



# 2023 Fisheries Science Seminar Citizen Science

Focus: species  
Squid and cuttlefish



## What is this project about?

This project showcases how citizen science can help identifying spawning grounds of cephalopods. Awareness about importance of studying cephalopod reproduction to protect their spawning grounds was raised in Facebook, including by Cephalopod Citizen Science Project and U.K. Seasearch, as well as among other naturalists and cephalopod enthusiasts. This project collected available information from divers, fishers and walkers who recorded squid and cuttlefish eggs either deposited on different objects in situ or washed onshore aiming to establish seasonal changes in extension of cephalopod spawning grounds. The resulting dataset was considered together with scarce data on egg masses collected during research surveys, and occurrence of mature animals in catches of research and commercial vessels and recreational fishers.



## ...and citizen science?

Cephalopods attracted public attention due to the recent discovery of their sentience. Their recreational fisheries are also very popular in Europe. Raising awareness among recreational divers, beach walkers, and cephalopod enthusiasts allowed to collect data, including on squid species composition and maturity, as well as observations on 378 squid egg masses, and on 328 cuttlefish egg masses and spawning behaviour. For a study of this scale there was no feasible alternative but to use citizen science, considering the costs that data collection would have otherwise entailed.



## Want to know more?

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