



Friends of Penzance B.S.A.C. Conservation Officer's Report October & November 2015



A report by The World Wildlife Fund and the Zoological Society of London says populations of marine mammals, birds, fish and reptiles have declined by 49% since 1970, and species people rely on for food are faring worse, noting a 74% drop in the populations of tuna and mackerel. In addition to human activity, the report says climate change is having an affect. Human activity has severely damaged the ocean by catching fish faster than they can reproduce while also destroying their nurseries. Sea cucumbers, seen as a luxury food throughout Asia has seen a significant fall in numbers, with a 98% in the Galapagos and 94% drop in the Red Sea over the past few years. The study notes the decline in habitats, such as sea grass areas and mangrove cover, which are important for food and act as a nursery for many species. Climate change also played a role in the overall decline of marine populations . Carbon dioxide is being absorbed into the oceans, making them more acidic, damaging several species. The authors analysed more than 1,200 species of marine creatures in the past 45 years

A sneezing monkey, a walking fish and a jewel-like snake are just some of a biological treasure trove of over 200 new species discovered in the Eastern Himalayas in recent years, according to a new report by WWF. The vibrant blue dwarf 'walking' snakehead fish can breathe atmospheric air and survive on land for up to four days. And the newly-found monkey's upturned nose leads



Snake Head Fish



Bombu Litter Frog

to a sneeze every time the rain falls. In total, 211 species were discovered between 2009 and 2014—that's an average of 34 new species annually for the past six years. The report maps out the volume of new species found by scientists from various organizations including 133 plants, 39 invertebrates, 26 fish, 10 amphibians, one reptile, one bird and one mammal.

Bottlenose Dolphins were only seen and reported 3 times in October and November, A pod of about 15 seen off the Jubilee Pool on Oct 30th was probably the same pod, which was of similar size, which was seen off St Ives on November 1st. 3 were seen in Fal Bay. A pod of dophins seen far off Rame Head near Plymouth were probably also Bottlenose. Common Dolphins were reported 20 times from Pendeen on th north coast around to Fal Bay. The largest pod was of about 100 in Mounts Bay. There were 25 reported sightings of Harbour Porpoises from Pendeen all around to Rame Head. The largest number was again in Mounts Bay where 100s were seen around the Bay on 21st October. 5 reported sightings of Minke Whales were, one near the Runnelstone on Oct18th, 2 in Fal Bay on Oct19th and again on the Oct 20th. 3 were seen in Fal Bay on 21st Oct and a single one was seen off Gwennap Head on November 23rd. There was just one report of Ocean Sunfish, that was off Pendeen on Oct 12th. All three sightings of Barrel Jellyfish were in Fal Bay where small numbers were seen on Oct 2nd, 12th and 15th. Blue Fin Tuna turned up in Mounts Bay again on Oct 17th and 23rd, this time in much smaller numbers than in previous sightings. The only other sighting reported was of a Leatherback Turtle seen off Pendeen on November 13th.