



# Delving the deep: the development of the Alderney Snorkel Seasearch Group

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## ABSTRACT

Little quantitative ecological evidence exists within Alderney's marine shallow waters. As such, in 2017, the Alderney Snorkel Seasearch Group was developed in collaboration with the Alderney Wildlife Trust, Seasearch and Sea-Changers. The aim of this citizen science project is to train locally based snorkellers to record Alderney's marine habitats and species, following Seasearch recording methods. Approximately 10 snorkellers have joined the group and started recording marine life across the island. For 2018, the aim is to investigate the island's eelgrass and kelp habitats, whilst encouraging other snorkellers to join the group.



Surveying Braye Bay with a snorkel, 2018.

## NEED FOR THE GROUP

Prior to 2017, the Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT) primarily focussed its marine based work-streams on the island's intertidal environment and marine mammal species. Projects investigating Alderney's subtidal environment were sporadic; and limited to visiting Seasearch volunteers or academic studies.



Group member delving Alderney's deep.

## GROUP DEVELOPMENT

Due to few active recreational scuba divers present on Alderney, snorkelling was the best option. Funding from Sea Changers, with the support and training from Seasearch enabled the development of the group, and now consists of 12 snorkel members.



## GROUP 2018 ACTIVITIES

For 2018, the group have met regularly over the summer to record Alderney's marine habitats and species. The group prioritised recording Alderney's eelgrass and kelp habitats, due to their local conservation importance. A variety of species have been spotted, including seaweeds, barnacles, mobile invertebrates and fish. All records will be submitted to Seasearch later this year.



Surveying Alderney's eelgrass habitats, *Zostera marina*.

## GROUP FUTURE GOALS



Regularly record marine life within Alderney's shallow seas, each summer.



Provide additional training for new members by Seasearch and encourage others to join.



Examine survey records, to identify sites, habitats and species of local conservation importance.