

Adroddiad

**Prosiect Rhywogaethau Estron Gogledd
Cymru**

**Marine Alien Species North Wales
Report**



Pickled Chinese Mitten Crab, taken by Carol Horne

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn rhoi manylion y gwaith a wnaed yn ystod Gaeaf 2013/2014 i sefydlu Prosiect Rhywogaethau Estron Gogledd Cymru gyda'r nod o ddatblygu rhwydwaith o bobl sydd wedi ymgysylltu â materion rhywogaethau estron morol ar draws Gogledd Cymru i ddarparu system rhybudd cynnar am unrhyw gyflwyniadau newydd yn ogystal â helpu atal lledaeniad.

This report details the work undertaken during the Winter of 2013/2014 to establish the North Wales Marine Aliens Project which aims to develop a network of people engaged in marine alien species issues across North Wales to provide and early warning system for any new introductions as well as help preventing the spread.



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales**

**Ariannwyd y prosiect yma gan
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru fel rhan
o'r Prosiect Llwybrau Morol**

**This project was funded by
Natural Resources Wales as part
of the Marine Pathways Project**

Ac yn rhoi cefnogaeth i prosiectau ac ymchwil rhywogaethau estron...

And supports the alien species projects and research of...



**PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY**



Introduction

The North Wales Marine Aliens Project was established with the aim of developing a network of volunteers engaged in the issues and reporting of marine alien species in North Wales.

Engagement with the local community is an essential part of raising awareness of the issue of marine invasive alien species due to the fact that these are the communities which are most impacted by them. By acting as the “eyes and ears” for what’s happening in their local environment these communities can provide an early warning system for alerting the authorities to the arrival or spread of marine alien species.

Through this project resources would be produced and workshops held which would allow three local communities to become involved in practical conservation work. Our aim is to put in place three champions within these communities which would act as a focal point for sharing information between those organisations, members of the public and statutory nature conservation organisations. Species champions will be knowledgeable in the key messages that we wish to communicate to the wider public and within their communities. They will have direct links to reporting and feedback structure and help prevent introductions and spread by providing local peer pressure to change behaviour, which often is more effective than pressure from the authorities.

Thought was put into how to develop the project in a way that will compliment existing projects and schemes in the hope that this would help ensure the longevity of the project beyond its funding.

Workshops: Target Audience

Three communities were targeted during this initial project. The three were chosen based on interest groups rather than on a regional basis so that each workshop could be adapted to better suit those communities by placing emphasis on different aspects of Marine Alien Invasives, their identification and good practice in biosecurity.

The three communities are as follows:

- Outdoor Activity Sector
- Environmental Professionals & Volunteers
- General Interest, Clubs & Activity Groups

The workshops were held:

Wednesday 26th Feb 19:00 - 21:30 – *Introductory Marine Aliens Workshop at Plas y Brenin*

Friday 28th February 10:00 – 12:30 - *Introductory Marine Aliens Workshop at Anglesey Sea Zoo*

Saturday 1st March 10:00 – 12:30 - *Introductory Marine Aliens Workshop at Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay*

The workshops were advertised through mailing groups, Facebook and by invite. See overleaf for the workshop posters which were designed specifically to each target audience.



Free Training Session

MARINE ALIEN SPECIES



This training session will help instructors learn the basics about marine invasive alien species, how to minimise the spread and how as a community they can contribute vital data.



Wednesday 26th February

7pm – 9.30pm

Plas y Brenin, Capel Curig

Refreshments & Food will be provided.

To book your place or for more information please e-mail niajones@wildlifetrustswales.org or call (01248) 351541



www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk

01248 351541



Charity number/ rhif elusen : 230772
Company number / rhif Cwmni : 773995



Bydd y sesiwn hyfforddiant yn helpu gweithwyr a gwirfoddolwyr amgylcheddol i ddysgu gwybodaeth sylfaenol am rywogaethau ymledol morol, sut i'w adnabod, sut i leihau lledaeniad a sut, fel cymuned, gallant gyfrannu data hanfodol.

This training session will help environmental professionals and volunteers to learn the basics about marine invasive alien species, identification, how to minimise the spread and how, as a community, they can contribute vital data.



Gweithdy

RHYWOGAETHAU YMLEDOL MOROL

MARINE ALIEN SPECIES

Workshop

28/02/2014 10:00am – 12:30pm

Sŵ Môr Môn

Bydd bwyd a thaith dywys o'r
Sŵ yn cael ei darparu.

I archebu eich lle neu am ragor o wybodaeth,
anfonwch e-bost neu ffoniwch

Anglesey Sea Zoo

Food and a free guided tour
of the Zoo will be provided.

To book your place or for more information
please e-mail or phone

niajones@wildlifetrustswales.org

www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk

01248 351541



Charity number/ rhif elusen : 230772
Company number / rhif Cwmni : 773995





**Gweithdy Rhywogaethau
Ymledol Morol**
Marine Alien Species Workshop

01.03.2014

10_{am}-12.30_{pm}

Parc Eirias, Bae Colwyn. Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay.

I archebu lle: To book: 01248 351541

niajones@wildlifetrustswales.org

Ewin Moch / Slipper Limpet © Paul Brazier



Workshop Summaries

Workshops were structured as follows:

Session 1: Marine Alien Species: An Overview

Session 2: Species ID & Species to Look Out For in North Wales

Session 3: Current Marine Alien Research

Session 4: Biosecurity

Session 5: How to Report your Sightings & Schemes to Get Involved In.

Session 6: Shore Thing! (environmental professionals and volunteers session only)

Copies of the presentations can be provided electronically.

Plas y Brenin Workshop

This workshop was held with the Outdoor Activity sector in mind and took place on a weekday. The workshop was held in partnership with the North Wales Environmental Outdoor Charter Group and those attending should they wish could claim Continuing Professional Development Credits with the Mountain Training Association. Dr Kate Griffith from Bangor University gave a talk on Bangor University's current research.

A total of 29 people attended.

Several freelance instructors attended as well as representatives from the following organisations, businesses and outdoor activity centres:

Proadventure, Plas Caerdeon Outdoor Education Centre, Bush Craft Calling, Marle Hall Outdoor Centre, Dwr Cymru, The Outdoor Partnership, Coastal Spirit, Plas y Brenin, Arthog Outdoor Education Centre, CMC Pensarn Harbour.

Anglesey Sea Zoo Workshop

This workshop was held with Environmental Professionals and Volunteers in mind and took place on a weekday morning. Lunch was provided along with a guided tour of the Sea Zoo. Fiona Crouch attended to talk about the Shore Thing and how organisations could get involved. Dr Kate Griffith attended to give a talk on Bangor University current research.

A total of 26 people attended.

Several organisation were represented in the workshop which include:

Conwy County Council, Field Studies Council, Natural Resources Wales, BHP Billiton, North Wales Wildlife Trust, Seasearch, Maritime Voluntary Service, Ysgol Bodedern and Glyndwr University.



Workshop Summaries

Eirias Park Workshop

This workshop was held as an open session and was widely advertised though specific clubs and activity groups were invited directly. It was a Saturday morning session held in a central location.

A total of 13 people attended.

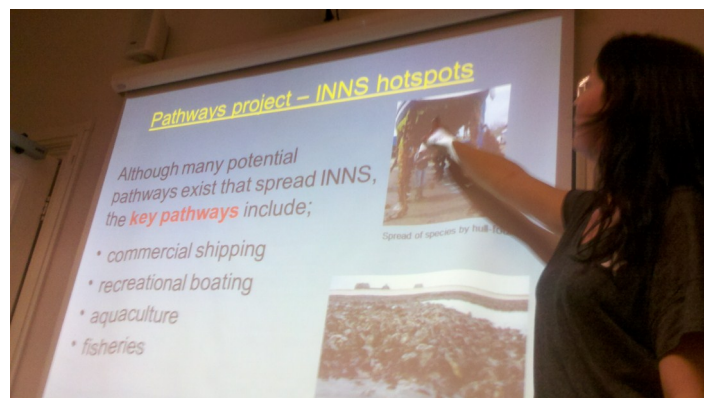
The attendants of this session were mainly local however the organisations represented are as follows:

Janet Finch Saunders AM, Gwynedd Sub-Aqua Club, Natural Resources Wales, North Wales Wildlife Trust, Chester Sub-Aqua Club.

Feedback forms filled in at each workshop event are available on request.

Workshop Resources

Several information leaflets and brochures were handed out at the workshops. Those with a Centre were also given a metal Check, Clean, Dry Information Board. Attendants were asked to fill in a mailing list should they wish to be kept informed about the project and other Living Seas work to which 25 people signed on.



Resources & Information

Project webpages have been established at <http://www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/living-seas/living-seas-projects/marine-invasive-non-native-species-project>



These pages have general information, species information, biosecurity and links to project partners. It is a fully bilingual resource which will be continually updated to include new information.

A Facebook Page has been set up so that Species Champions and interested parties can join in to find out more information as well as get the most up to date information regarding Marine Alien Species research, discoveries and opportunities.

Dependent on the interest and enthusiasm of the Champions a Twitter account may be set up over the following months.

Currently a resource pack for Species Champions is being created. This will include Powerpoint presentations, crib sheets, useful links and activities. An event pack will also be created which includes a pop up. Champions will be able to take these with them to shows and events.

Through this project we were able to fund two extra pages for a waterproof guide for outdoor instructors, those pages include species ID, biosecurity logo and information about how to report their sightings. This guide will be available in June.

To date two articles have been written about this project and on the topic of Marine Invasive Alien Species which are:

Evening Leader: The Wild Side - A weekly look at the natural world with Nia Haf Jones : January 2014

Network News February 2014: Alien Invaders

The project was presented at the Marine Non-Native Species Monitoring: Sharing Best Practice Across the Channel Discussion Workshop in Plymouth on the 5th & 6th March.

“Support from the North Wales Wildlife Trust through the Marine Alien Invasive Species Project has proven to be very beneficial to the North Wales Environmental Outdoor Charter Group which operates to ensure the sustainable development of outdoor activities. Outdoor instructors can and wish to play an important role in identifying and reporting alien species reflected by the popularity of the Marine Invasives workshop aimed at the outdoor community. In addition, the Marine Alien Invasive Species Project has made an invaluable contribution to the waterproof field guide we are currently producing for the north Wales coast. Without such an input it a great opportunity to educate on marine non-native species would have been missed. ” Catherine Miles, Project Co-ordinator NWECCG



Further Recommendations & Future Work

1. Although the ID session included the use of laminated ID photos a recurring comment in the feedback forms from all three workshops is that samples should have been included. This would make workshops more interactive and the ID session more useful.
2. Potentially the biggest problem that we face is that new information is not disseminated regularly through social media and/or mailing lists. In order to keep momentum of this project as well as the interest of Species Champions up to date information must be disseminated as soon as possible.
3. Survey events tying in with national initiatives such as Shore Thing should be organised within schools and within local communities.
4. The introductory workshop should be held in further venues.
5. The role of the Species Champion needs to be identified and outlined more clearly.
6. A Project Communication Plan should be drawn up and put in place as soon as is possible.

