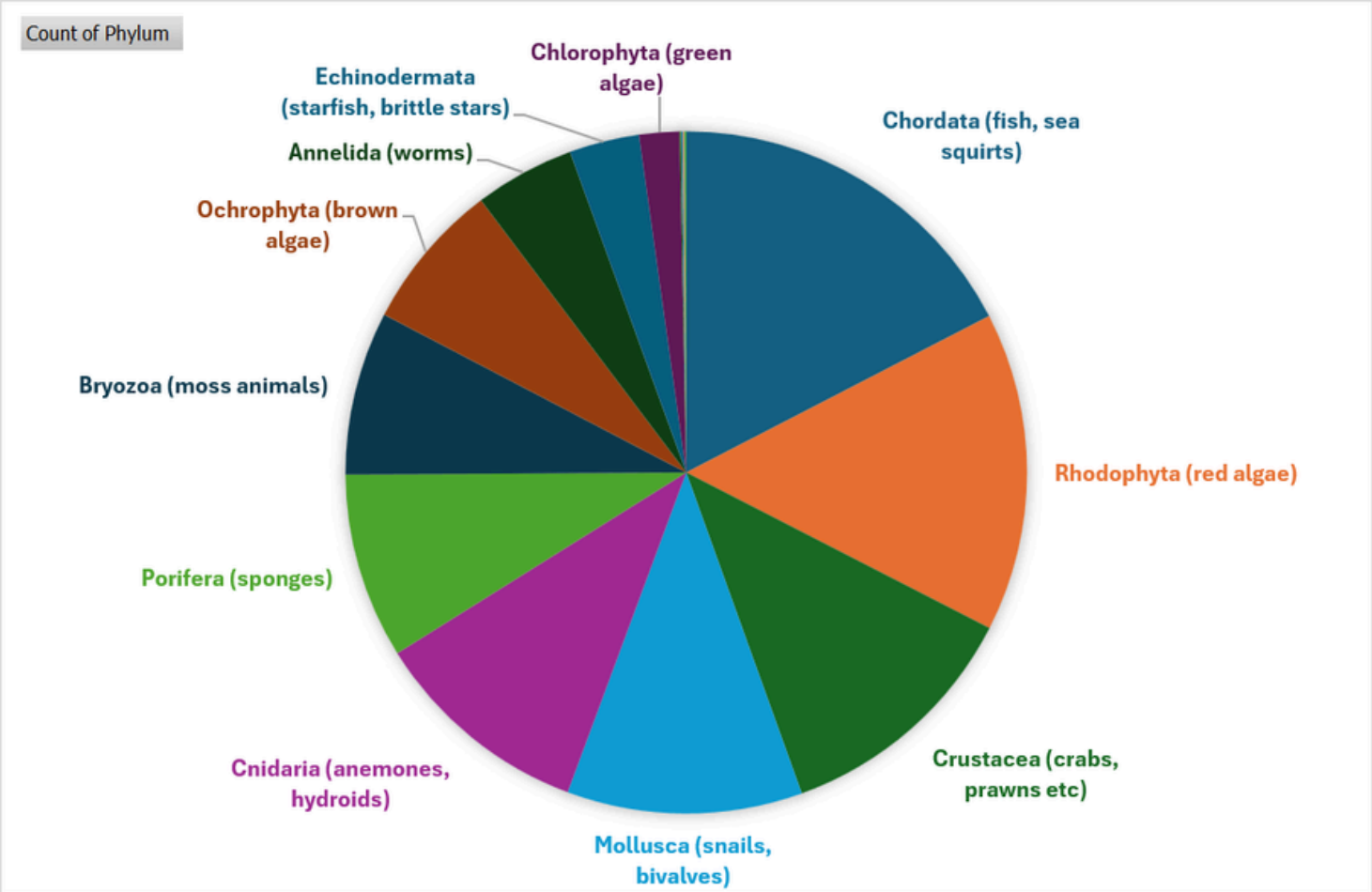
Other commonly recorded species included Spiny Spider Crab, *Maja brachydactyla*, Snakelocks Anemone, *Anemonia viridis*, and Common Starfish, *Asterias rubens*



Variable Blenny - *P. pillicornis*

One new species for Sussex were recorded in 2025: the Variable / Ringnecked Blenny, *Parablennius pilicornis*. This species was recorded by both Lindsey Scott and Claude Annels on Rampion Windfarm turbines I02 and I03

2025 at a glance



Chordata: 220 taxa
Rhodophyta: 191 taxa
Crustacea: 151 taxa
Mollusca: 141 taxa
Cnidaria: 132 taxa
Porifera: 111 taxa
Ochrophyta: 89 taxa

Annelida: 60 taxa
Echinodermata: 42 taxa
Chlorophyta: 24 taxa
Phoronida: 1 taxon
Platyhelminthes: 1 taxon
Ctenophora: 1 taxon



2025 survey highlights



Utopia MCZ - 2nd July
50°39.69N, 00°53.20W

Our first dive in this MCZ since designation, in the north-east corner of the zone. The survey area comprised a flat seabed of mixed grounds, with animal and red algal turf. Molgulid sea squirts and Ross Worms were noted, as were frequent hermit crabs.

Beachy Head East MCZ - 25th July

Sussex IFCA are keen to receive data for this area to help to inform management - so of course we would oblige!
We visited a site in the Sovereign Shoals, a known area of sandstone reef, and a reefy area nearer shore off Bexhill. We are keen to establish sites to revisit frequently in this area in order to understand change over time.

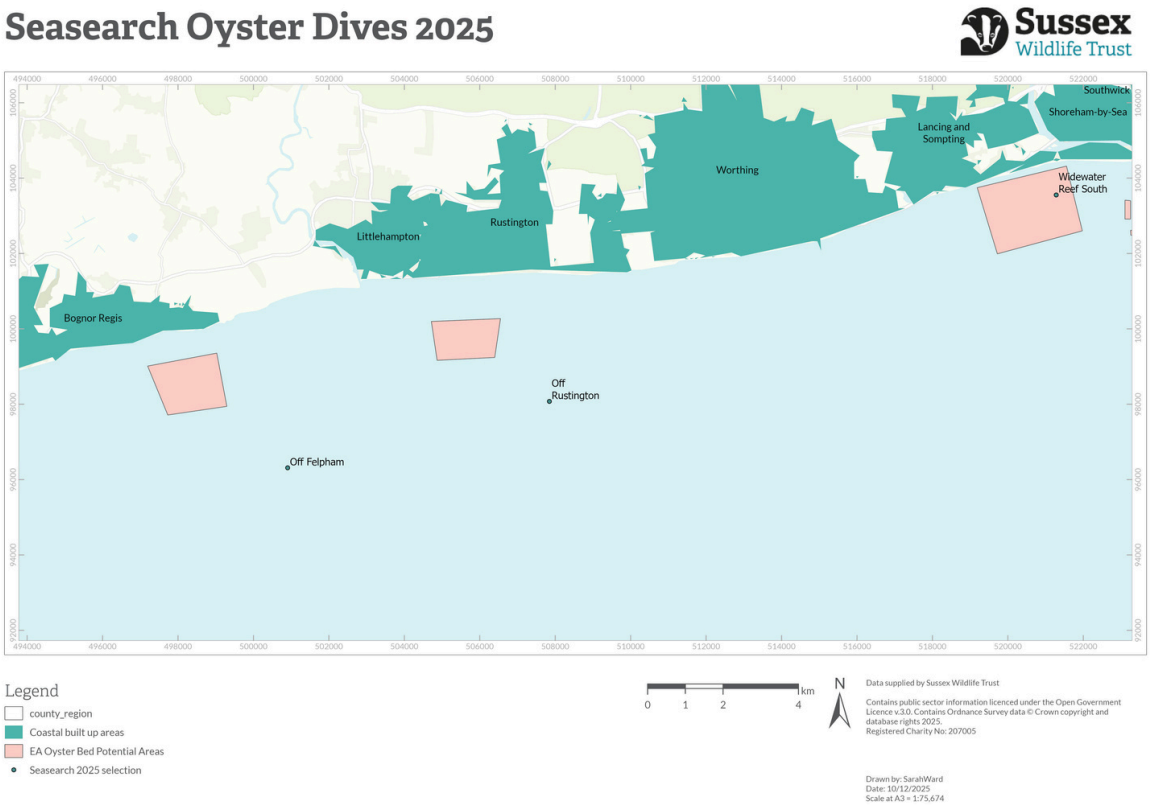
Rampion Windfarm - 22nd August
Turbines I02 & I03

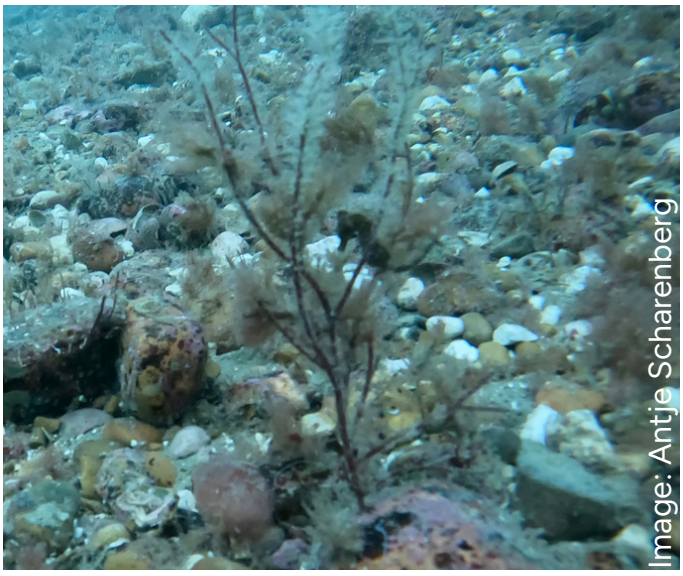
We've been diving these turbines for a number of years now and have certainly seen a change in biodiversity over time. The first year of surveys there was little more than a carpet of Mussels and some very fat Star Fish, now the area is a broader mix of various bryozoans, hydroids, sea squirts and sponges, with many mobile species frequenting the area.



Exploring new areas

We received some funding from Sussex Bay to explore some sites which were identified as potential areas for Native Oyster restoration. This took us to some sites which haven't been dived before...





Short-snouted Seahorse - *H. hippocampus*

Unfortunately, due to some mapping issues, we slightly missed the target sites, so will revisit in 2026. However, the sites still proved incredibly interesting - and a Short-snouted Seahorse was even spotted at the western-most site by Antje Scharenberg!

Marine Molluscs Course

In July, we were thrilled to host a marine molluscs course, led by Simon Taylor, hon. marine recorder for the UK Conchological Society



The course focused on coastal gastropods, starting with a classroom based theory lesson and a field session in the afternoon. Huge thanks to Simon for sharing his expertise - we look forward to following up with other parts of the mollusc family in future!





A huge thank you

Many thanks to all those who contributed to Seasearch in Sussex in 2025:
James Aherne, Claude Annels, James Backshall, Ali Bessel, Kassie Blake, Chris Bohea, Bryony Chapman, Laurence Davies, Martin Davies, Ivan Djordjevic, Matteo Febvre, Tom Goodman, Chris Hayes, Francis Jeffcock, Bella Kelsey, Glen King, Andy Langler, Liz Lumb, Ali Mayor, Ken Obbard, Dave O'Dell, John Papoudos, Daneil Rubia, Antje Scharenberg, Lindsey Scott, Cat Sherwood, Jonathan Shopley, Sarah Ward, Neil Watson, Lynn Way, Emily Wilson, James Winder

Additional thanks go to Gerald Legg for data entry and to Ian Tittley for gratefully receiving many bags of smelly seaweed (and providing identifications!)

Thanks also to Steve Johnson (Channel Diving) and Dave Alvarado for being fantastic skippers!

Keep in touch

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