

The table below shows the total numbers of species recorded during the 2005 Kent Seasearch surveys, and lists the most commonly recorded species in each Phylum.

Phylum		Number of species recorded	Species names	
Porifera	Sponges	11	<i>Esperiopsis fucorum</i>	Carrrot sponge
			<i>Suberites</i> sp.	Ball sponge
			<i>Halichondria panicea</i>	Breadcrumb sponge
			<i>Haliclona oculata</i>	Branching sponge
			<i>Dysidea fragilis</i>	Goosebump sponge
Cnidaria	Anemones, corals, hydroids, jellyfish	18	<i>Alcyonium digitatum</i>	Dead man's fingers
			<i>Nemertesia antennina</i>	Antenna hydroid
			<i>Urticina felina</i>	Dahlia anemone
			<i>Metridium senile</i>	Plumose anemone
			<i>Tubularia indivisa</i>	Oaten pipe hydroid
			<i>Cereus pedunculatus</i>	Daisy anemone
Platyhelminthes	Flatworms	1	<i>Prostheceraeus vittatus</i>	Candy stripe worm
Annelida	Segmented worms	8	<i>Pomatoceros triqueter</i>	Keelworm
			<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>	Ross worm
Crustacea	Crabs, lobsters, prawns, barnacles	21	<i>Cancer pagurus</i>	Edible crab
			<i>Necora puber</i>	Velvet swimming crab
			<i>Homarus gammarus</i>	Lobster
			<i>Pagurus bernhardus</i>	Hermit crab
			<i>Inachus</i>	Leach's spider crab
			<i>Macropodia</i>	Slender spider crab
Mollusca	Sea snails, bivalves, sea slugs, cuttlefish	19	<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	Common mussel
			<i>Calliostoma zizyphinum</i>	Painted topshell
			<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	Common whelk
			Pholadidae	Piddock
Bryozoa	Sea mats, sea mosses, sea firs	7	<i>Flustra foliacea</i>	Hornwrack
			<i>Alcyonidium diaphanum</i>	Finger bryozoan
Echinodermata	Starfish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers	4	<i>Asterias rubens</i>	Common starfish
			<i>Crossaster papposus</i>	Sun star
Tunicata	Sea squirts	7	<i>Clavelina lepadiformis</i>	Lightbulb sea squirts
			<i>Dendrodoa grossularia</i>	Gooseberry sea squirt
Pisces	Fish	24	<i>Trisopterus luscus</i>	Bib
			<i>Ctenolabrus rupestris</i>	Goldsinny wrasse
			<i>Parablennius gattorugine</i>	Tompot blenny
			<i>Scyllorhinus canicula</i>	Lesser spotted dogfish
			Gobiidae	Gobies
			<i>Callionymus lyra</i>	Dragonet
Algae	Seaweeds	6	<i>Laminaria</i>	Kelp



Dahlia anemone and mussels



Hydroids and anemones



Kent Seasearch 2005 Summary



Orange anemones and sea squirts

Richard Everett



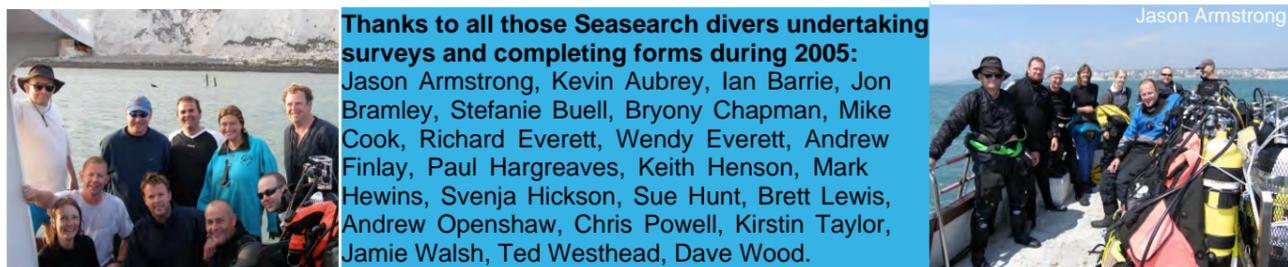
Ross worm reef formation



Velvet swimming crab



Dead man's fingers



Thanks to all those Seasearch divers undertaking surveys and completing forms during 2005: Jason Armstrong, Kevin Aubrey, Ian Barrie, Jon Bramley, Stefanie Buell, Bryony Chapman, Mike Cook, Richard Everett, Wendy Everett, Andrew Finlay, Paul Hargreaves, Keith Henson, Mark Hewins, Svenja Hickson, Sue Hunt, Brett Lewis, Andrew Openshaw, Chris Powell, Kirstin Taylor, Jamie Walsh, Ted Westhead, Dave Wood.

Jason Armstrong

Seasearch is a volunteer underwater survey project for recreational divers to contribute to the conservation of the marine environment. Recreational divers taking part in Kent Seasearch are helping Kent Wildlife Trust to build a better picture of the marine wildlife around Kent's coasts, to help towards its protection.

If you would like more information about Kent Seasearch, or to get involved, please contact Bryony Chapman at Kent Wildlife Trust, Tyland Barn, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3BD. Tel: 01622 662012.

e-mail: bryony.chapman@kentwildlife.org.uk, or visit: www.kentwildlife.org.uk or www.seasearch.org.uk

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Heritage Lottery Fund

Kent Seasearch Programme 2005

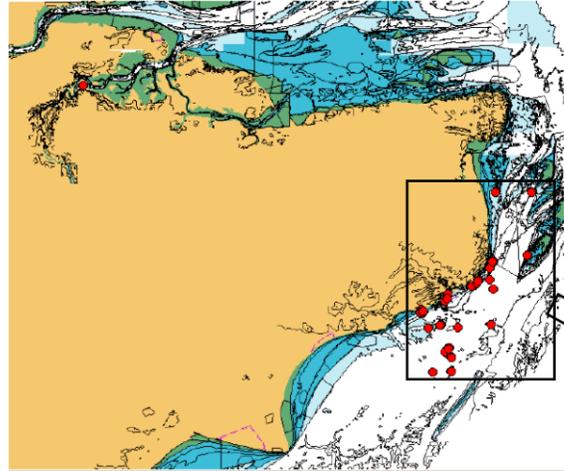
Kent Wildlife Trust continued to organise Kent Seasearch training courses and diving surveys during 2005, with continuation funding from English Nature. A further 26 divers completed the introductory Seasearch Observer course during 2005, bringing the total trained in the first three years of Kent Seasearch to almost 140. Six Kent divers successfully completed the Surveyor course in July. Specialist training included a Marine Life ID course and a new course on Crustaceans and Molluscs.

Diving Surveys

In addition to several formal Kent Seasearch survey events during the year, which are described overleaf, other sites were surveyed on independent dives, including: Crab Bay, various parts of Dover harbour, Chatham Marina basin, and the wrecks of HMS Brazen, the Toward, Scholten, Vic's, Loanda and the UB55.

Kent Seasearch 2005 Survey Dives

The 2005 official Kent Seasearch diving programme succeeded in surveying at 11 locations, involving 77 individual dives, and generating 26 Observation and 26 Survey forms. An additional 16 Observation and 3 Survey forms were completed for Seasearch dives undertaken independently during 2005.



Sandwich Bay

Divers here drifted over about half a mile of mussel bed in around 7m, with a variety of anemones, molluscs and bryozoans, small spider crabs and hermit crabs, and a candy stripe worm. Along with the abundance of common starfish, were occasional bloody henry starfish, brittlestars and a common sunstar.

Samphire Hoe

Dives around this immense artificial platform, created to contain the Channel Tunnel spoil, were both shore and boat based. Inshore, the large chalk boulders and bedrock are bored by piddocks, and covered in kelp and other seaweeds, with several crabs, fish and hydroids. The chalk bedrock and boulders continue offshore, with increasing dominance by animal turf comprising mainly hydroids, bryozoans, anemones, sponges and sea squirts. Further seawards, boulders become less frequent and the underlying chalk is covered in a silty mix of sand and gravel. A few starfish, brittlestars and dragonets were recorded here.

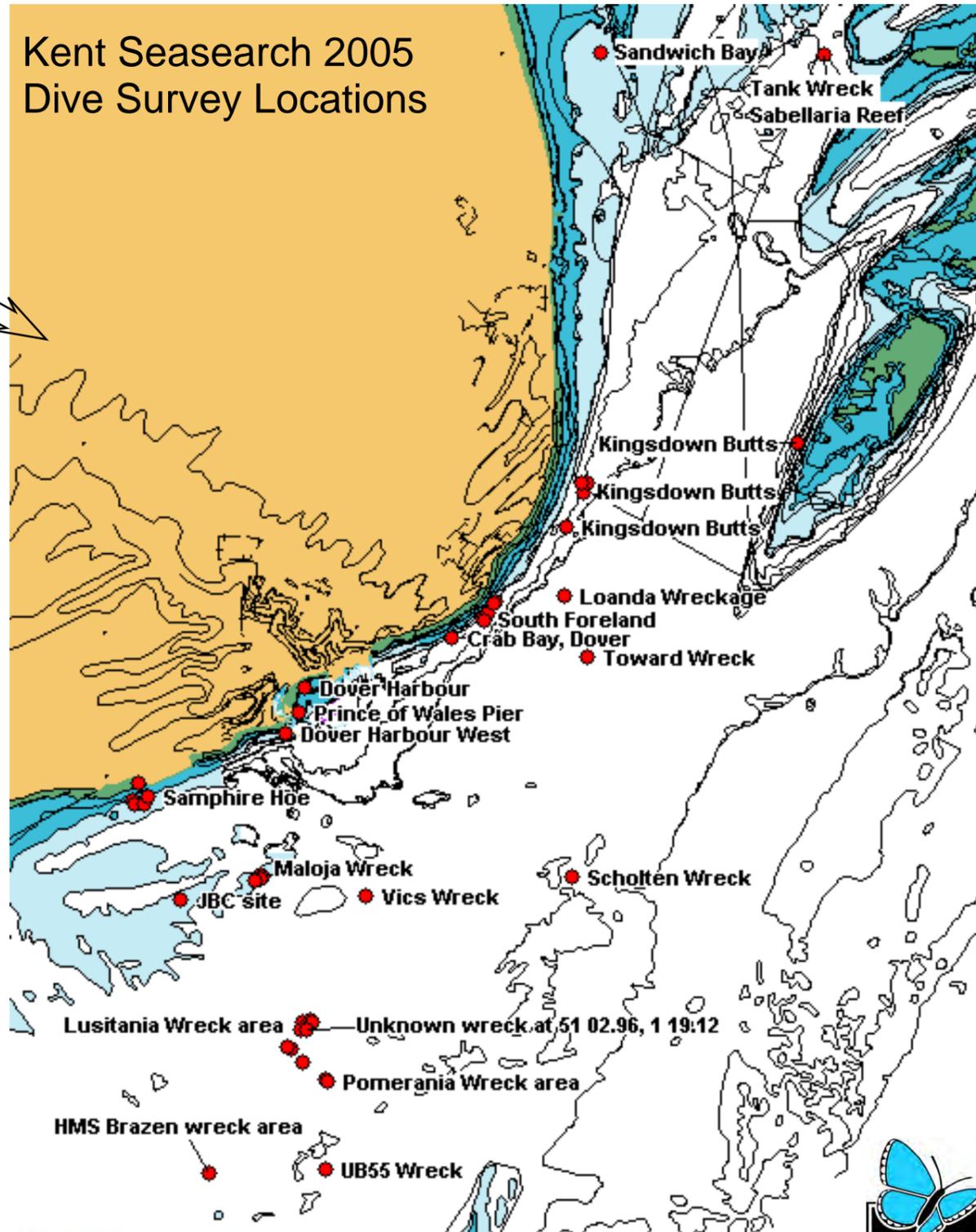
JBC site off Dover

A gently undulating mixed ground seabed of pebbles, gravel, sand and silt, with occasional cobbles and boulders, in 25-28m. Although some of the seabed was mobile gravel, and largely bare of life, much of the area was found to be covered in the sand tubes of ross worms (*Sabellaria spinulosa*). The tubes formed a thin crust over extensive areas of seabed, and in some places the structures rose to a reef-like formation about 2-3" high. The area supported a rich invertebrate turf including hornwrack, antenna hydroids and dead man's fingers, and with numerous starfish, dahlia anemones and Leach's spider crabs.

Tank wreck and *Sabellaria* (ross worm) reef

Seasearch divers investigated reports of possible ross worm reefs on the site of this old wooden shipwreck, and confirmed the presence of significant formations standing 8-9" proud of the surrounding mixed ground seabed. The ross worm formations were broken up in places, and interspersed with mussels in others, and generally supported a variety of anemones, hydroids and bryozoans, particularly the finger bryozoan. Mobile life included numerous small spider crabs (*Inachus* and *Macropodia*) and hermit crabs.

Kent Seasearch 2005 Dive Survey Locations



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Kingsdown Butts

A rugged and gently undulating mixed ground seabed in 15-20m, supporting abundant attached animal life and occasional red algae. Extensive areas of intact ross worm reef formations were recorded here, completely covering the seabed. The worm tube formations in other areas were damaged, exposing the underlying seabed, and in others formed only a thin crust, but still appeared to consolidate the mixed sediments. In places, the worm tubes were mixed with mussel beds. Most notable among the ross worms were sponges, numerous dahlia anemones, sea squirts, hornwrack and other bryozoans, hydroids and dead man's fingers. Painted topshells, common whelks, netted dogwhelks and common starfish were frequent, and a bloody henry starfish and common sunstar were also recorded. Fish life recorded here included dragonets, butterflyfish, Dover sole, dogfish, wrasse, bib and gobies.

South Foreland

Divers surveyed various sites off South Foreland on a misty afternoon in September. Much of the area comprised chalk bedrock with gullies, in around 10m. The rugged seabed was rich in attached animal life, including carrot sponge, dahlia, daisy and small white anemones, finger bryozoan and hornwrack, along with antenna hydroids. Long-spined sea scorpion and greater pipefish were added to the fish list for the year. Here, two divers made a tentative identification of colonies of potato crisp bryozoan (also known as ross coral). This is the first time this bryozoan has been recorded east of Sussex, and the area will be investigated further in 2006. Slightly further from the coast in about 13m, divers recorded a flat mixed ground seabed with occasional cobbles and pebbles, and small patches of exposed bedrock. The seabed was reported to be stabilised with a crust of ross worm tubes, and with a covering of mainly short animal turf and numerous small spider crabs.

Maloja

A large liner, partially buried in the side of a large and mobile sand and gravel bank, with occasional common starfish and dragonets and a number of other fish like bib and pollack. Exposed wreck structures were covered in a dense animal turf, dominated by oaten pipe hydroids, small orange anemones and small patches of mussels.

Lusitania

Surrounding the wreck, divers recorded a bedrock of clay, exposed in places and forming steps and overhangs, but mostly covered in cobbles, pebbles, and sand. This relatively stable seabed supported a diversity of short and tall animal turf communities, notably antenna hydroids and other hydroids and hornwrack and other bryozoans, but also dead man's fingers, various anemones, sponges, sea squirts, worms and starfish. Some patches of Ross worm reef were also noted in the seabed surrounding the wreck. On and around the wreck, divers recorded in particular mussels and common starfish, plumose anemones, antenna hydroids, and several crabs and fish species, including dogfish.

Pomerania

This wreck lies in about 30m on a flat mixed ground seabed of cobbles, gravel and shell fragments, with limited attached life of hydroids and bryozoans. The wreck now supports a rich mix of carrot, goosebump and elephant hide sponges, antenna hydroids, plumose and other anemones, dead man's fingers, common mussels and finger bryozoan. Also found here were two species of sea slugs, several fish including bib, wrasse, gobies and tompot blennies, edible and swimming crabs, and numerous starfish throughout.