

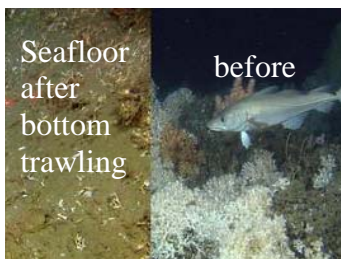
Penzance B.S.A.C. Conservation Officer's Report November 2010



Arctic Tern

A Seabird has officially become the oldest UK's recorded Arctic Tern. It was ringed as a chick on the Farne Islands on 28th June 1980, making it at least 30 years, 2 months and 23 days old. Arctic Terns typically live 13 years.

Global fisheries throughout the world contribute £billions per year to the world wide economy, but researcher also conclude that healthier fisheries could have prevented malnourishment in nearly 20 million people in poorer countries. Overfishing reduces revenue. Annually, estimated global catch losses from overfishing totalled up to 36% of the actual tonnage landed in a year, resulting in a landed value loss of £billions each year. Researchers focused on global fisheries subsidies, or financial incentives that countries offer to their fishing industries, which may contribute to depleted fish stocks. Large developed countries are spending twice the amount of tax-payers money on global fisheries subsidies that encourage overfishing, than they are on subsidies that protect oceans. Non-industrial uses of the oceans are a net positive for economies and jobs. Recreational use of ocean ecosystems by sports divers, whale watchers, and recreational fishermen contributes £billions each year to national economies worldwide and generates nearly 1.1 million jobs. Many economies are paying doubly for continued overfishing of our oceans. First, tax-payer money is directly contributing to the decline of worldwide fisheries, and second, fishermen and undernourished people are hurting from a steady declining recourse. From a socioeconomic standpoint, subsidies that promote overfishing are doing far more harm than good. Scientists have also been looking at the human impact on the deep seafloor. The findings reveal that the area disturbed by bottom trawling commercial fishing fleets, exceeds the combined physical footprint of other major human activities considered. Non-fisheries marine scientific research has a relatively small footprint, whereas those of fisheries marine scientific research, telecommunication cables and the oil and gas industry are moderate. However even on the lowest estimates, the spatial extent of bottom trawling is at least ten times that for the other activities assessed, with a physical footprint greater than that of all the others combined.



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This Dutch 120ft Scallop UK307 regularly calls at Newlyn with her catch of scallops, and is met by a forty ton 18 wheeler lorry to take the catch away. She has 17 metal chain baskets, each a metre wide, on each side, which are dragged across the seafloor, probably for miles at a time. That's a track 34 metres wide. Just think of the damage to the seafloor this vessel does every time she goes to sea, and there are hundreds of vessels like this.



Scientists investigating in one of the worlds deepest ocean trenches— previously thought to be void of fish—have discovered an entirely new species. This expedition was prompted by findings in 2008 and 2009 off Japan and New



New Snailfish

Zealand where new species of snailfish, known as Liparids, were discovered inhabiting trenches at depths of approximately 7000 metres, with each trench hosting its own unique species of fish. To test whether these species would be found in all deep trenches they moved across the Pacific, off Chile and Peru, some 6000 miles, and found there was indeed another unique species of snailfish living at 7000 metres, entirely new to science, which had never been caught or seen before. These latest discoveries provide a new insight into the depths at which fish survive and the diversity of populations which could exist in the deepest points of oceans across the globe.

There were 5 reported sightings of Bottlenose Dolphin during October, 4 early in the month and one of 3 in the surf with surfers at Sennen on the 30th. 3 other reports of unidentified dolphins were probably Bottlenose. Common Dolphins were reported 7 times and a sighting of about 50 dolphins heading rapidly west well out off Gwennap Head on the 21st were probably also Commons. Risso's Dolphins were reported 4 times and those seen on the 17th and 18th off Longships and Gwennap Head were probably the same pod of 8 with a juvenile. Harbour Porpoises were reported 7 times, largest group was 36 of Gwennap Head on 15th. A Minke Whale was seen off Gwennap on the 21st and Ocean Sunfish were seen off Mawgan Port and in Porthleven Harbour . !! reported sightings of Grey Seals were all off Gwennap Head except one which was in Newquay Harbour