



# SIARC (Sharks Inspiring Action and Research with Communities) Below the surface of the Welsh coast using BRUVS

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# Positionality



**2016 – 2017 – NRW Welsh Language placement with Intertidal & Coastal Team**



**2018 – 2022 Angel Shark Project: Wales Project Coordinator**



**2022 – Present PS Technical Specialist**



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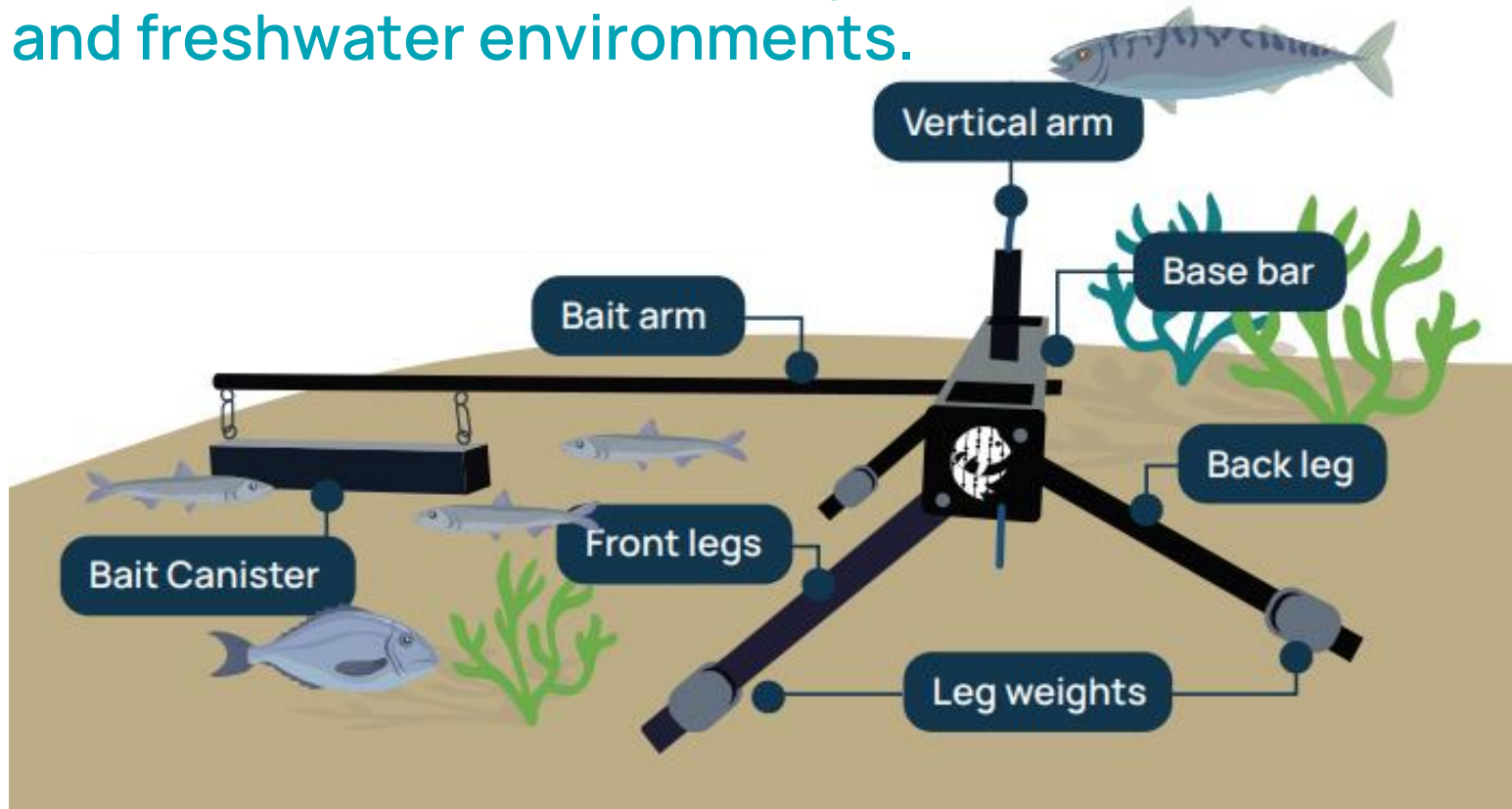
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Project SIARC will catalyse links between fishers, researchers, communities and government to collaborate and safeguard elasmobranchs and support a green recovery in Wales.



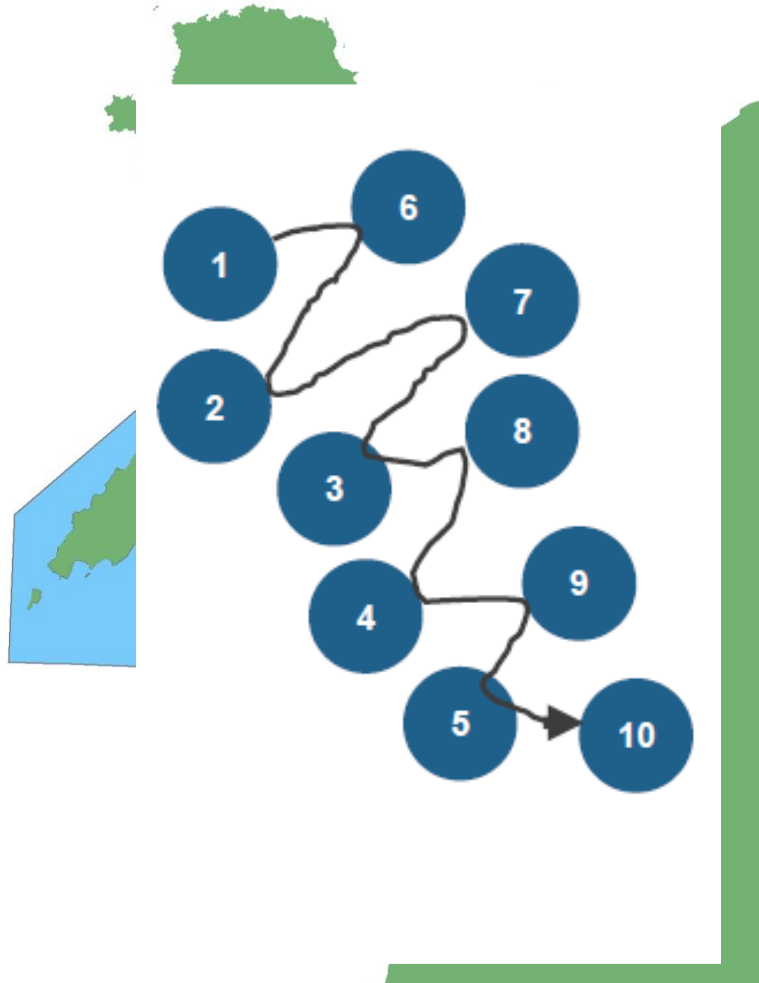
# What are Baited Underwater Video Systems (BRUVs)?

Baited Remote Underwater Video Systems (BRUVs) are widely used as a non-destructive electronic tool to investigate the abundance and diversity of fish in marine and freshwater environments.

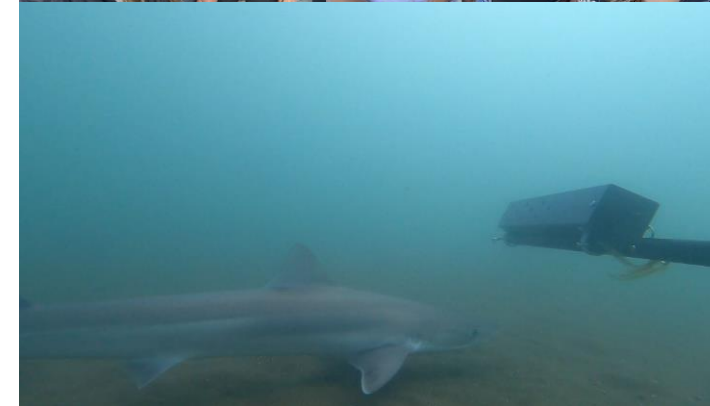


## Carbon Fibre Benthic Stereo BRUVS

# What is involved in BRUVS surveys ?



- Deploying within the Pen Llŷn A'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation.
- Deployments are carried out with three charter skippers within the region :
  - Pwllheli – Highlander
  - Barmouth – Warrior
  - Aberdyfi – Mikatcha
- Six BRUVS Deployed at a time
- Each deployed for a minimum of an hour
- Up to 18 BRUVS in one day

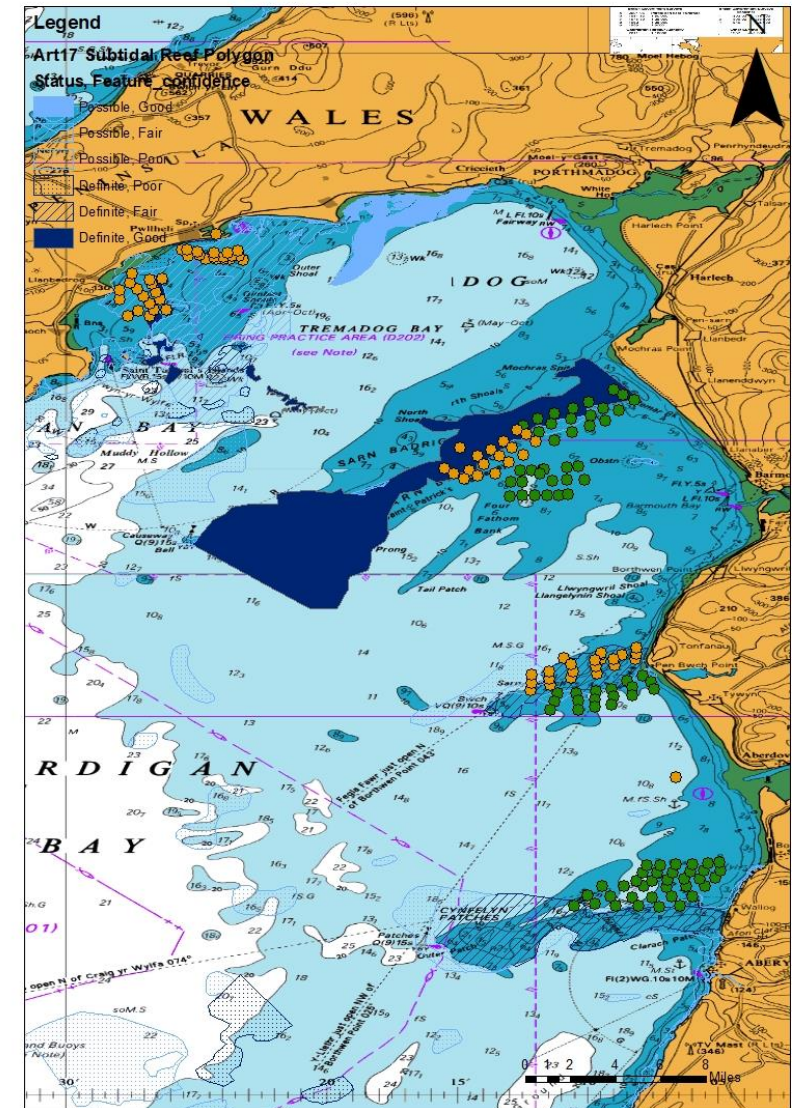


# Baited Remote Underwater Video Systems (BRUVS) – 2022 /2023

- 169 BRUVS deployed
- Deployments deployed on Subtidal Sandbank features, Reefs and within the wider Large shallow inlets and bays.
- Reefs include Sarn Badrig, Sarn y Bwch, Sarn Cynfelyn & Gimblet shoals
- Deployed from Pwllheli, Barmouth and Aberdyfi

Green = 2022

Orange = 2023



# 2022 results – Addressing data gaps

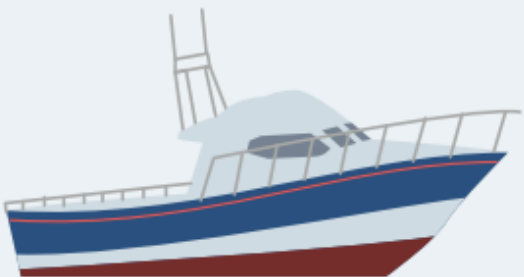


## 18 BRUVS

deployed on subtidal sandbank

## 72

on reef



# 66

species identified  
in the analysis of  
146 hours of footage

# 5

elasmobranchs  
(sharks, skates  
and rays)



Smallspotted catshark  
(*Scyliorhinus canicula*)

smallspotted catshark  
was the most common  
elasmobranch species,  
observed 10 times.



Tope  
(*Galeorhinus galeus*)

Tope sizes ranged  
From 87cm to 112cm



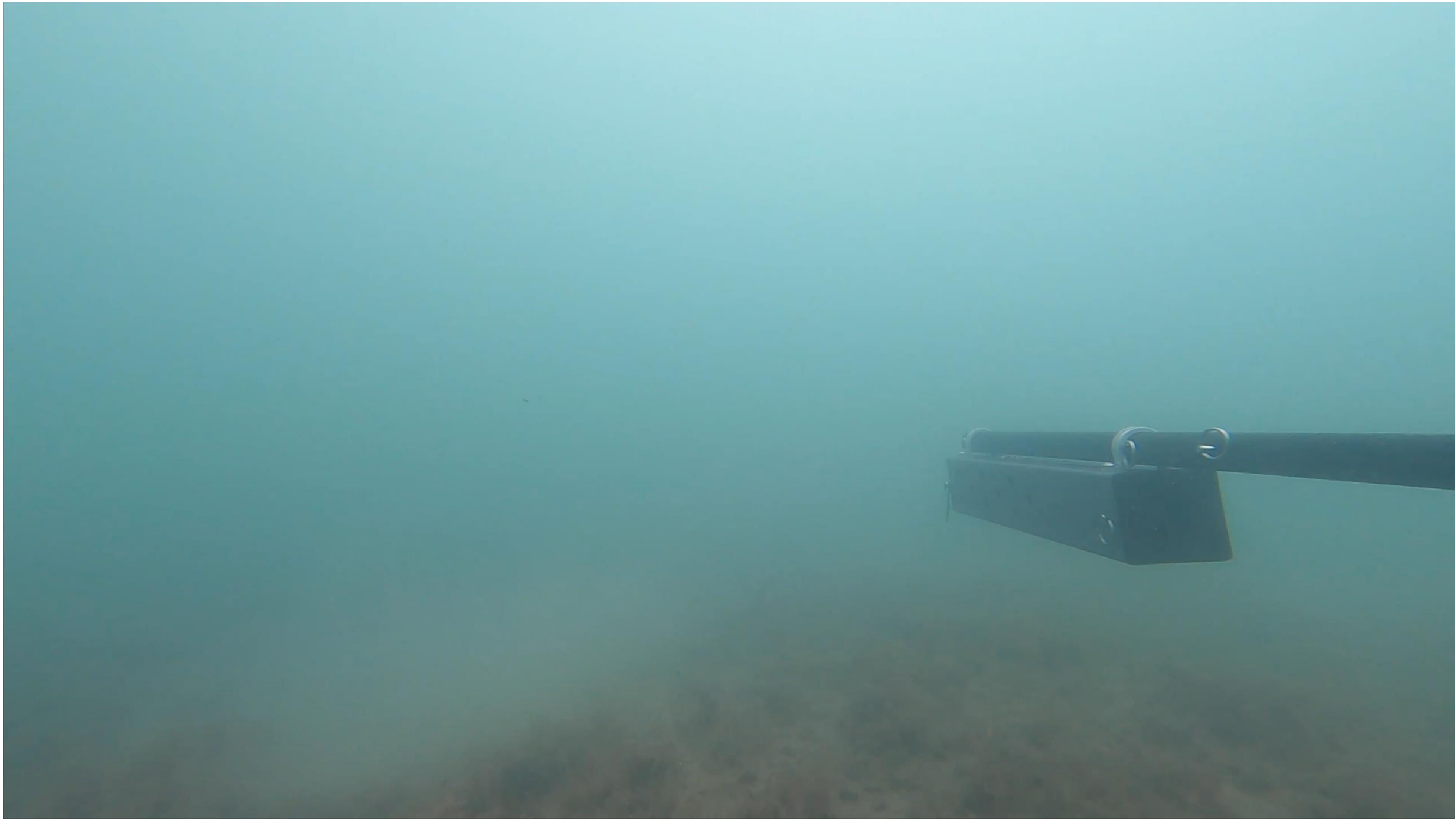
Bull huss  
(*Scyliorhinus stellaris*)



Rajidae species  
(unidentifiable)



Spotted ray  
(*Raja montagui*)





# How is BRUVS footage being used?

Distribution

Life History

Habitat use

Interaction with SAC  
protection features

AND

As a tool to increase access to  
life below the water of the  
Welsh coast.



# Enhancing inclusivity with Instant Wild



An online tool that allows the public to identify wildlife species from remote camera footage across the world

Data collection whilst increasing awareness of the elasmobranchs present in Welsh waters

UNITED KINGDOM

## Project SIARC

+ FOLLOW NEWS

Help Project SIARC monitor the wonderful sharks, skates and rays found around the coast of Wales.

+ Read more

TUTORIAL

79

IMAGES

79

IDENTIFIED

0

UNIDENTIFIED

**ZSL** | LET'S WORK FOR WILDLIFE

### START TAGGING



I A'R SARNAU SAC  
months ago



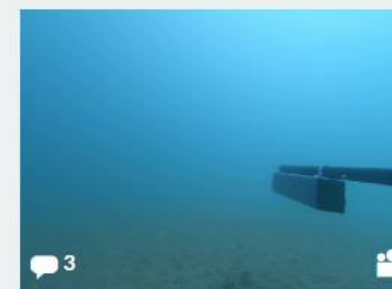
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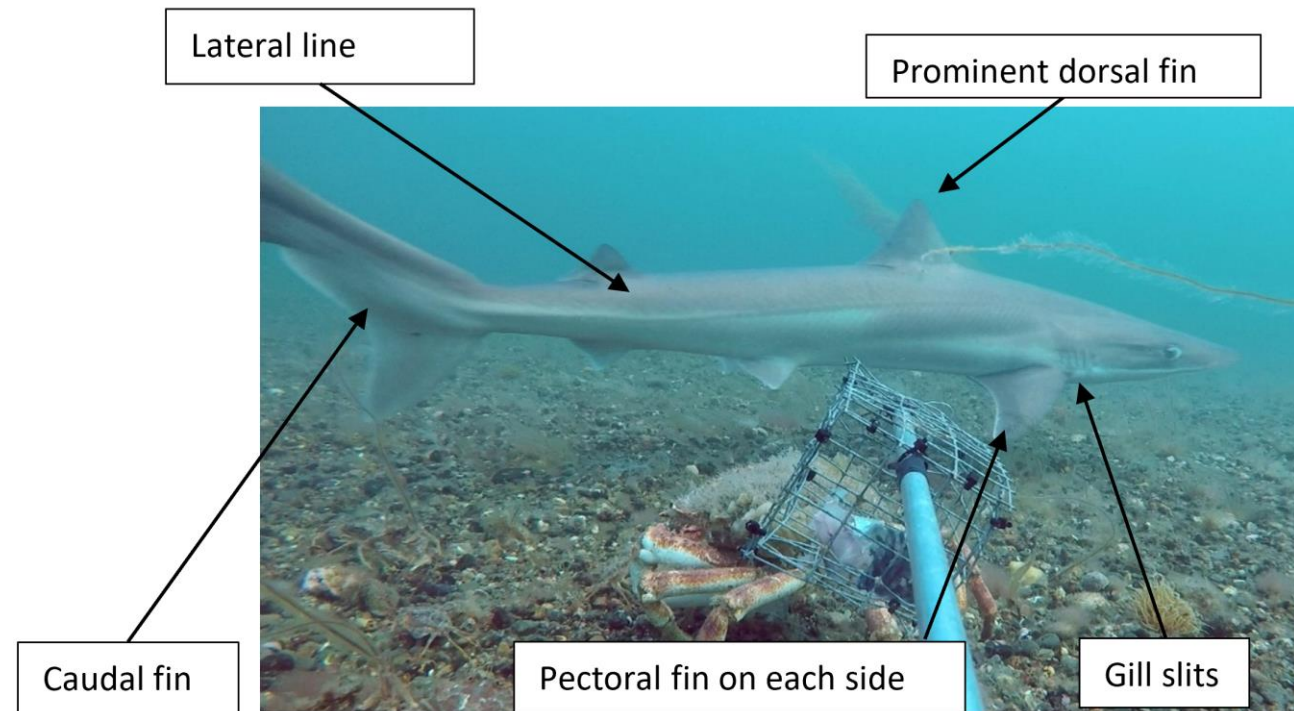
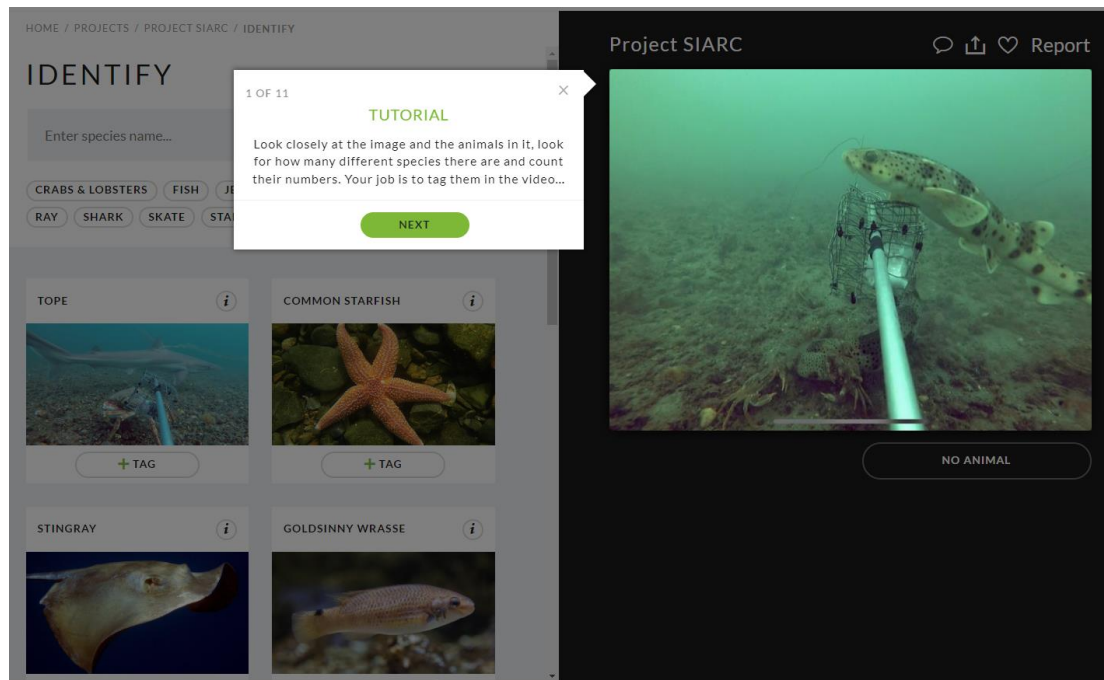
PEN LLŶN A'R SARNAU SAC  
7 months ago



# Learning through BRUVS

- Project specific tutorial helps beginners to build their confidence and get started

- Detailed guides provide opportunities for more in depth learning, for users looking to increase their knowledge



# Impact and reach



- Over 3,031 sessions completed in Wales since launching in November 2022
- 1,876+ new users registered on Instant Wild
- All Project SIARC footage uploaded to the platform has been successfully tagged
- Featured on BBC Wales News
- Recently on BBC's The One Show - Instant Wild saw an increase of 186% following the piece.



# Feedback from users

“I am now in my 70’s and used to be a scuba diver. These videos help me relive that wonderful part of my life and see life I’ve never seen before.”

“As a non native english speaker I learned that the english language distinguishes between rays and skates as well as sharks and dogfish”

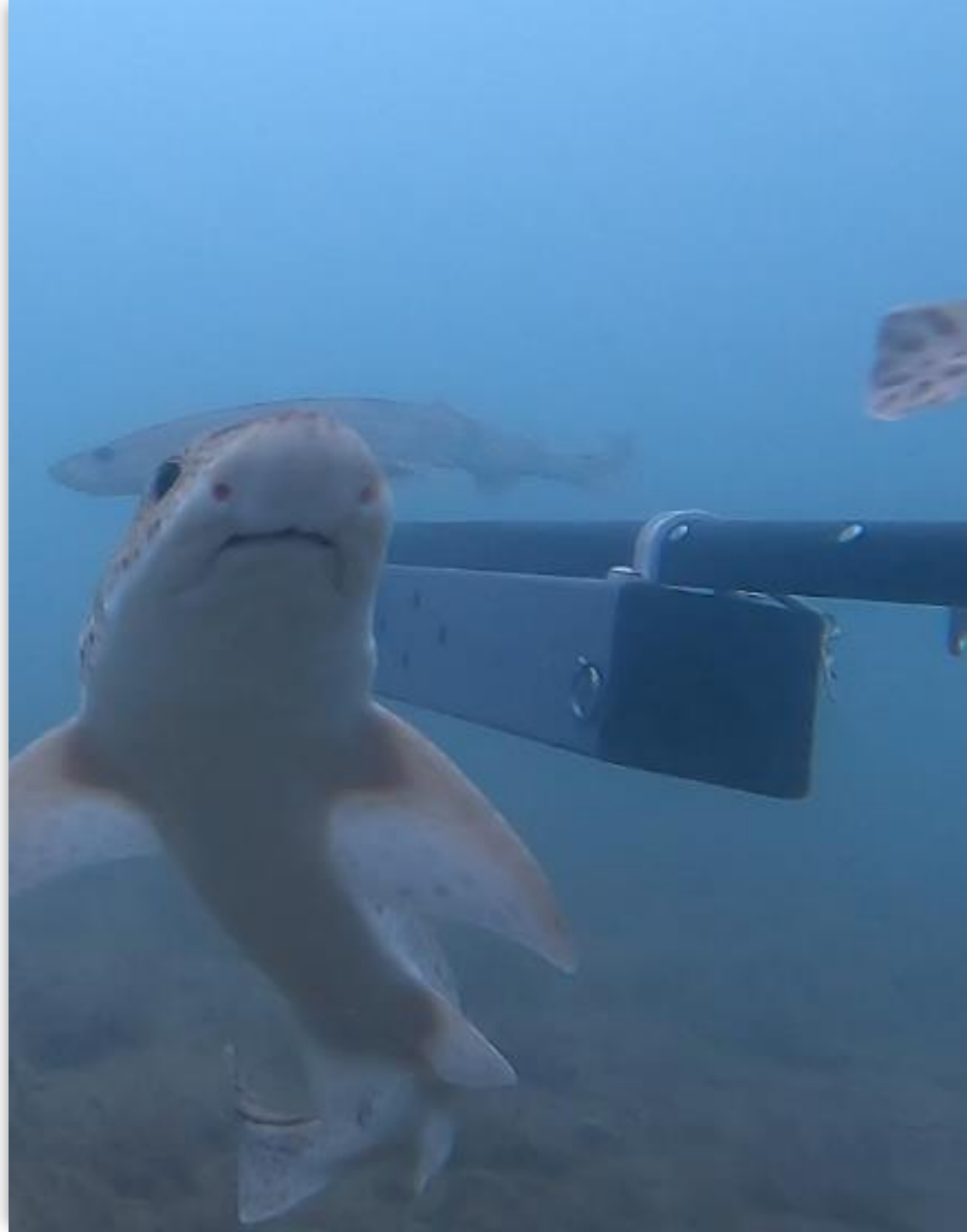
# Looking ahead

More surveys scheduled for 2024/25

Upload onto Instant Wild

Analysis of data

Publication of peer-reviewed paper





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# Thank You for listening

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🌐 @ProjectSIARC

🌐 www.projectsiaarc.com