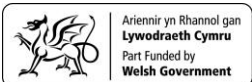




**PROSIECT MAELGI: CYMRU**  
**ANGEL SHARK PROJECT: WALES**

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS**



A dissection was completed on a female Angelshark that washed up on Saundersfoot beach in August 2018 in collaboration with the Cetacean Stranding Investigation Programme and University of Swansea. Morphometric measurements and samples were taken to better understand Angelshark biology.



The first Angelshark accidentally caught off the Welsh coast in 2019 was reported and safely released in July

HLF Approved Purposes	Progress
Recruit Staff	<div style="width: 100%; height: 15px; background-color: #90EE90;"></div>
Establish Steering Group	<div style="width: 100%; height: 15px; background-color: #90EE90;"></div>
Create Brand & Digital	<div style="width: 100%; height: 15px; background-color: #90EE90;"></div>
4 Outreach Events	<div style="width: 100%; height: 15px; background-color: #90EE90;"></div>
Recruit Citizen Scientists	<div style="width: 100%; height: 15px; background-color: #90EE90;"></div>
Train Fishers	<div style="width: 100%; height: 15px; background-color: #FFD700;"></div>
Gather Fisher Records	<div style="width: 100%; height: 15px; background-color: #FFD700;"></div>
2 Dive for Angel Events	<div style="width: 100%; height: 15px; background-color: #90EE90;"></div>
History Roadshow	<div style="width: 100%; height: 15px; background-color: #90EE90;"></div>
History of Angels iBook	<div style="width: 100%; height: 15px; background-color: #FFB6C1;"></div>
History of Angels Exhibit	<div style="width: 100%; height: 15px; background-color: #FFB6C1;"></div>
Celebration Events	<div style="width: 100%; height: 15px; background-color: #FFB6C1;"></div>
Action Plan	<div style="width: 100%; height: 15px; background-color: #FFB6C1;"></div>
Provide Info/Evidence	<div style="width: 100%; height: 15px; background-color: #FFB6C1;"></div>
HLF Acknowledgement	<div style="width: 100%; height: 15px; background-color: #FFD700;"></div>



**QUARTERLY REPORT 5 : JUNE - AUGUST 2019**



**FISHERS BECOME ANGELSHARK STEWARDS**

- 2 fishers met for discussions and leaflet distribution.
- 2 fishers participated in timeline analysis and mapping.
- 1 fisher trained in handling & received genetic pack.



**STATUS AND ECOLOGY OF ANGELSHARKS UNDERSTOOD**

- Angelshark accidentally caught, released & reported by a fisher off the Welsh coast in July.
- Morphometric measurements and samples were taken during the Angelshark dissection.
- 545 records were collected from fishers, dating back to 1938 with 3 new photos.
- 90 books and newspapers with a reference to Angelsharks identified, dating back to 1560.
- Dive For Angels surveys were carried out with 11 volunteer snorkelers or divers.



**SHARING INFORMATION ACROSS THE GENERATIONS**

- Web and social media reached 38,909 people.
- Team attended World Ocean Day event with NWWT.
- Angel Shark Project: Wales highlighted as an “activity snapshot” of how Sustainable Development Goal (Life Below Water) is being delivered in Wales.



**DEVELOPMENT OF WALES ANGELSHARK ACTION PLAN**

## DIVE FOR ANGELS SURVEYS JUNE 2019

11 citizen science divers and snorkelers attend the first Dive For Angels event. Attendees were trained in the survey methodologies and how to spot Angelsharks buried in the sand. The surveys were completed at Angelshark hotspots identified from historic and recent sightings. A total of 35hrs survey time was accumulated during the weekend. Unfortunately, there were no Angelsharks, but a diverse range of marine life was seen, from large barrel jellyfish to Red mullet.

## MUCUS SAMPLES AND EDNA COLLECTED FROM CAPTIVE ANGELSHARK TO HELP GENETIC RESEARCH:

Members of the Angel Shark Project: Wales team along with a PhD student at ZSL Institute of Zoology visited Deep Sea World aquarium in Edinburgh to collect mucus samples and test eDNA collection techniques from an Angelshark in captivity. Collection of the samples will aid the current genetic research to better understand the population of Angelsharks found off Wales and the Canary Islands.

## START OF ANGELSHARK ENVIRONMENTAL DNA (EDNA) SAMPLING OFF THE WELSH COAST.

Water samples at 18 sites were collected during July and August to complete environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis – this technique will be used to establish whether Angelsharks are present at possible hotspot sites.

