Marine Conservation Society Jellyfish Survey

While some jellyfish are harmless or have a very mild sting, others have a painful and even dangerous sting. MCS would therefore recommend that, for your own safety, you do not touch jellyfish. Please adhere to the Health and Safety advice on the back of this flyer.

DAVID CROPP

Cyanea capillata

Lion's mane jellyfish: Large, usually 50cm but can reach 2m in diameter. Large, reddish brown, umbrella-shaped bell with a mass of long, thin hair-like tentacles as well as 4 short, thick, frilled and folded arms. This jellyfish stings.

JIM GREENFIELD

Pelagia noctiluca

Mauve stinger: Up to 10cm. Has a deep bell with pink or mauve warts, 16 marginal lobes and 8 marginal, hair-like tentacles. Manubrium bears 4 longer frilled arms with tiny pink spots. This jellyfish stings.

PAUL PARSONS/AQUAPIX

Chrysaora hysoscella

Compass jellyfish: Typically up to 30cm. Colour variable, but usually has pale umbrella-shaped bell with diagnostic brownish V-shaped markings, 32 marginal lobes and 24 long, thin tentacles. 4 long, thick, frilled arms hang from the manubrium. This jellyfish stings.

COLIN SPEEDIE

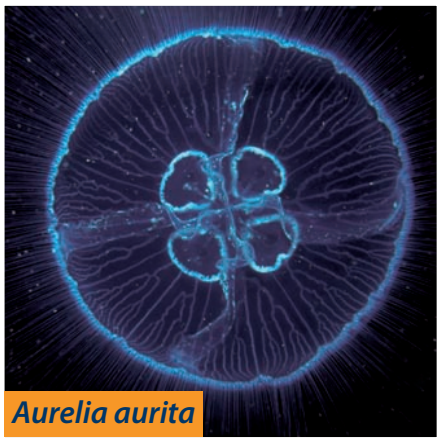
Rhizostoma octopus

Barrel or Root mouth jellyfish: Up to 1m in diameter. Robust, with a spherical, solid, rubbery and largely white bell, fringed with purple. The bell lacks tentacles but 8 thick, frilled arms hang from the manubrium.

DAVID CROPP

Cyanea lamarckii

Blue jellyfish: Up to 30cm. Similar shape to *C. capillata* but smaller with a blue bell through which radial lines can be seen. Mild sting.



JO JAMIESON/MCS

Aurelia aurita

Moon jellyfish: Up to 40cm in diameter. Transparent, umbrella-shaped bell edged with short hair-like tentacles. Recognised by the 4 distinct pale purple gonad rings in the bell. Manubrium (mouth and arms, underside and centre of bell) bears 4 short, frilled arms. Mild sting.

STEVE TREWHELLA

Velella velella

By-the-wind-sailor: Not a jellyfish, but a floating, solitary hydranth. Up to 10cm long and blue-purple in colour. Upright sail and chitinous float are diagnostic, with a mass of small tentacles surrounding the mouth on the underside. Occurs in vast swarms.

PAUL PARSONS

Physalia physalia

Portuguese Man-of-War: Not a jellyfish, but a floating colony of hydrozoans. The oval-shaped, transparent float with crest is diagnostic. Blue-purple in colour, with many hanging 'fishing polyps' below that may be tens of metres long. Extremely dangerous to humans due to their powerful sting. Rare in the UK but if found in numbers they should be reported to the local authorities.

Protecting our seas, shores and wildlife - now and for future generations

www.mcsuk.org

marine conservation society

Jellyfish and leatherback turtles

Little is known about jellyfish in UK waters, but we do know that they are the staple diet of the critically endangered leatherback turtle. These spectacular reptiles are seasonal visitors to UK seas, and are thought to migrate from their tropical nesting beaches to feed on our jellyfish.

Analyses of stomach contents of dead leatherbacks stranded on UK shores have revealed that they feed on several species of British jellyfish.

By comparing the distribution of jellyfish with environmental factors such as sea temperature, plankton production and current flow, we hope to understand what influences the seasonal distribution of jellyfish and leatherbacks in UK waters.

Get Involved

In an effort to better understand the ecology of Britain's leatherback turtles, the Marine Conservation Society would like you to help record jellyfish strandings on local beaches and jellyfish swarms at sea.

MCS needs detailed records of jellyfish strandings on UK shores and jellyfish swarms at sea. If you regularly walk along beaches, are an Adopt-a-Beach/Beachwatch volunteer, dive or sail, you can help. This recording form and ID guide is all you need to take part in the MCS jellyfish survey.

- Complete one form per survey in as much detail as possible.
- It is important to record when you do see jellyfish on the beach or at sea, but it is also useful to know when and where you don't see any. If possible, please fill in a form for each walk or sea trip regardless of whether or not you see jellyfish

Summaries of the data collected through this scheme will periodically be available from MCS.

BACKGROUND IMAGE: AURELIA AURITA SWARM © COLIN SPEEDIE/MER

Health and Safety

- Some jellyfish can sting
- Never touch jellyfish with bare hands
- Always use a stick or wear arm length rubber gloves if you need to turn them over for identification
- Beware of the stinging tentacles and keep your face and any exposed skin well clear
- Seek medical attention in the case of a severe sting

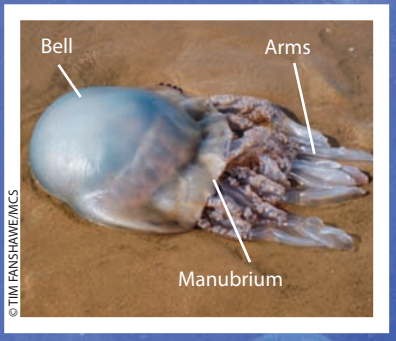
defra Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs

ENGLISH NATURE

MCS would like to acknowledge the support of Defra and English Nature for this project

Jellyfish Identification

Identification of live jellyfish is usually easy but once they've washed up on the beach it can become more difficult. ***Please do not guess if you are not really sure,*** just record the jellyfish as 'Unidentified' and describe it on the form. If possible, take photos of the jellyfish bell and manubrium (mouth and arms, underside and centre of bell) to help with identification later. If you'd like to learn more about jellyfish ID, the '*Collin's Pocket Guide to the Seashore of Britain and Europe*' may help.



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© PETER RICHARDSON/MCS

Both these pictures show stranded barrel jellyfish. The first is of a fresh stranding while the jellyfish in the second picture is decaying.

This form is designed to photocopy clearly, but if you need more forms, we are happy to provide them. Please call 01989 566017

Please send all completed forms to: MCS/Jellyfish Survey, FREEPOST HR391, Ross-on-Wye HR9 5ZZ PLEASE USE A STAMP IF YOU CAN

Marine Conservation Society Jellyfish Survey

TITLE	FIRST NAME	SURNAME

ADDRESS:

TOWN: COUNTY:

POSTCODE: TEL: E-MAIL:

SURVEY DATE: TIME OF DAY:

Are you reporting stranded jellyfish or jellyfish at sea?

STRANDED

LENGTH OF BEACH (m): DISTANCE SURVEYED (m):

AT SEA

DISTANCE FROM SHORE (m):

LOCATION SURVEYED: (***Beach survey*** = *nearest town or beach name and OS grid reference.* ***Sea trip*** = *description of route incl. lat./long. coordinates of start & end points and of any jellyfish swarms encountered)*

SPECIES * Use codes below	NUMBER	ALIVE/FRESH OR DECAYING	ID CONFIDENCE 0% - 100%	DESCRIPTION AND DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERISTICS

* Aa=*Aurelia aurita*, Cc=*Cyanea capillata*, Ch=*Chrysaora hysoscella*, Cl=*Cyanea lamarckii*, Ph=*Physalia physalia*, Pn=*Pelagia noctiluca*, Ro=*Rhizostoma octopus*, Vv=*Velella vellela*, U = Unidentified.

OTHER ANIMALS/PLANTS/ITEMS OCCURRING/STRANDING IN ABUNDANCE:

I DO NOT wish to be contacted by MCS about other projects and appeals nor my details passed on to other organisations.

PLEASE SUBMIT EXTRA NOTES AND DIAGRAMS ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER AND POST THEM WITH THIS FORM ALONG WITH ANY PHOTOS. **MANY THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!**

Registered Charity no: 1004005