

Marine Discovery

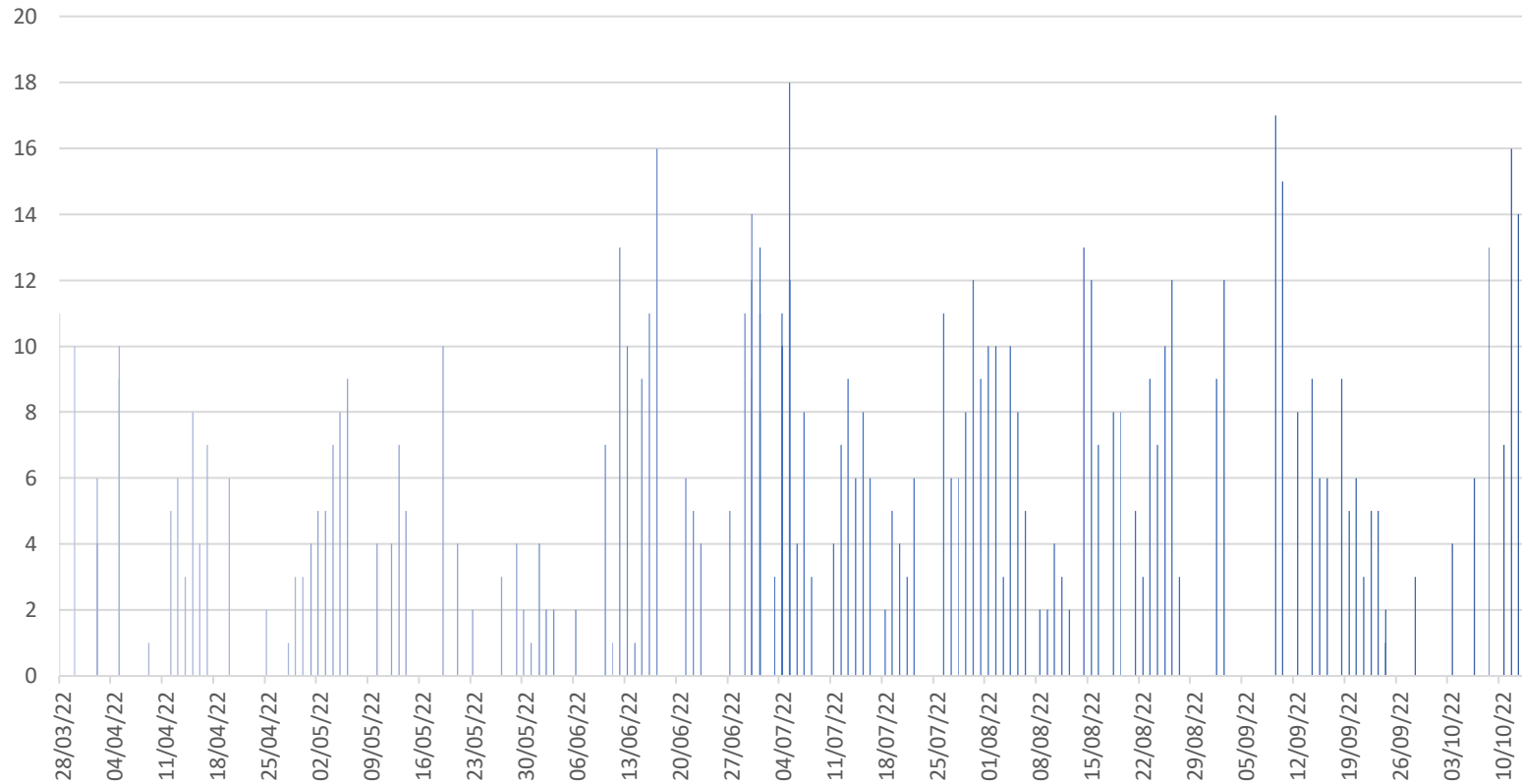
Seals in the Mounts Bay West area in 2022 reported to SRT

Summary prepared by Jil Helbling and Kate Williams



Seal numbers from 28th March to 14th November 2022

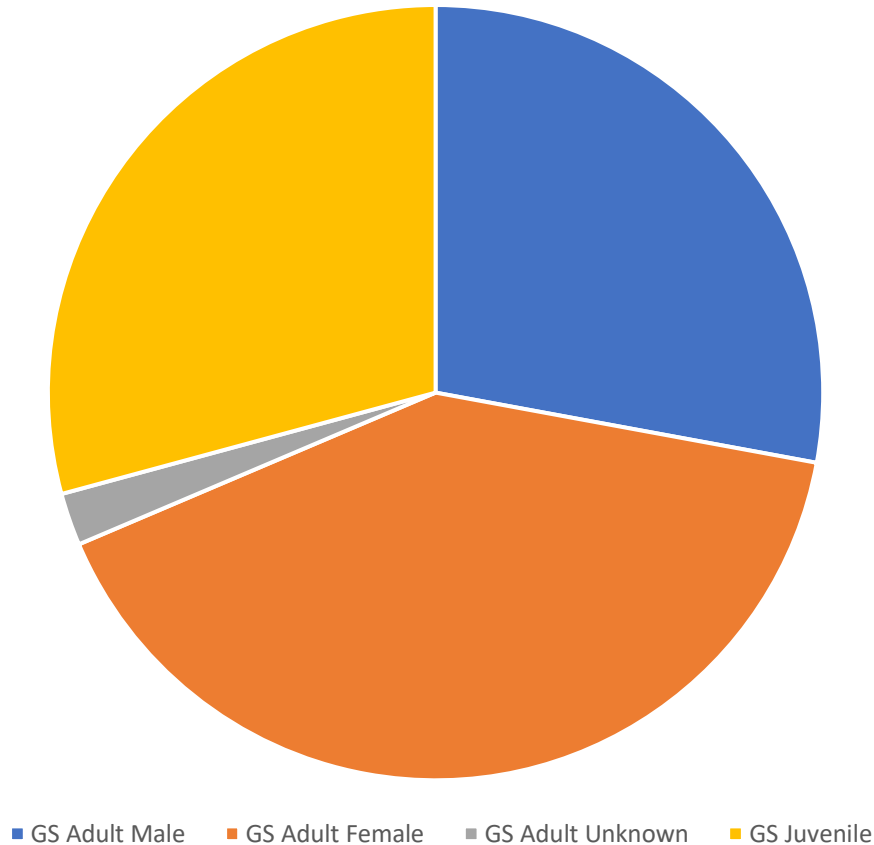
Seal counts in main tour season



Maximum count: 18 on 5th July. January is not included in the graph as the boat was out of water in winter but there was a land-based survey on 3rd January when 7 seals were counted.

Age and sex of seals seen

Age and sex of seals seen



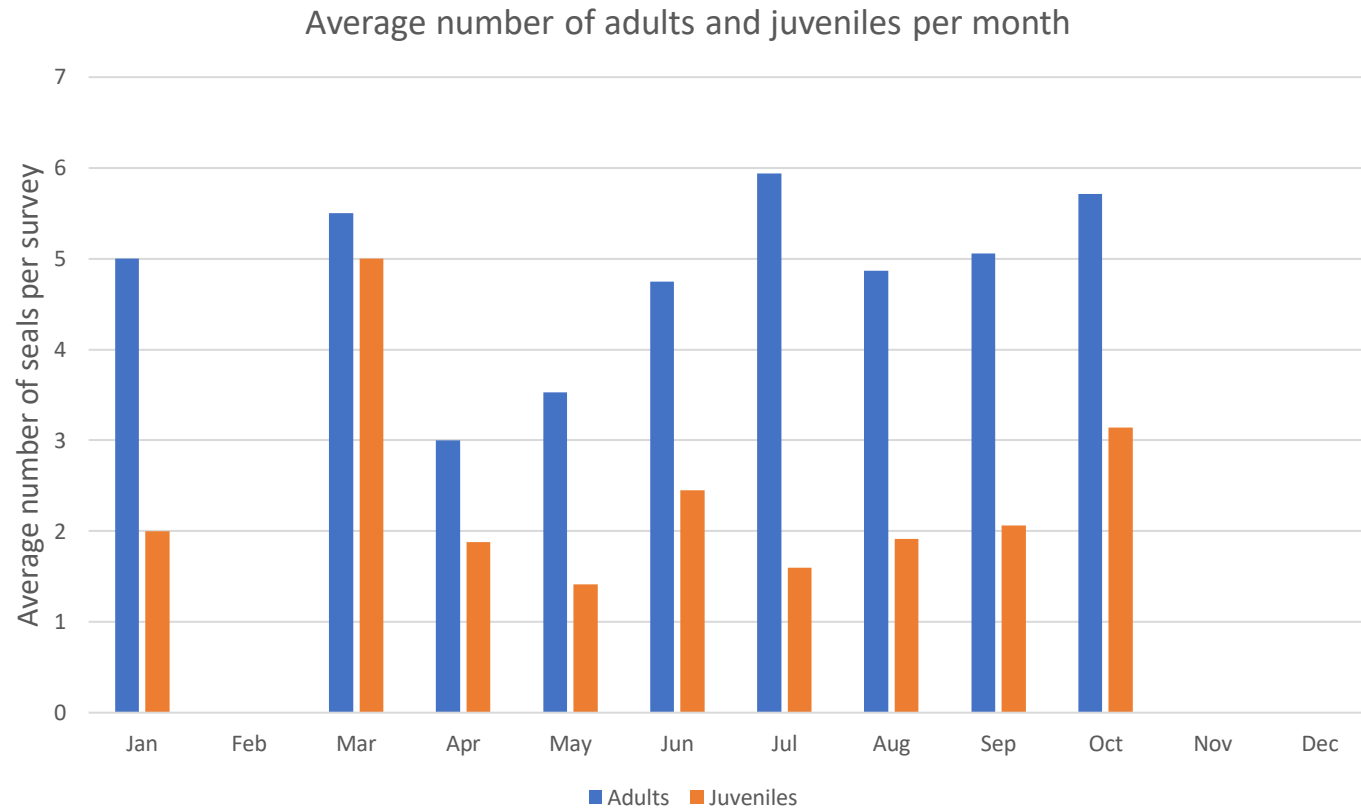
More females were recorded than males.

Adult Male	28%
Adult Female	41%
Adult Unknown	2%

Juveniles	29%
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Juveniles are grouped together in one category as sex unknown.

Adults and Juveniles



The ratio of juveniles to adults was fairly constant through the year, at around half or just below, except for:
March when the numbers were equal.
July when there were fewer juveniles.

July had the highest numbers of adults, perhaps the juveniles did not haul out with them or had to use less obvious haul out positions and were not counted.

Photo identification

In the season, April to October, **423** photo identifications were made in the photos from Marine Discovery and an additional **24** photo identifications were made in the records received from other people. **Total 447**

A lot of these photo identifications will be repeats of the same seals as several seals have now been identified as regulars at this haul out.

39 individuals that were already in the catalogue were re-identified.
25 individuals were added to the catalogue.

SCF1 Kelp Cx was identified 38 times between 28/03/2022 and 24/09/2022.

SCM13 Silverback was identified 56 times between 30/03/2022 and 28/09/2022.

The regulars

These visit calendars show all the sightings in the CSGRT database, not just those from Marine Discovery.

Records from Marine Discovery start in 2012 and make up the bulk of the sightings of seals on the Mounts Bay West haul out site as seals are much more easily observed from the seaward side.

Regular visitors	Visits in 2022	Age	Male/Female
SCM13 Silverback	56	Adult	Male
SC210 Man with dancing dog	49	Juvenile	Female
SCF1 Kelp	38	Adult	Female
SC162 Horned Serpent	38	Adult	Female
SCF20 Mask	37	Adult	Female
SC215 Coral	33	Juvenile	Female
SCM101 Seaweed	30	Adult	Male
SCF112 Pumpkin ET	34	Adult	Female
SCF73 Suffolk	20	Adult	Female

More females than males but it is more difficult to reidentify males as they tend to be less well patterned.

The age/sex analysis shows that the split is not even, at approximately

Adult Male	28%
Adult Female	41%

Adult	71%
Juvenile	29%

SCM13 Silverback



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Jan			1									1
Feb												
Mar		1				1					1	3
Apr	3	3	8	5	1	11		1		7	5	44
May	3	6	14	5		10	3			7	9	57
Jun	2	7	8	4		14	1		1	11	9	57
Jul	4	14	11					1	10	13	15	68
Aug	9	11	12			1		3	18	12	9	75
Sep	3	5	10		1			5	13	6	8	51
Oct												
Nov							1	1				2
Dec												
Total	24	47	64	14	2	37	5	11	42	56	56	358

A plain, but handsome, adult male, perhaps not surprising that he has not been identified at any other location.

Jan 2014 was a sighting by a member of the public.

Nov 2018 was Marine Discovery
Nov 2019 was Mermaid Pleasure Trips

No records in early 2020 due to the pandemic lockdown.

Mounts Bay West

SC210 Man with dancing dog

	2021	2022	Total
Jan			
Feb			
Mar			
Apr		1	1
May	2	12	14
Jun	2	8	10
Jul	1	8	9
Aug	10	9	19
Sep	10	7	17
Oct	7	3	10
Nov			
Dec		1	1
Total	32	49	81

Mounts Bay West

First recorded in 2001, this juvenile female reappeared in 2022. With more photos we have been able to match up several different catalogue entries as all being her.

The December 2022 record is from a land-based survey using a telescope.



SCF1 Kelp Cx

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Jan						1			1	1		1 1	5
Feb		1								1			2
Mar		1	1				1	1				1	5
Apr	1	4	1	6	3		9				3		27
May		7	4	8	3		5	1		1	9	2	40
Jun		9	4	6	5	1	12	1		1	11	7	57
Jul		9	11	18					6	9	8	10	71
Aug		7	10	10			1		4	11	9	9	61
Sep		7	5	7		1		1	2	8	8	7	46
Oct		1	1	1			2		2				7
Nov	2												2
Dec										1			1
Total	3	46	37	56	11	3	30	4	15	33	48	38	324

West Cornwall
St Ives & St Ives Bay
Mounts Bay West

Not included in this calendar is a single sighting in November 2008 at West Cornwall.



Kelp has been identified in West Cornwall as well as Mounts Bay West. It appears that she usually moves away from the Mounts Bay area at the end of the summer.

In the winter of 2022, she was not recorded in West Cornwall but was recorded there in January 2023.

SC162 Horned Serpent

	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Jan					
Feb					
Mar				1	1
Apr			1	1	2
May			1	1	2
Jun			2	3	5
Jul		8	3	15	26
Aug	1	4	7	7	19
Sep	2	13	5	7	27
Oct	1	3	9	3	16
Nov	1				1
Dec					
Total	5	28	28	38	99

Mounts Bay West
Mounts Bay East



SC162 Horned Serpent was new to the catalogue in 2019 but appeared regularly in 2020, 2021 and 2022. The April and May 2021 sightings are not at Mounts Bay West but from a CSGRT volunteer recording on the east side of Mounts Bay.

SCF20 Mask

Mounts Bay West

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Jan												
Feb												
Mar		1										1
Apr		1	6	3					1	7	9	27
May	4	2	11							8	9	34
Jun	2	5	1	1				1	2	7	7	26
Jul	8	5	12						10	10	2	47
Aug	12	4	8			1		3	10	15	7	60
Sep	9	3	5					3	5	4	3	32
Oct	1							3	2	4		10
Nov		1						2	1			4
Dec												
Total	36	22	43	4	0	1	0	12	31	55	37	241



Interesting that there are no records of this seal in 2016 and 2018 and only a single record in 2017.

SCF20 Mask was identified 37 times between 09/04/2022 and 18/09/2022. As an adult female, she visits Mounts Bay in the summer to feed, then moves away to have her pup. She hasn't been identified anywhere else so it could be that she returns post pupping, but we have no winter records.

SC215 Coral SL100 white tag



Coral was rescued as a 3-week-old pup, from Millook Beach near Bude, on 15th September 2021. The British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) marine mammal medics found her with wounds and an eye injury.

After a few days in the hospital at the Cornish Seal Sanctuary, a decision was made to remove her injured right eye

Coral healed well and was soon able to feed herself and to swim.

She was released on 15th December 2021, on the north coast near Gunwalloe, after she reached a healthy weight of more than 30kg.

In 2022, Coral was first seen and recorded by Marine Discovery on 30th March 2022, and seen a further 32 times up to 11th October 2022.

SC215 Coral (white tag SL100)

	2023	
Jan		Mounts Bay West
Feb		
Mar	1	
Apr	5	
May	4	
Jun	7	
Jul	7	
Aug	4	
Sep	3	
Oct	1	
Nov		
Dec		
Total	32	



Photos: <https://www.sealsanctuary.co.uk/>

SCM101 Seaweed

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Jan				2			2
Feb							
Mar						1	1
Apr	6		1	1	1	3	12
May	7	2	2		4	5	20
Jun	5		1	3	5	3	17
Jul		1		2	5	10	18
Aug			3	4	7	5	19
Sep			1			3	4
Oct			1		1		2
Nov							
Dec			1				1
Total	18	3	10	12	23	30	96

When first seen in 2017, this seal was classified as a juvenile male but is now quite a handsome adult.

Seaweed has a been photographed underwater by swimmers at Mousehole and has been seen in Newlyn Harbour where he catches, or finds, fish and enjoys a good munch.



Mounts Bay West

SCM101 Seaweed was identified 30 times between 28/03/2022 and 22/08/2022.

SCF112 ET finger Pumpkin

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Jan							
Feb				1			1
Mar							
Apr					1	1	2
May				1	1		2
Jun	6	1			1	2	10
Jul			3	4	4	6	17
Aug	1		1	4	9	7	22
Sep			2	9	6	8	25
Oct	1		1				2
Nov							
Dec							
Total	8	1	7	19	22	24	81

When first seen in 2017, this seal was classified as a juvenile female but in 2020 she appeared to be pregnant so now classified as an adult.

Pumpkin is establishing a regular visit pattern.



Mounts Bay West

SCF112 Pumpkin was identified 24 times between 05/04/2022 and 23/09/2022.

SCF73 Suffolk

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Jan										
Feb										
Mar				1						1
Apr	1	2						1		4
May	5			1	1			2	2	11
Jun	1		1	4				1	2	9
Jul	3					1	8	2	8	22
Aug	3			1		2	3	6	5	20
Sep							4	3	3	10
Oct										
Nov						1				1
Dec										
Total	13	2	1	7	1	4	15	15	20	78



A well patterned adult female, Suffolk continues to return to this location.



Mounts Bay West

SCF73 Suffolk was identified 20 times between 10/05/2022 and 23/09/2022.

SCF111 Backward J

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Jan							
Feb			2				2
Mar							
Apr							
May							
Jun							
Jul			1	7	1	3	12
Aug	1			5	6	3	15
Sep			6	3			9
Oct				1	1	1	3
Nov		1		1			2
Dec					1		1
Total	1	1	9	17	10	6	44



Pentire
West Cornwall
St Ives Bay
West Penwith North
Mounts Bay West

This female seal is a traveller. She spends some time each year in Mounts Bay; she has been seen in Newlyn Harbour as well as on the haul out.

She travels round to the north coast in the winter; occasionally seen and identified in and around West Cornwall but also spotted further north at Pentire, just south of Newquay, in January 2023.

Thank you

To the Marine Discovery Team for continuing to monitor and record the seals in Mounts Bay West.
So much more information comes from being able to record the seals on the seaward side of the island.

To the Seal Group volunteers who processed the 2022 photos:
Andrea, Angela, Maddy, Shannon, Susan, Vera.