

NEPTUNE'S ARMY OF RUBBISH CLEANERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1174029

Details

Other names NARC

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-07-31

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 4 Richmond Crescent
Haverfordwest
Dyfed
SA61 1EH

Phone 07922423546

Email waveyjones73@gmail.com

Website <http://www.narcdiving.org.uk/>

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS, FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, TO PRESERVE AND IMPROVE THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN WEST WALES BY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:1) LOCATING, DOCUMENTING, RETRIEVING AND RESPONSIBLY DISPOSING OF UNDERWATER DEBRIS FROM THE SEA AND FRESHWATERS OF PEMBROKESHIRE AND WHERE APPLICABLE OTHER REGIONS USING VOLUNTEER DIVERS;2) COLLECTING DATA ON THE DISTRIBUTION, NATURE AND AMOUNT OF UNDERWATER DEBRIS AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS;3) SPREADING AWARENESS OF THE PRESENCE OF UNDERWATER MARINE LITTER AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS IT CAUSES;4) EDUCATING WATER USERS AND THE PUBLIC SO AS TO REDUCE THE INPUT OF DEBRIS TO THE SEA.

Activities: - Find, record and responsibly dispose of underwater litter from the sea/freshwaters of Pembrokeshire and when applicable other regions with volunteer divers;-Collect data on the distribution, nature and amount of underwater litter and its environmental impacts;-Spread awareness of the presence of marine litter and the environmental threats it causes;Educate the public to reduce marine litter;

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Pembrokeshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£8,459	£10,862	-	-
2023-12-31	£7,594	£11,307	-	-
2022-12-31	£7,747	£13,307	-	-
2021-12-31	£22,377	£7,126	-	-
2020-12-31	£8,686	£2,978	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
DAVID KENNARD	Chair	2017-07-31
BLAISE BULLIMORE		2017-07-31
Charlotte Roch		2022-08-25
David Jones		2017-07-31
Miles Alistair McLaren Bettridge		2019-07-24

NEPTUNE'S ARMY OF RUBBISH CLEANERS

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Accounts



ON ALMOST EVERY DIVE NARC RELEASES ENTANGLED MARINE WILDLIFE



LOST LOBSTER POTS IN SKOMER MARINE NATURE RESERVE



OUR RECORD IS 730 ANGLING WEIGHTS IN 1 DIVE AT STACKPOLE QUAY



THE DIVERSITY OF LITTER IS STAGGERING. WE HAVE EVEN FOUND THE KITCHEN SINK!

NEPTUNE’S ARMY OF RUBBISH CLEANERS

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Winner of “Most Admired Voluntary Organisation in Wales”



Neptune’s Army of Rubbish Cleaners (NARC) is an award winning registered charity, made up of volunteer divers with a passion for keeping the underwater world litter free. Since 2005, the group has carried out over 2000 underwater clean-up dives and been involved in a number of educational and awareness raising projects.



1. INTRODUCTION

This annual report has been produced to provide a progress update on 2023, provide a background to NARC and highlight our work since 2005. The report covers our underwater clean-up events, our efforts in raising awareness of marine litter, other work, and our collaborative future plans. The finance section is included, primarily for our funders but also to demonstrate what can be achieved with modest funding and huge volunteer effort.

1.1 ABOUT US

While the impacts of litter washed up or left on our shoreline can easily be seen, the same cannot be said for marine litter that is below the surface of the ocean. NARC is a voluntary group of divers and non divers with a passion for keeping the underwater environment litter free. Since its inception in 2005 by local diver Dave Kennard and Keep Wales Tidy, the group has carried over 2000 underwater clean-ups and a number of awareness raising events. This makes NARC the longest, most active underwater clean-up group in the UK.

NARC can be found at a number of sites along the coastline throughout the diving season, collecting litter that is often having a negative impact on the habitat and the wildlife it supports. Divers descend in buddy pairs armed with scissors, bags, trays, lifting bags and a great belief in what they are doing. Dives can last almost an hour in which litter is collected, bagged and sent to the surface for retrieval by a support boat.

The diversity of litter found on dives is staggering with mobile phones, shopping trolleys, bicycles, revolving chairs, skate boards, batteries and quite literally the kitchen sink! Litter type is dependant on the diving location and aim e.g. mainly angling litter at popular angling spots, commercial fishing equipment when working with local fishermen and fly tipped litter where there is easy access to estuarine locations.

The impacts upon wildlife are only too apparent with fishing line often cut from spider crabs and lobsters, dog fish released from hooks and lost crab pots ghost fishing. The litter can also be a hazard to divers and other water users. Once retrieved the various items are cleaned, sorted, recorded and recycled where possible.

1.2 THE BENEFITS

The group is doing its best to reduce the amount of litter in the underwater environment. By removing foreign objects from the sea bed NARC helps make the underwater environment a cleaner and safer place for wildlife and other water users. We believe the following benefit from NARC's actions:

Helping to keep the underwater world litter free since 2005



NARC have carried out over 2000 clean-up events. We have worked with angling coaches to develop tackle tips leaflets aimed at reducing tackle loss and regularly work with local fishers to locate and return fishing gear.

- Marine wildlife - less entanglement potential/ decrease in potential ghost fishing from lost commercial fishing gear
- Bathers - less sharp and entangling hazards
- Divers - less entanglement hazards from lost line, ropes, nets
- Leisure craft users - Less chance of entanglement to propellers etc
- Anglers - a reduction in seabed litter decreases the chance of further entanglement
- Commercial fisher - retrieval of lost gear and less impact upon fishery

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Two of the pictures below show a seafan covered in lost angling line which had been trapped by a discarded soft drink can. The second shows it after fifteen minutes effort to cut it free of lost line.



2. RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT UNDERWATER LITTER

NARC was formed by concerned divers who had become aware of the increasing amount of litter they found underwater and the damage caused to marine habitats and wildlife. Whilst also carrying out underwater clean-up events the group are always looking for proactive ways to limit the amount of marine litter.

Raising awareness of the issue is an important part of the work.

Since its inception NARC has:

- Produced leaflets which are available from most dive centres in Pembrokeshire
- Keeps a project website updated with data, information and news – www.narcdiving.org.uk/
- Given multiple educational talks about marine litter to community groups and schools
- Visited Ireland, to promote the idea to Irish dive clubs
- Visited Greece and Sri Lanka to assist in international clean-up dives

- Produced 8 awareness raising videos
- Produced two ground breaking site specific leaflets providing visiting anglers with tackle tips on how to minimise tackle loss and underwater maps
- Assisted the Marine Conservation Society with the “hang on to your tackle campaign” sitting on the working group and providing advice on tackle bin placement
- Linked in with wider initiatives e.g. Ghost Fishing, Plastic Oceans, School projects, World Animal Protection
- Is a working group member of Global Ghost Gear Initiative
- Is a member of a Welsh Government Marine Litter Task Group

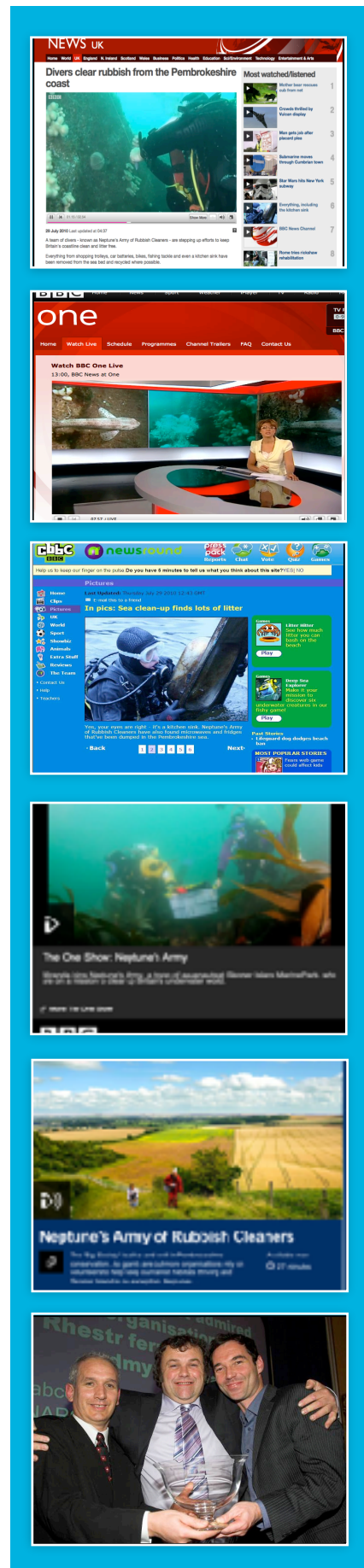
The group also uses local and national media to help raise awareness of marine litter and has had coverage on the BBC National UK news at ONE, BBC The One Show, BBC Countryfile, BBC Wild UK, HTV Coast and Country, HTV Welsh News, Newyddion, BBC Wales Today, BBC XRAY, Channel 4 Born to be Wild, BBC Wildlife Detectives, Sky News and a number of National radio stations and newspapers.

3. RECOGNITION OF NARC'S WORK

In its first year, NARC won the Beach Improvement category and the Peter Cambridge Trophy for voluntary organisations and schools working to improve their local environment in Keep Wales Tidy's Tidy Wales Awards 2006.

In 2009 NARC were voted the “Most Admired Voluntary Organisation in Wales” by the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action. This is one of the most prestigious awards for the voluntary sector.

In 2010 NARC were finalists in the Keep Wales Tidy Awards in the “Long Term Effort” category and in 2012 were chosen as one of 20 National projects to celebrate 20 years of Environment Wales.



Endorsements of NARC's work from NARC supporters

Sue Burton (Pembrokeshire Special Area of Conservation Officer)

"Not only are the members of NARC doing their individual bit to help make the marine environment a cleaner and more natural place to be, for themselves and fellow users (divers/fishermen.), but they are also improving the environment for the wildlife."

Simon Preddy (KEEP WALES TIDY)

"NARC has made an invaluable contribution to the Pride in Our Communities project within Pembrokeshire. They have raised the awareness of the problem of fly-tipping around our waterways and undertaken activities to clean up the mess. The divers have willingly and consistently given their time to help improve our local environment."

John, Local Fisher

"I have been collaborating with NARC for a number of years now and we have worked together multiple times to help find and recover gear which is helping the environment and our fishery."

Mark, Local Fisher

"NARC have assisted me on a number of occasions and inspired me to look at a number of adaptations to my gear to ensure any impacts from lost gear are minimised."

Chrysanthos Chormpas and George Spyropoulos Loutraki Divers, Greece

"We loved diving with the volunteers from Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners. After seeing so much debris and man-made litter under the sea here in Greece, we knew we had to do something to help. The team from Wales has shared their experience with us and we know this is only the beginning of a great unique partnership."

Fiona Howie, Campaign for National Parks Chief Executive

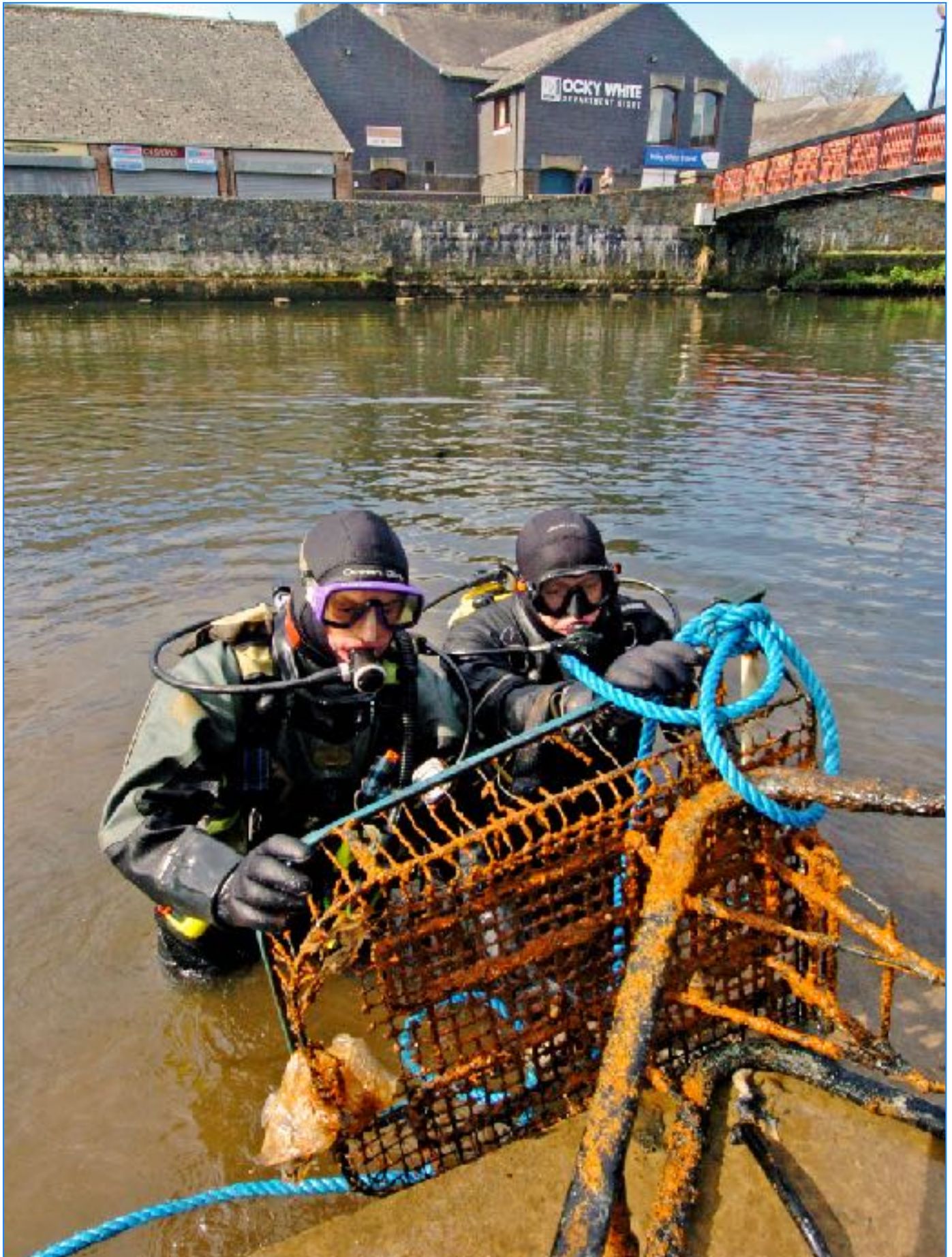
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Kate Lock (Skomer Marine Conservation Zone)

"NARC volunteers do a superb job of clearing the sea bed of litter including miles of angling line, bucket loads of lead weights and fishing pots. The litter if not cleared kills and damages marine life. In the Skomer Marine Conservation Zone we are particularly grateful of the efforts of NARC where the quantities of lost tackle below popular angling sites is of concern."

David Jones, (Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum & NARC Secretary)

"As someone who not only enjoys and appreciates the marine environment in my spare time I'm lucky in that my career involves me in Coastal Management. Marine policy and projects can take a long time to develop, where the outputs and outcomes are often time consuming and difficult. One of the many things I love about volunteering with NARC is that your work is instant, gratifying and really does make a difference. In just one dive you can free entangled wildlife and improve the habitat. I'm really proud of our partnership working, especially with the Welsh Federation of Angling Coaches in producing site specific tackle tips leaflets for anglers."



4. 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Pembrokeshire Marine SAC – April 15 & 16th

6 volunteers.

Hen & Chicks – 2 volunteers – 1 metre viz = nothing found.

Brandy Bay – 2 volunteers – 1 metre viz = 1 lobster pots. Animals released = 5 crabs.

Soldier Rock – 6 volunteers – 2 metre viz = 13 lobster pots / 30m of rope. Animals released = 6 lobsters / 12 edible crab / 1 ballan wrasse / 5 velvet swimming crabs

Stackpole Quay & Barafundle – May 13th

7 volunteers.

Barafundle – 3 volunteers – 5 metre viz = 10 angling weights / 20 hooks – lures / 50 metres of angling line / 1 reel / disposable vape / 60 metres of plastic cord / 2 metre strip of aluminium. Animals released = 1 spider crab

Stackpole Quay – 4 volunteers – 6 metre viz = 50 weights / 64 hooks / 500 metres of angling line / 1 reel / 2 tin cans. Animals released = 2 spider crab

Skomer Marine Conservation Zone – May 14

10 volunteers.

Wooltack point – 8 volunteers – 5 metre viz = 50 weights / 68 hooks / 300 metres of line.

High Point – 4 volunteers – 5 metre viz = 6 lobster pots. Animals released = 8 edible crab / 16 spider crab

Milford Haven Waterway – May 25

7 volunteers.

Dakotian – 7 volunteers – 5m viz = 1 angling weight / 6 hooks / 100 metres of angling line / 100 metres of rope / 2 lost lobster pots / Electric cable. Animals released = 5 lobster / 8 edible crab.

Castle Head – 7 volunteers – 5m viz = 6 lobster pots. 100 metres of angling line / 30 metres of rope / 5 plastic bottles / boom plate / plastic handle. Animals released = 6 lobsters / 13 edible crab / 8 spider crab / 1 ballan wrasse

Skomer Marine Conservation Zone – May 26

6 volunteers

High Point – 6 volunteers – 6 metre = 48 metres of rope / 13 lobster pots. Animals released = 7 lobsters / 13 edible crab / 32 spider crab / 1 fish.

Skomer Marine Conservation Zone & St Brides Bay – June 24

The Douglas – 5 volunteers – 2 metre viz = 1 lobster pot / 25 metres of rope.

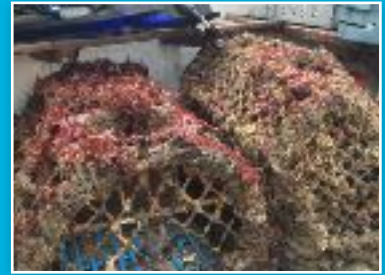
Stack Rock – 3 volunteers – 2 metre viz = 1 bait box.

Low Point – 4 volunteers – 5 metre viz = 45 weights / 45 hooks / 550 metres of rope.

Milford Haven Waterway – June 25

6 volunteers.

The Collier – 2 volunteers – 1 metre viz = 3 angling weights / 5 hooks /



200 metres of angling line / 1 beer bottle / prawn pot insert / 16 metres of rope.

Stack Fort – 2 volunteers – 1 meter viz = 2 anchors / 5 metres of rope / 3 meters of chain / grapnel hook

Skomer Marine Conservation Zone and Milford Waterway – August 26

8 volunteers.

South Skomer Pinnacles – 3 volunteers – 6 metre viz = 1 lobster pot. Animals released = 4 lobsters / 8 spider crab / 6 edible crab / 1 Bullhuss

The Collier – 4 volunteers – 6 metre viz = 25 metres of rope / 20 metres of net / 1 lobster pot. Animals released = 3 edible crab / 1 ballan wrasse

Behar – 4 volunteers – 6 metre viz = 3 lobster pots / 30 metres of rope. Animals released = 6 edible crab / 1 Bullhuss / 1 Rockling / 1 lobster

Castle Head – 2 volunteers – 6 metre viz = 2 lobster pots / 20 metres of rope. Animals released = 1 lobster / 4 edible crab / 4 velvet swimming crab

Stackpole Quay & Milford Haven Waterway Aug 27

7 volunteers.

Stackpole Quay – 7 volunteers – 8 metre viz = 80 angling weights / 105 hooks / 1000 metres of line / 4 cans / 1 bottle

The Collier – 2 volunteers – 5 metre viz = 1 lobster pots / 30 metres of rope. Animals released = 3 lobster / 3 velvet swimming crabs / 1 rockling

Skomer Marine Conservation Zone & Milford Haven Waterway Sept 9

6 volunteers.

Wooltack Point – 2 volunteers – 4 metre viz = 11 weights / 21 hooks and lures / 4 metres of rope / 200m of angling line

Lockshiel – 2 volunteers – 2 metre viz = 20 metres of rope / 200m angling line / 3 lobster pots. Animals released = 1 lobster

The Collier – 2 volunteers – 3 metre viz = 1 lobster pot

Skomer Marine Conservation Zone – October 23

6 volunteers.

Low Point – 6 volunteers – 4 metre viz = 180 angling weights / 184 hooks / 1600 metres of angling line / Umbrella / 5 bottles / 6 cans / sunglasses

2024 Totals

We dived at 26 dive sites and recovered 4.8 kilometers of monofilament angling line; 430 lead weights; over 500 hooks; 300 metres of rope and over 50 lobster pots. We released over 200 marine animals.

4.1 OTHER WORK IN 2024

Displayed boards and information at a number of events.

Continue to contribute to the International network on ghost fishing.

Increased education work with schools throughout the year.



5. PROJECT FINANCES

5.1 Income

Funder	Amount
Balance Jan 2024	£11691.74
Donations	£8458.88
Total Amount	£12540.62

5.2 Expenditure

Service	Amount
Boat Hire	£9950
Insurance	£645.06
Publicity and Marketing	£0
Equipment	£207
Misc (Bank Charges)	£90
Total Amount	£10,862.06
Balance Dec 2024	£9288.56

Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners Trustees 2023. Registered charity number: 1174029

Registered address 4 Richmond Crescent, Haverfordwest, Wales, SA61 1EH

NARC trustees for 2023: David Kennard, (Chairman) / David Jones, (Secretary) / Blaise Bullimore, (Data Officer) / Andy Davies, (Treasurer) / Miles Bettridge / Mari Williams / Mark Collins

The NARC constitution can be viewed on the website <http://www.narcdiving.org.uk/other-stuff/policies/constitution/> which details how the trustees manage the CIO. Potential trustees can be nominated or self-nominated for a term of 2 years passed by a resolution at a convened trustee meeting.

Annual Report by David Jones

6. PLANS FOR 2025

We hope this report shows our existing sponsors the value of NARC’s work and how their contributions are actioned throughout the year.

NARC plans to celebrate its 20th year with a continued programme of clean-up events and to continue our collaboration with local fishermen. There will be an update and reprint of the tackle tips leaflets aimed at being proactive in reducing lost tackle using education and a website refresh.

NARC will continue to raise awareness of marine litter and its impacts using associated social media platforms and continue to collect and add underwater footage to our library.

Clean-up events	Education and awareness	New schemes
10 events booked with more TBC	Reprint angling tackle tips leaflets and new general leaflet	Update awareness raising videos
Funded dives to recover lost commercial fishing gear	Update website with images and video rich improvement	Work with other initiatives around the UK
	Continue to increase social media and communications. Work with schools	ID relevant recycling projects, particularly for monofilament line

7. THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The group would like to thank all the sponsors, funders and members of the public who donated money and support in 2024.

Lastly and most importantly many, many thanks to all the NARC volunteers who freely give up their time for this good cause. Thanks to everyone for another fantastic year!





N.A.R.C.
NEPTUNE'S ARMY OF RUBBISH CLEANERS
Helping to keep the underwater world litter free.

UNDERWATER CLEAN UP IN OPERATION

BT N.A.R.C. SOYAL FATFACE FOUNDATION

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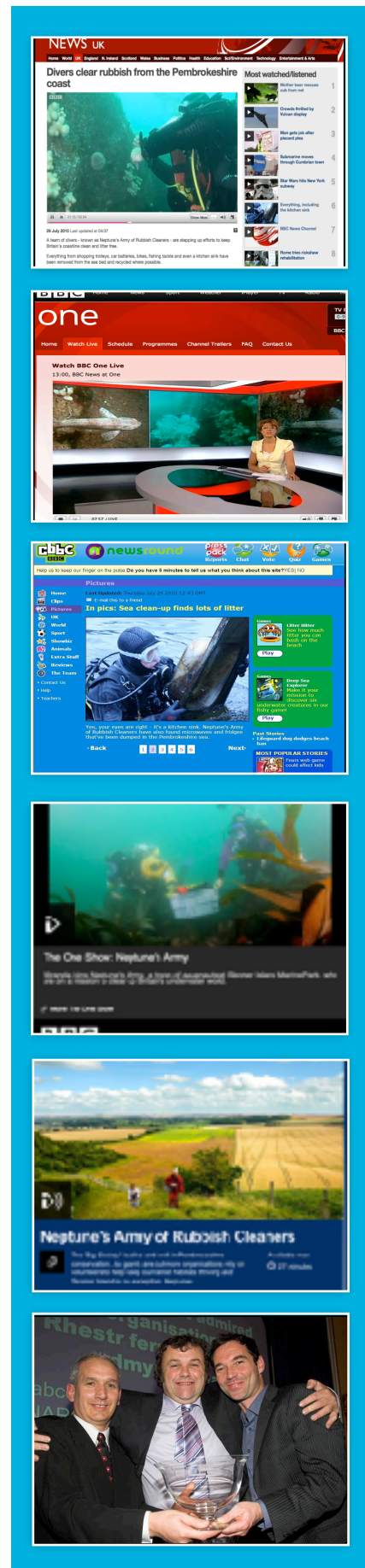
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Stack Rock – 3 volunteers – 2 metre viz = 1 bait box.

Low Point – 4 volunteers – 5 metre viz = 45 weights / 45 hooks / 550 metres of rope.

Milford Haven Waterway – June 25

6 volunteers.

The Collier – 2 volunteers – 1 metre viz = 3 angling weights / 5 hooks /



200 metres of angling line / 1 beer bottle / prawn pot insert / 16 metres of rope.

Stack Fort – 2 volunteers – 1 meter viz = 2 anchors / 5 metres of rope / 3 meters of chain / grapnel hook

Skomer Marine Conservation Zone and Milford Waterway – August 26

8 volunteers.

South Skomer Pinnacles – 3 volunteers – 6 metre viz = 1 lobster pot. Animals released = 4 lobsters / 8 spider crab / 6 edible crab / 1 Bullhuss

The Collier – 4 volunteers – 6 metre viz = 25 metres of rope / 20 metres of net / 1 lobster pot. Animals released = 3 edible crab / 1 ballan wrasse

Behar – 4 volunteers – 6 metre viz = 3 lobster pots / 30 metres of rope. Animals released = 6 edible crab / 1 Bullhuss / 1 Rockling / 1 lobster

Castle Head – 2 volunteers – 6 metre viz = 2 lobster pots / 20 metres of rope. Animals released = 1 lobster / 4 edible crab / 4 velvet swimming crab

Stackpole Quay & Milford Haven Waterway Aug 27

7 volunteers.

Stackpole Quay – 7 volunteers – 8 metre viz = 80 angling weights / 105 hooks / 1000 metres of line / 4 cans / 1 bottle

The Collier – 2 volunteers – 5 metre viz = 1 lobster pots / 30 metres of rope. Animals released = 3 lobster / 3 velvet swimming crabs / 1 rockling

Skomer Marine Conservation Zone & Milford Haven Waterway Sept 9

6 volunteers.

Wooltack Point – 2 volunteers – 4 metre viz = 11 weights / 21 hooks and lures / 4 metres of rope / 200m of angling line

Lockshiel – 2 volunteers – 2 metre viz = 20 metres of rope / 200m angling line / 3 lobster pots. Animals released = 1 lobster

The Collier – 2 volunteers – 3 metre viz = 1 lobster pot

Skomer Marine Conservation Zone – October 23

6 volunteers.

Low Point – 6 volunteers – 4 metre viz = 180 angling weights / 184 hooks / 1600 metres of angling line / Umbrella / 5 bottles / 6 cans / sunglasses

2023 Totals

We dived at 26 dive sites and recovered 4.8 kilometers of monofilament angling line; 430 lead weights; over 500 hooks; 300 metres of rope and over 50 lobster pots. We released over 200 marine animals.

4.1 OTHER WORK IN 2023

Displayed boards and information at a number of events.

Continue to contribute to the International network on ghost fishing.

Increased education work with schools throughout the year.



5. PROJECT FINANCES

5.1 Income

Funder	Amount
Balance Jan 2023	£15404.74
Donations	£7593.59
Total Amount	£22998.33

5.2 Expenditure

Service	Amount
Boat Hire	£9750
Insurance	£645.06
Publicity and Marketing	£458.52
Equipment	£363.01
Misc (Bank Charges)	£90
Total Amount	£11306.59
Balance Jan 2022	£11691.74

Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners Trustees 2023. Registered charity number: 1174029

Registered address 4 Richmond Crescent, Haverfordwest, Wales, SA61 1EH

NARC trustees for 2023: David Kennard, (Chairman) / David Jones, (Secretary) / Blaise Bullimore, (Data Officer) / Andy Davies, (Treasurer) / Miles Bettridge / Mari Williams / Mark Collins

The NARC constitution can be viewed on the website <http://www.narcdiving.org.uk/other-stuff/policies/constitution/> which details how the trustees manage the CIO. Potential trustees can be nominated or self-nominated for a term of 2 years passed by a resolution at a convened trustee meeting.

Annual Report by David Jones

6. PLANS FOR 2024

We hope this report shows our existing sponsors the value of NARC’s work and how their contributions are actioned throughout the year.

NARC plans to celebrate its 19th year with a continued programme of clean-up events and to continue our collaboration with local fishermen. There will be an update and reprint of the tackle tips leaflets aimed at being proactive in reducing lost tackle using education and a website refresh.

NARC will continue to raise awareness of marine litter and its impacts using associated social media platforms and continue to collect and add underwater footage to our library.

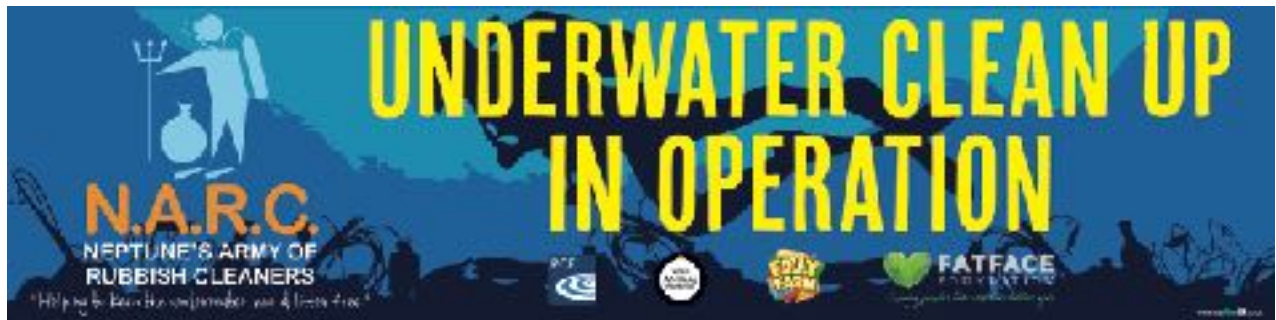
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10 events booked with more TBC	Reprint angling tackle tips leaflets and new general leaflet	Update awareness raising videos
Funded dives to recover lost commercial fishing gear	Update website with images and video rich improvement	Work with other initiatives around the UK
	Continue to increase social media and communications. Work with schools	ID relevant recycling projects, particularly for monofilament line

7. THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The group would like to thank all the sponsors, funders and members of the public who donated money and support in 2023.

Lastly and most importantly many, many thanks to all the NARC volunteers who freely give up their time for this good cause. Thanks to everyone for another fantastic year!







NEPTUNE'S ARMY OF RUBBISH CLEANERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1174029

Accounts



ON ALMOST EVERY DIVE NARC RELEASES ENTANGLED MARINE WILDLIFE



LOST LOBSTER POTS IN SKOMER MARINE NATURE RESERVE



OUR RECORD IS 730 ANGLING WEIGHTS IN 1 DIVE AT STACKPOLE QUAY



THE DIVERSITY OF LITTER IS STAGGERING. WE HAVE EVEN FOUND THE KITCHEN SINK!

NEPTUNE’S ARMY OF RUBBISH CLEANERS

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Winner of “Most Admired Voluntary Organisation in Wales”



Neptune’s Army of Rubbish Cleaners (NARC) is an award winning registered charity, made up of volunteer divers with a passion for keeping the underwater world litter free. Since 2005, the group has carried out over 2000 underwater clean-up dives and been involved in a number of educational and awareness raising projects.



1. INTRODUCTION

This annual report has been produced to provide a progress update on 2022, provide a background to NARC and highlight our work since 2005. The report covers our underwater clean-up events, our efforts in raising awareness of marine litter, other work, and our collaborative future plans. The finance section is included, primarily for our funders but also to demonstrate what can be achieved with modest funding and huge volunteer effort.

1.1 ABOUT US

While the impacts of litter washed up or left on our shoreline can easily be seen, the same cannot be said for marine litter that is below the surface of the ocean. NARC is a voluntary group of divers and non divers with a passion for keeping the underwater environment litter free. Since its inception in 2005 by local diver Dave Kennard and Keep Wales Tidy, the group has carried over 2000 underwater clean-ups and a number of awareness raising events. This makes NARC the longest, most active underwater clean-up group in the UK.

NARC can be found at a number of sites along the coastline throughout the diving season, collecting litter that is often having a negative impact on the habitat and the wildlife it supports. Divers descend in buddy pairs armed with scissors, bags, trays, lifting bags and a great belief in what they are doing. Dives can last almost an hour in which litter is collected, bagged and sent to the surface for retrieval by a support boat.

The diversity of litter found on dives is staggering with mobile phones, shopping trolleys, bicycles, revolving chairs, skate boards, batteries and quite literally the kitchen sink! Litter type is dependant on the diving location and aim e.g. mainly angling litter at popular angling spots, commercial fishing equipment when working with local fishermen and fly tipped litter where there is easy access to estuarine locations.

The impacts upon wildlife are only too apparent with fishing line often cut from spider crabs and lobsters, dog fish released from hooks and lost crab pots ghost fishing. The litter can also be a hazard to divers and other water users. Once retrieved the various items are cleaned, sorted, recorded and recycled where possible.

1.2 THE BENEFITS

The group is doing its best to reduce the amount of litter in the underwater environment. By removing foreign objects from the sea bed NARC helps make the underwater environment a cleaner and safer place for wildlife and other water users. We believe the following benefit from NARC's actions:

Helping to keep the
underwater world
litter free since 2005



NARC have carried out
over 2000 clean-up
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- Marine wildlife - less entanglement potential/ decrease in potential ghost fishing from lost commercial fishing gear
- Bathers - less sharp and entangling hazards
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Two of the pictures below show a seafan covered in lost angling line which had been trapped by a discarded soft drink can. The second shows it after fifteen minutes effort to cut it free of lost line.



2. RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT UNDERWATER LITTER

NARC was formed by concerned divers who had become aware of the increasing amount of litter they found underwater and the damage caused to marine habitats and wildlife. Whilst also carrying out underwater clean-up events the group are always looking for proactive ways to limit the amount of marine litter.

Raising awareness of the issue is an important part of the work.

Since its inception NARC has:

- Produced leaflets which are available from most dive centres in Pembrokeshire
- Keeps a project website updated with data, information and news – www.narcdiving.org.uk/
- Given multiple educational talks about marine litter to community groups and schools
- Visited Ireland, to promote the idea to Irish dive clubs
- Visited Greece and Sri Lanka to assist in clean-up dives

- Produced 8 awareness raising videos
- Produced two ground breaking site specific leaflets providing visiting anglers with tackle tips on how to minimise tackle loss and underwater maps
- Assisted the Marine Conservation Society with the “hang on to your tackle campaign” sitting on the working group and providing advice on tackle bin placement
- Linked in with wider initiatives e.g. Ghost Fishing, Plastic Oceans, School projects, World Animal Protection
- Is a working group member of Global Ghost Gear Initiative
- Is a member of a Welsh Government Marine Litter Task Group

The group also uses local and national media to help raise awareness of marine litter and has had coverage on the BBC National UK news at ONE, BBC The One Show, BBC Countryfile, BBC Wild UK, HTV Coast and Country, HTV Welsh News, Newyddion, BBC Wales Today, BBC XRAY, Channel 4 Born to be Wild, BBC Wildlife Detectives, Sky News and a number of National radio stations and newspapers.

3. RECOGNITION OF NARC'S WORK

In its first year, NARC won the Beach Improvement category and the Peter Cambridge Trophy for voluntary organisations and schools working to improve their local environment in Keep Wales Tidy's Tidy Wales Awards 2006.

In 2009 NARC were voted the “Most Admired Voluntary Organisation in Wales” by the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action. This is one of the most prestigious awards for the voluntary sector.

In 2010 NARC were finalists in the Keep Wales Tidy Awards in the “Long Term Effort” category and in 2012 were chosen as one of 20 National projects to celebrate 20 years of Environment Wales.

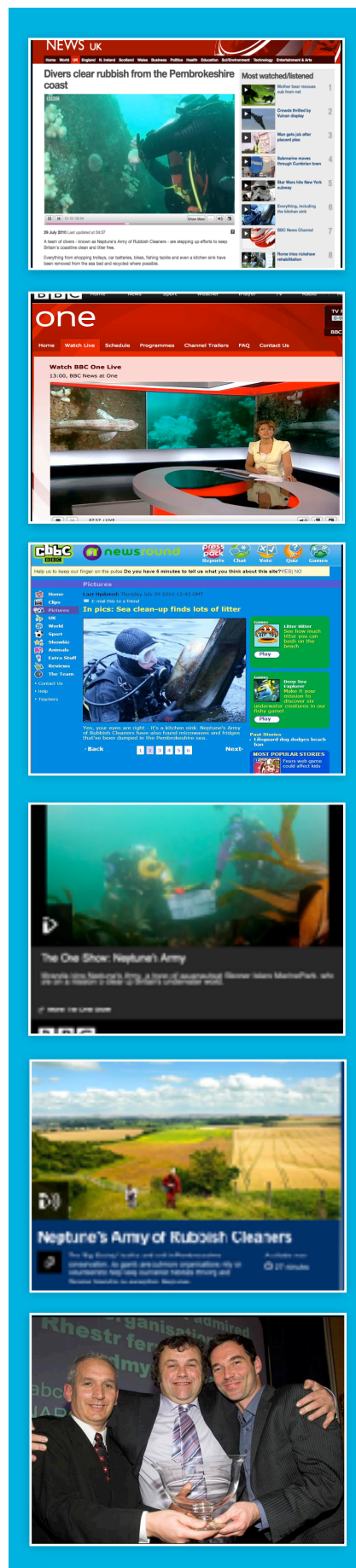
Endorsements of NARC's work from NARC supporters

Sue Burton (Pembrokeshire Special Area of Conservation Officer)

"Not only are the members of NARC doing their individual bit to help make the marine environment a cleaner and more natural place to be, for themselves and fellow users (divers/fishermen.), but they are also improving the environment for the wildlife."

Simon Preddy (KEEP WALES TIDY)

"NARC has made an invaluable contribution to the Pride in Our Communities project within Pembrokeshire. They have raised the awareness of the problem of fly-tipping around our waterways



and undertaken activities to clean up the mess. The divers have willingly and consistently given their time to help improve our local environment."

John, Local Fisher

"I have been collaborating with NARC for a number of years now and we have worked together multiple times to help find and recover gear which is helping the environment and our fishery."

Mark, Local Fisher

"NARC have assisted me on a number of occasions and inspired me to look at a number of adaptations to my gear to ensure any impacts from lost gear are minimised."

Chrysanthos Chormpas and George Spyropoulos Loutraki Divers, Greece

"We loved diving with the volunteers from Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners. After seeing so much debris and man-made litter under the sea here in Greece, we knew we had to do something to help. The team from Wales has shared their experience with us and we know this is only the beginning of a great unique partnership."

Fiona Howie, Campaign for National Parks Chief Executive

"We have had some excellent, innovative projects which have shown how working in partnership with others can have a real and lasting positive impact on communities across our National Parks. Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners is tackling an unglamorous and largely unseen but very harmful blight on the littoral fringes of a coastal park."

Kate Lock (Skomer Marine Conservation Zone)

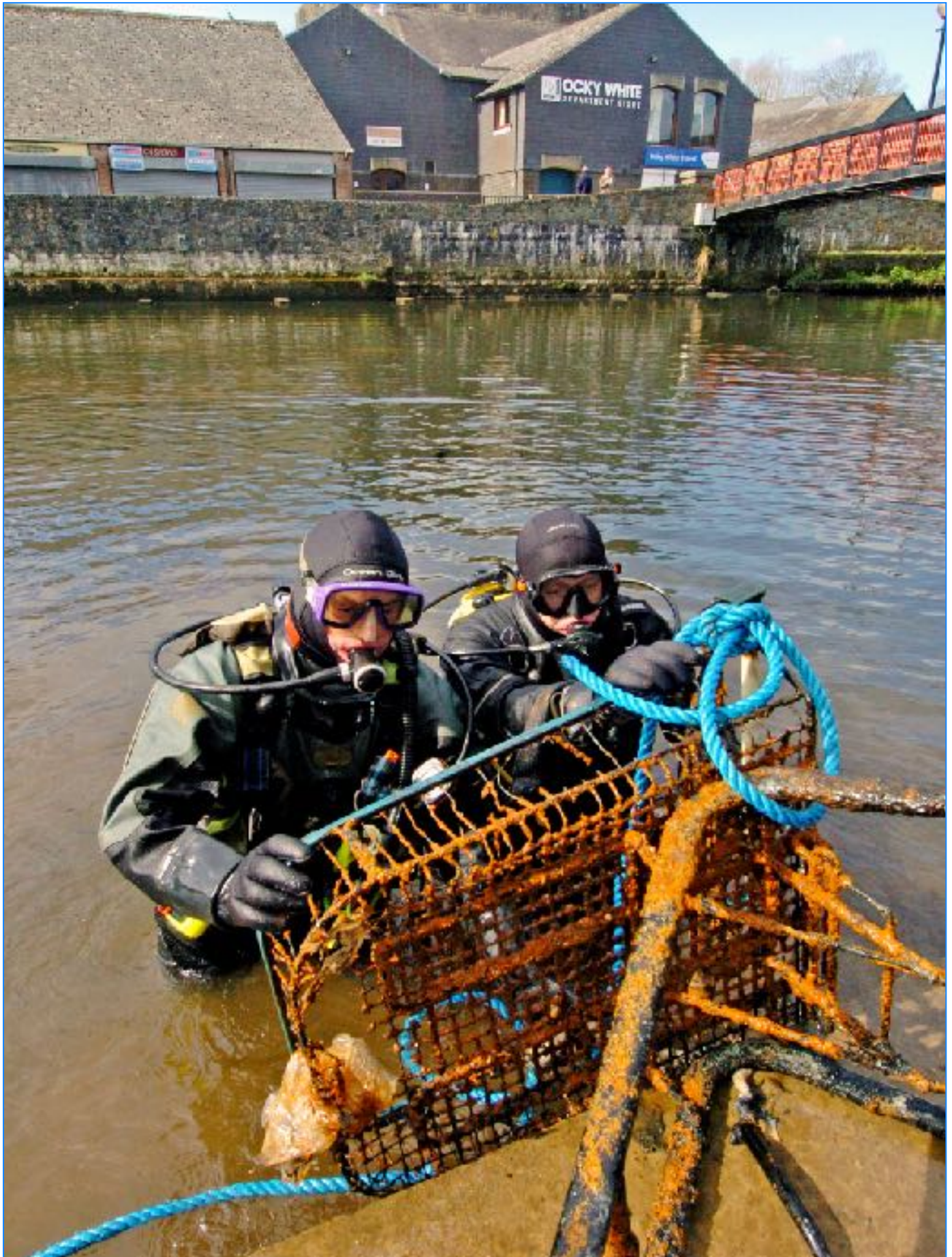
"NARC volunteers do a superb job of clearing the sea bed of litter including miles of angling line, bucket loads of lead weights and fishing pots. The litter if not cleared kills and damages marine life. In the Skomer Marine Conservation Zone we are particularly grateful of the efforts of NARC where the quantities of lost tackle below popular angling sites is of concern."

Gill Bell (Marine Conservation Society)

"NARC has been very supportive of M.C.S. activities within Wales and in addition to promoting marine conservation, B.A.P. species recording and sustainable fishing through the Good Fish Guide, they have also carried out underwater clean surveys as part of the M.C.S. Beachwatch weekends"

David Jones, (Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum & NARC Secretary)

"As someone who not only enjoys and appreciates the marine environment in my spare time I'm lucky in that my career involves me in Coastal Management. Marine policy and projects can take a long time to develop, where the outputs and outcomes are often time consuming and difficult. One of the many things I love about volunteering with NARC is that your work is instant, gratifying and really does make a difference. In just one dive you can free entangled wildlife and improve the habitat. I'm really proud of our partnership working, especially with the Welsh Federation of Angling Coaches in producing site specific tackle tips leaflets for anglers."



4. 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Stackpole Quay and Milford Haven SAC – April 9

8 volunteers.

Stackpole Quay – 6 volunteers – 1 metre viz = 128 angling weights / 3 lures / 25 metres of angling line.

Castle Head – 2 volunteers – 1 metre viz = 2 lobster pots. Animals released = 9 edible crabs.

Soldier Rock – 2 volunteers – 1 metre viz = rope and buoy.

Skomer Marine Conservation Zone – April 10

8 volunteers.

Wooltack Point – 8 volunteers – 2 metre viz = 36 angling weights / 2 lures / 25 metres of angling line.

Low Point – 6 volunteers – 2 metre viz = 109 weights / 28 hooks.

Milford Haven Waterway SAC – May 23

6 volunteers.

Soldier Rock – 2 volunteers – 6 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = Nothing found.

Butts Bay – 2 volunteers – 10 metre viz – dive time of 40 mins = 4 lost lobster pots and rope. Animals released = 3 lobster / 3 edible crab

South Hook pt – 2 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 20 mins = 2 lobster pots.

Collier Wreck – 2 volunteers = 2 lobster pots. Animals released = 3 edible crab / 8 spider crabs.

Skomer Marine Conservation Zone – May 24

6 volunteers.

Rye Rocks – 6 volunteers = 8 lost lobster pots and rope. Animals released = 3 lobster / 4 edible crab / 8 spider crab

North Haven – 4 volunteers = 2 lobster pots. Animals released = 6 spider crab



Skomer Marine Conservation Zone & Milford Haven SAC – June 22

Low Point – 9 volunteers – 5 metre viz – dive time of 55 mins = 50 weights / 66 hooks / 1 bottle / 550 metres of line. Animals released = 1 crab / 1 fish

Thorn Island – 3 volunteers – 5 metre viz – dive time of 30mins = 1 lobster pot / 20m rope. Animals released = 8 edible crab

Longoar Bay – 3 volunteers – 5 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 lobster pots

Great Castle Head – 2 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 30 mins = 2 lobster pots. Animals released = 3 edible crab / 3 lobster / 1 spider crab.

Milford Haven SAC – June 23

Mill Bay – 3 volunteers – 10 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 lobster pot / 25 metres of rope. Animals released = 1 lobsters / 2 edible crab / 3 spider crab Animals deceased 2 wrasse

Wury Bay – 5 volunteers – 5 metre viz – dive time of 55 mins = 13 lobster pots / 500 metres of rope. Animals released = 2 lobsters / 15 edible crab / 30 spider crab / 1 bullhuss

Milford Haven SAC – July 20

6 volunteers.

Dale Fort – 3 volunteers = Nothing found.

South Hook Pt – 3 volunteers – dive time of 40 mins = 2 lobster pots / 25m rope. Animals released = 1 lobsters / 1 spider crab.

South Hook Pt – 3 volunteers – dive time of 40 mins = 1 lobster pot. Animals released = 1 lobsters / 3 spider crab / 2 edible crab.

Stack fort – 2 volunteers = 7 metres of rope

Milford Haven SAC – July 21

7 volunteers.

Caroline Wreck – 3 volunteers – 1 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 3 lobster pots. Animals released = 2 lobsters / 8 spider crab / 3 edible crab / 1 conger eel / 1 bib

NW Angle Pen – 2 volunteers – 2 metre viz = nothing found

NW Angle Pen – 3 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 lobster pot. Animals released = 1 lobster / 4 edible crab

Dale Fort – 4 volunteers – 2 metre viz – dive time of 60 mins = 1 angling weight

Skomer Marine Conservation Zone & Milford Haven SAC – July 27

7 volunteers.

Low Point – 7 volunteers – 2 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 25 angling weights / 4 hooks / 200 metres of line

Great Castle Head – 4 volunteers – 2 metre viz = 5 lobster pots / 30 metres of rope / boat anchor / plastic pieces

Chapel Bay – 3 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 fishing reel

Stackpole & Milford Haven SAC – August 6

8 volunteers.

Stackpole Quay – 8 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 12 weights / 6 hooks and lures / 5 metres of rope / 150m of angling line

Dale Fort – 2 volunteers – 2 metre viz = plastic pipe / plate / flare case / steel bar

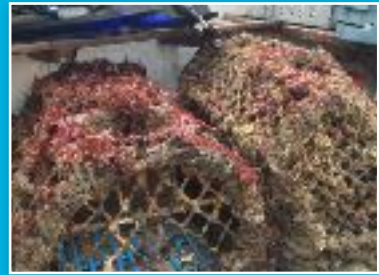
Dakotian – 2 volunteers – 3 metre viz = 1m lead pipe

Skomer Marine Conservation Zone & Milford Haven SAC – August 7

8 volunteers.

Thorn Point – 6 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 3 lobster pots / 20m of rope. Animals released = 3 lobsters / 8 spider crab / 2 edible crab / 1 cat shark

Castle Head – 2 volunteers – 2 metre viz – dive time 45 mins = 4 lobster pots / 25m of rope Animals released = 1 lobsters / 2 spider crab



4.1 OTHER WORK IN 2022

Displayed boards and information at a number of events.

Continue to contribute to the International network on ghost fishing.

Created and launched a new website.

Increased education work with schools throughout the year.



5. PROJECT FINANCES

5.1 Income

Funder	Amount
Balance Jan 2022	£20959
Donations	£7747
Total Amount	£28706

5.2 Expenditure

Service	Amount
Boat Hire	£8870
Insurance	£645
Publicity and Marketing	£1610
Equipment	£2114
Misc (Bank Charges)	£67.40
Total Amount	£13307
Balance Jan 2022	£15399

Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners Trustees 2022. Registered charity number: 1174029

Registered address 4 Richmond Crescent, Haverfordwest, Wales, SA61 1EH

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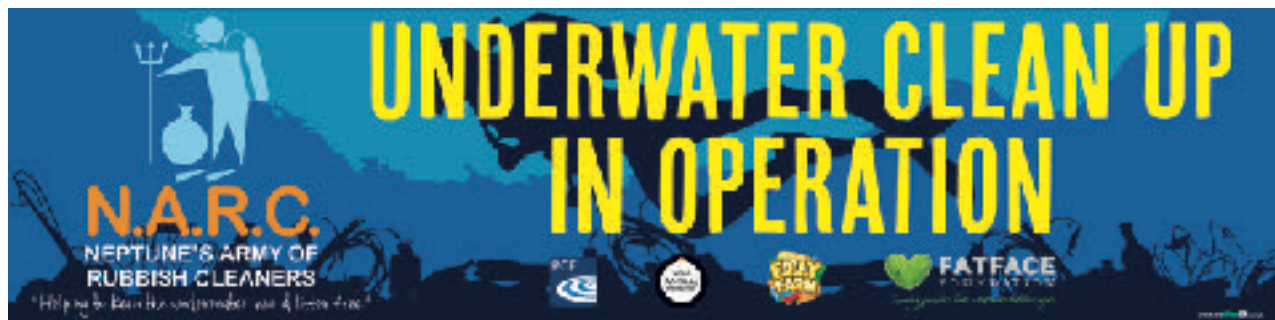
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Clean-up events	Education and awareness	New schemes
10 events booked with more TBC	Reprint angling tackle tips leaflets and new general leaflet	Update awareness raising videos
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NEPTUNE'S ARMY OF RUBBISH CLEANERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1174029

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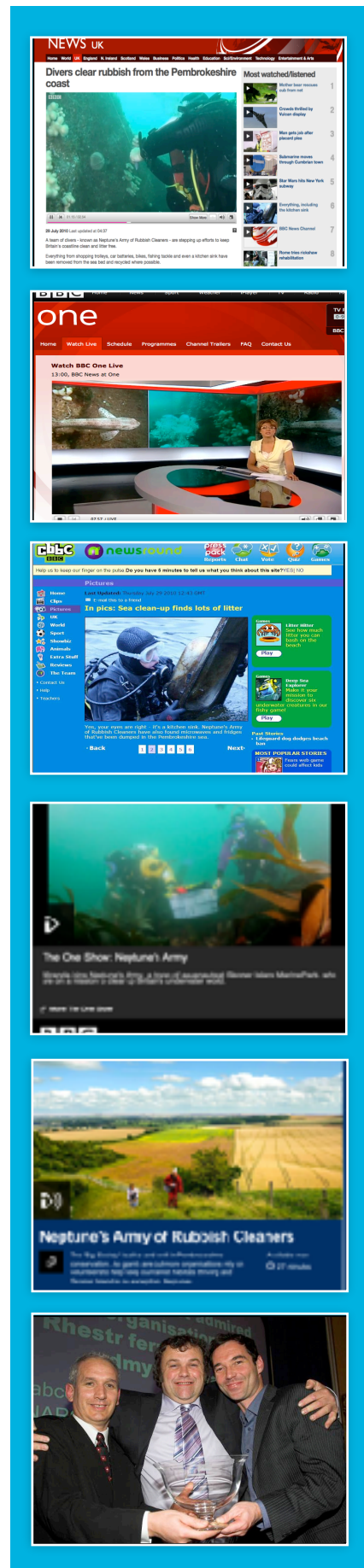
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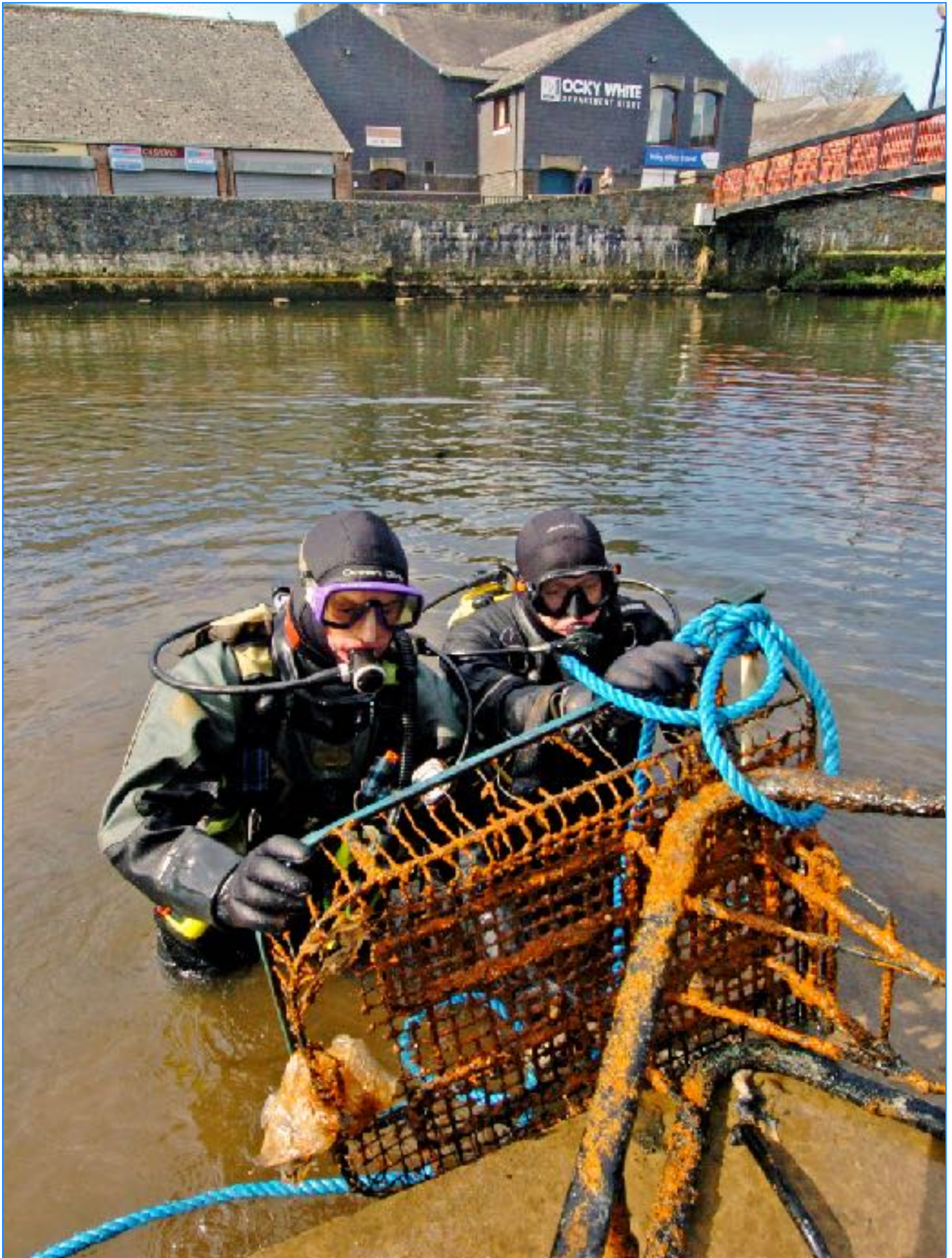
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"NARC has been very supportive of M.C.S. activities within Wales and in addition to promoting marine conservation, B.A.P. species recording and sustainable fishing through the Good Fish Guide, they have also carried out underwater clean surveys as part of the M.C.S. Beachwatch weekends"

David Jones, (Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum & NARC Secretary)

"As someone who not only enjoys and appreciates the marine environment in my spare time I'm lucky in that my career involves me in Coastal Management. Marine policy and projects can take a long time to develop, where the outputs and outcomes are often time consuming and difficult. One of the many things I love about volunteering with NARC is that your work is instant, gratifying and really does make a difference. In just one dive you can free entangled wildlife and improve the habitat. I'm really proud of our partnership working, especially with the Welsh Federation of Angling Coaches in producing site specific tackle tips leaflets for anglers."



4. 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Skomer MCZ – June 3rd

Departed Dale with 8 volunteers. **Wooltack Point** – 4 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 sac / 1 tyre / 10 angling weights / 6 hooks 4m x 2.5m of netting found on reef. **Low Point** – 4 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 28 weights / 23 hooks / 100 metres of monofilament line / 1 can / 1 bottle. Animals released = 1 spider crab. **Soldier Rock** – 2 volunteers – 1 metre viz – 1 lobster pot. Animals released = 2 spider crab. **Chapel Bay** – 4 volunteers – 1 metre – 2 lobster pots / Animals released = 6 spider crab / 1 lobster. **Collier Wreck** – 3 volunteers – 1 meter viz – 2 lobster pots / 1 prawn pot / Animals released = 2 spider crab / 1 lobster / 1 brown crab.

Tusker Rock & Milford Haven – June 4

8 volunteers. **Mill Bay** – 4 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 10 lobster pots. Animals released = 3 brown crab / 1 lobster / 16 spider crab. **Castlehead** – 5 volunteers – 2 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 9 lobster pots. Animals released = 12 spider crab / 1 Ballan Wrasse / 4 scorpion fish

Ramsey Island and Milford Haven Waterway – June 19

8 volunteers headed out to look for pots reported by local fishers. **Dale Fort** – 4 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 12 angling weights / copper cable / 1 glass bottle / 1 pint glass / 1 keep pot. **Castle Head** – 4 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 lobster pot / 6 plastic cable pieces / metal cable / fibreglass pieces. Animals released = 5 spider crabs. **Ramsey Wrecks** – 4 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 angling weight. **Stack Rocks** – 4 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 part of lobster pot.

Milford Haven Waterway – June 20

8 volunteers working with local fishers. **West Blockhouse** – 2 volunteers – 2 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 3 lobster pots / 3 pot boys / 200 metres of rope. Animals released = 2 Lobsters / 1 Spider Crab. **The Thor Wreck** – 4 volunteers – 2 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 fuel filter / 20 metres of rope. **West Angle Bay** – 4 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 lobster pots / 1 end weight / 1 buoy / 30 metres of rope. Animals released = 1 Lobsters / 3 spider crabs.



Hobbs Point – June 24

As part of the Western Eco Tour NARC dived with 16 volunteers at Hobbs Point. **Hobbs Point** – 16 volunteers – 2 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 shopping trolley / 1 large keep net / 1 small mesh keep bag / 14 angling weights / 12 hooks / 2 spark plugs / 1 battery / 1 mobile phone / 100 metres of angling line / ceramic plates / 2 drink cans / 4 green drums / 1 scooter.

St Brides Bay July 17

10 volunteers. **Caerbwdy** – 4 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 2 metres or rope. **The Cradle** – 5 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 bottle top. **Soldier Rock** – 4 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = Nothing found. **Collier** – 4 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 mug.

Skomer MCZ & Milford Haven Waterway – July 18

10 volunteers working with local fishers. **Wooltack Point** – 4 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 28 weights / 13 hooks / 2 cans / broken rod tip / 50 metres of line. **West Hook** – 4 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 14 weights / 9 hooks. **Butts Bay** – 2 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 2 lobster pots. **Castlehead** – 2 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 4 lobster pots. **Stack Fort** – 4 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 3 lobster pots. Animals released = 1 spider crab / 2 lobsters / 1 velvet swimming crab.

Ramsey Island and East Hook – August 2

10 volunteers. **Moseley Wreck** – 2 volunteers – 5 metre viz – dive time of 60 mins = 1 lobster pot. Animals released = 2 lobsters. Animals deceased 2 wrasse. **Juncos Rock** – 4 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = Nothing Found. **East Hook** – 3 volunteers – 5 metre viz – dive time of 40 mins = 32 weights / 8 hooks / 1 rod and reel. **Pilot Boat Wreck** – 4 volunteers – 0 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = Lost pots found and doors opened to stop ghost fishing, could not be retrieved due to silt and bad conditions. **Castlehead** – 5 volunteers – 5 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 3 lobster pots / 55 metres of rope. Animals released = 2 lobsters / 1 velvet swimming crab.

Skokholm and Skomer MCZ – August 3

8 volunteers. **Skokholm SE Pinnacles** – 4 volunteers – 5 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = Located string of missing pots but did not lift. **Paris Rock** – 3 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 40 mins = Nothing found. **Garland Stone** – 2 volunteers – 5 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 5 pots. Animals released = 9 lobsters / 14 velvet swimming crab / 88 spider crab / 9 brown crab. **Landing Bay** – 7 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 40 mins = Nothing found

Milford Haven Waterway – August 19

8 volunteers and media crew. **Chapel Bay** – 3 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 230 metres of rope. **Chapel Bay** – 3 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 2 lobster pots / 1 can / 1 black bag. Animals released = 3 lobsters / 2 velvet swimming crab / 6 spider crab / 7 brown crab / 1 conger eel / 3 wrasse. **Behar** – 3 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 coil of plastic coated cable (15 metres). **Collier** – 3 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 lobster pots / 1 can / 2 bottles

Solva / Hen & Chicks – September 4

8 volunteers. Report of inkwell pots and lifted over 2 days. 9 on first day and 8 on the second day. **Solva/ Caer Bwdy/Green Scar** – 8 volunteers – 5 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = Nothing found. **Hen & Chicks (Stack Rock)** – 6 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 50 mins = 9 Inkwell Pots / 300 metres of rope. Animals released = 21 spider crab / 2 brown crab / 13 Velvet swimming crabs / 1 Conger Eel.

Hen & Chicks / Low Point – September 5

8 volunteers. **Low Point** – 5 volunteers – 6 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 32 hooks / 400 metres of angling line / 1 can / 2 spark plugs / 1 torch. **Hen & Chicks** – 2 volunteers – 6 metre viz – dive time of 30 mins = 1 angling weight / 1 hook / 2 metres of angling line / 1 lobster pot. Animals released = 1 spider crab. **Stack Rock** – 3 volunteers – 5 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 8 remaining Inkwell pots from 4th September/ 15 metres of rope and buoy. Animals released = 45 spider crab / 1 brown crab. **Sleepy Cove / Behar Reef** – 3 volunteers – 5 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 3 lobster pots / 250 metres of rope. Animals released = 2 lobster / 7 spider crab / 5 brown crabb / 1 bull huss.



A Summary of dive activity for 2021

Total sites dived = 45; Angling weights recovered = 173; Metres of monofilament line = 650; Lobster pots recovered = 74; Shellfish released = 298; Fish released = 15

4.1 OTHER WORK IN 2021

Displayed boards and information at a number of events.

Continue to contribute to the International network on ghost fishing, GGGI and became a working group member to exchange knowledge on worldwide solutions

Raised awareness through national media including Wonders of the Celtic Deep screened in Autumn 2021.

Increased education work with schools throughout the year.



5. PROJECT FINANCES

5.1 Income

Funder	Amount
Balance Jan 2021	£5708
Groundwork - Tesco Community Grant	£1000
Folly Farm	£1392
Economy	£250
Expedition Wet	£397
Postcode Community Trust	£9935
Donations	£9403
Total Amount	£22377

5.2 Expenditure

Service	Amount
Boat Hire	£6579
Insurance	£547
Publicity and Marketing	£0
Equipment and air fills (Donated HDS)	£0
Total Amount	£7126
Balance Jan 2022	£20959

Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners Trustees 2021. Registered charity number: 1174029

Registered address 4 Richmond Crescent, Haverfordwest, Wales, SA61 1EH

NARC trustees for 2021: David Kennard, (Chairman) / David Jones, (Secretary) / Ceri Jones, (Safety and Diving Officer) / Blaise Bullimore, (Data Officer) / Andy Davies, (Treasurer) / Miles Bettridge / Mari Williams / Mark Collins

The NARC constitution can be viewed on the website <http://www.narcdiving.org.uk/other-stuff/policies/constitution/> which details how the trustees manage the CIO. Potential trustees can be nominated or self-nominated for a term of 2 years passed by a resolution at a convened trustee meeting.

Annual Report by David Jones

6. PLANS FOR 2022

We hope this report shows our existing sponsors the value of NARC’s work and how their contributions are actioned throughout the year.

NARC plans to celebrate its 17th year with a continued programme of clean-up events and to continue our collaboration with local fishermen. There will be an update and reprint of the tackle tips leaflets aimed at being proactive in reducing lost tackle using education and a website refresh.

NARC will continue to raise awareness of marine litter and its impacts using associated social media platforms and continue to collect and add underwater footage to our library.

Clean-up events	Education and awareness	New schemes
10 events booked with more TBC	Reprint angling tackle tips leaflets and new general leaflet	Update awareness raising videos
Funded dives to recover lost commercial fishing gear	Update website with images and video rich improvement	Work with other initiatives around the UK
	Continue to increase social media and communications. Work with schools	ID relevant recycling projects, particularly for monofilament line

7. THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The group would like to thank all the sponsors, funders and members of the public who donated money and support in 2021.

This work has been made possible by an award from Postcode Community Trust, a grant-giving charity funded entirely by players of People's Postcode Lottery, Folly Farm, Tesco Community Bags for Life Funding, Groundwork and Expedition Wet.

Lastly and most importantly many, many thanks to all the NARC volunteers who freely give up their time for this good cause. Thanks to everyone for another fantastic year!





NEPTUNE'S ARMY OF RUBBISH CLEANERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1174029

Accounts



**ON ALMOST EVERY DIVE
NARC RELEASES
ENTANGLED MARINE
WILDLIFE**



**LOST LOBSTER POTS IN
SKOMER MARINE
NATURE RESERVE**



**OUR RECORD IS 730
ANGLING WEIGHTS IN 1
DIVE AT STACKPOLE
QUAY**



**THE DIVERSITY OF
LITTER IS STAGGERING.
WE HAVE EVEN FOUND
THE KITCHEN SINK!**

NEPTUNE’S ARMY OF RUBBISH CLEANERS

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Winner of “Most Admired Voluntary Organisation in Wales”



Neptune’s Army of Rubbish Cleaners (NARC) is an award winning registered charity, made up of volunteer divers with a passion for keeping the underwater world litter free. Since 2005, the group has carried out over 2000 underwater clean-up dives and been involved in a number of educational and awareness raising projects.



1. INTRODUCTION

This annual report has been produced to provide a progress update on 2020, provide a background to NARC and highlight our work since 2005. The report covers our underwater clean-up events, our efforts in raising awareness of marine litter, other work, and our collaborative future plans. The finance section is included, primarily for our funders but also to demonstrate what can be achieved with modest funding and huge volunteer effort.

1.1 ABOUT US

While the impacts of litter washed up or left on our shoreline can easily be seen, the same cannot be said for marine litter that is below the surface of the ocean. NARC is a voluntary group of divers and non divers with a passion for keeping the underwater environment litter free. Since its inception in 2005 by local diver Dave Kennard and Keep Wales Tidy, the group has carried over 1000 underwater clean-ups and a number of awareness raising events. This makes NARC the longest, most active underwater clean-up group in the UK.

NARC can be found at a number of sites along the coastline throughout the diving season, collecting litter that is often having a negative impact on the habitat and the wildlife it supports. Divers descend in buddy pairs armed with scissors, bags, trays, lifting bags and a great belief in what they are doing. Dives can last almost an hour in which litter is collected, bagged and sent to the surface for retrieval by a support boat.

The diversity of litter found on dives is staggering with mobile phones, shopping trolleys, bicycles, revolving chairs, skate boards, batteries and quite literally the kitchen sink! Litter type is dependant on the diving location and aim e.g. mainly angling litter at popular angling spots, commercial fishing equipment when working with local fishermen and fly tipped litter where there is easy access to estuarine locations.

The impacts upon wildlife are only too apparent with fishing line often cut from spider crabs and lobsters, dog fish released from hooks and lost crab pots ghost fishing. The litter can also be a hazard to divers and other water users. Once retrieved the various items are cleaned, sorted, recorded and recycled where possible.

1.2 THE BENEFITS

The group is doing its best to reduce the amount of litter in the underwater environment. By removing foreign objects from the sea bed NARC helps make the underwater environment a cleaner and safer place for wildlife and other water users. We believe the following benefit from NARC's actions:

Helping to keep the underwater world litter free since 2005



NARC have carried out over 2000 clean-up events. We have worked with angling coaches to develop tackle tips leaflets aimed at reducing tackle loss and regularly work with local fishers to locate and return fishing gear.

- Marine wildlife - less entanglement potential/ decrease in potential ghost fishing from lost commercial fishing gear
- Bathers - less sharp and entangling hazards
- Divers - less entanglement hazards from lost line, ropes, nets
- Leisure craft users - Less chance of entanglement to propellers etc
- Anglers - a reduction in seabed litter decreases the chance of further entanglement
- Commercial fisher - retrieval of lost gear and less impact upon fishery

It is not only the obvious marine wildlife such as seabirds and seals that benefit from less marine litter. Pink seafans are a warm water soft-coral at the northern limit of their geographical distribution in Pembrokeshire. They grow at less than 5mm per year and can live for over a hundred years. They are specially listed for conservation action in the Wildlife and Countryside Act and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Two of the pictures below show a seafan covered in lost angling line which had been trapped by a discarded soft drink can. The second shows it after fifteen minutes effort to cut it free of lost line.



2. RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT UNDERWATER LITTER

NARC was formed by concerned divers who had become aware of the increasing amount of litter they found underwater and the damage caused to marine habitats and wildlife. Whilst also carrying out underwater clean-up events the group are always looking for proactive ways to limit the amount of marine litter.

Raising awareness of the issue is an important part of the work.

Since its inception NARC has:

- Produced leaflets which are available from most dive centres in Pembrokeshire
- Keeps a project website updated with data, information and news – www.narcdiving.org.uk/
- Given multiple educational talks about marine litter to community groups and schools
- Visited Ireland, to promote the idea to Irish dive clubs
- Visited Greece and Sri Lanka to assist in clean-up dives

- Produced 8 awareness raising videos
- Produced two ground breaking site specific leaflets providing visiting anglers with tackle tips on how to minimise tackle loss and underwater maps
- Assisted the Marine Conservation Society with the “hang on to your tackle campaign” sitting on the working group and providing advice on tackle bin placement
- Linked in with wider initiatives e.g. Ghost Fishing, Plastic Oceans, School projects, World Animal Protection
- Working group member of Global Ghost Gear Initiative
- Member of a Welsh Government Marine Litter Task Group

The group also uses local and national media to help raise awareness of marine litter and has had coverage on the BBC National UK news at ONE, BBC The One Show, BBC Countryfile, BBC Wild UK, HTV Coast and Country, HTV Welsh News, Newyddion, BBC Wales Today, BBC XRAY, Channel 4 Born to be Wild, BBC Wildlife Detectives, Sky News and a number of National radio stations and newspapers.

3. RECOGNITION OF NARC'S WORK

In its first year, NARC won the Beach Improvement category and the Peter Cambridge Trophy for voluntary organisations and schools working to improve their local environment in Keep Wales Tidy's Tidy Wales Awards 2006.

In 2009 NARC were voted the “Most Admired Voluntary Organisation in Wales” by the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action. This is one of the most prestigious awards for the voluntary sector.

In 2010 NARC were finalists in the Keep Wales Tidy Awards in the “Long Term Effort” category and in 2012 were chosen as one of 20 National projects to celebrate 20 years of Environment Wales.

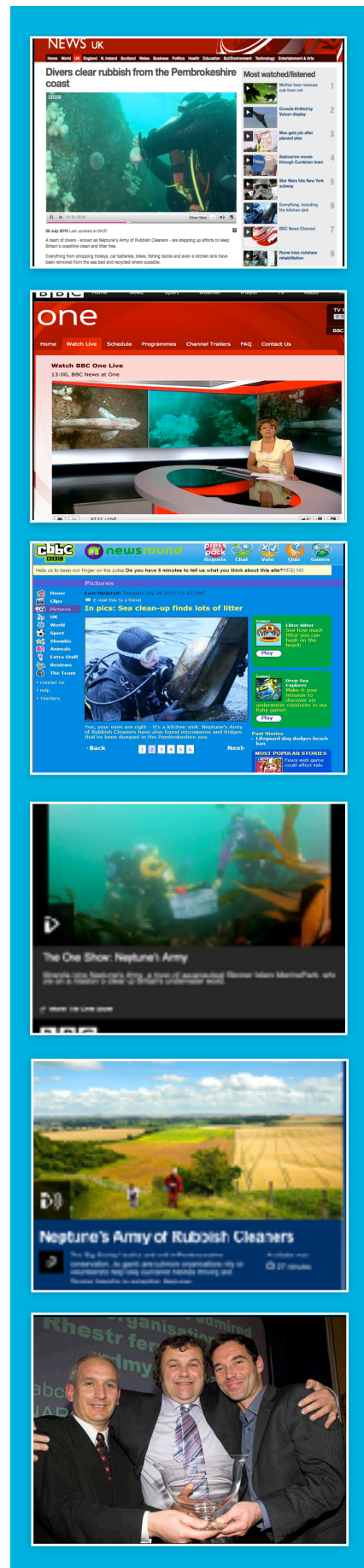
Endorsements of NARC's work from NARC supporters

Sue Burton (Pembrokeshire Special Area of Conservation Officer)

"Not only are the members of NARC doing their individual bit to help make the marine environment a cleaner and more natural place to be, for themselves and fellow users (divers/fishermen.), but they are also improving the environment for the wildlife."

Simon Preddy (KEEP WALES TIDY)

"NARC has made an invaluable contribution to the Pride in Our Communities project within Pembrokeshire. They have raised the awareness of the problem of fly-tipping around our waterways



and undertaken activities to clean up the mess. The divers have willingly and consistently given their time to help improve our local environment."

John, Local Fisher

"I have been collaborating with NARC for a number of years now and we have worked together multiple times to help find and recover gear which is helping the environment and our fishery."

Mark, Local Fisher

"NARC have assisted me on a number of occasions and inspired me to look at a number of adaptations to my gear to ensure any impacts from lost gear are minimised."

Chrysanthos Chormpas and George Spyropoulos Loutraki Divers, Greece

"We loved diving with the volunteers from Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners. After seeing so much debris and man-made litter under the sea here in Greece, we knew we had to do something to help. The team from Wales has shared their experience with us and we know this is only the beginning of a great unique partnership."

Fiona Howie, Campaign for National Parks Chief Executive

'We have had some excellent, innovative projects which have shown how working in partnership with others can have a real and lasting positive impact on communities across our National Parks. Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners is tackling an unglamorous and largely unseen but very harmful blight on the littoral fringes of a coastal park."

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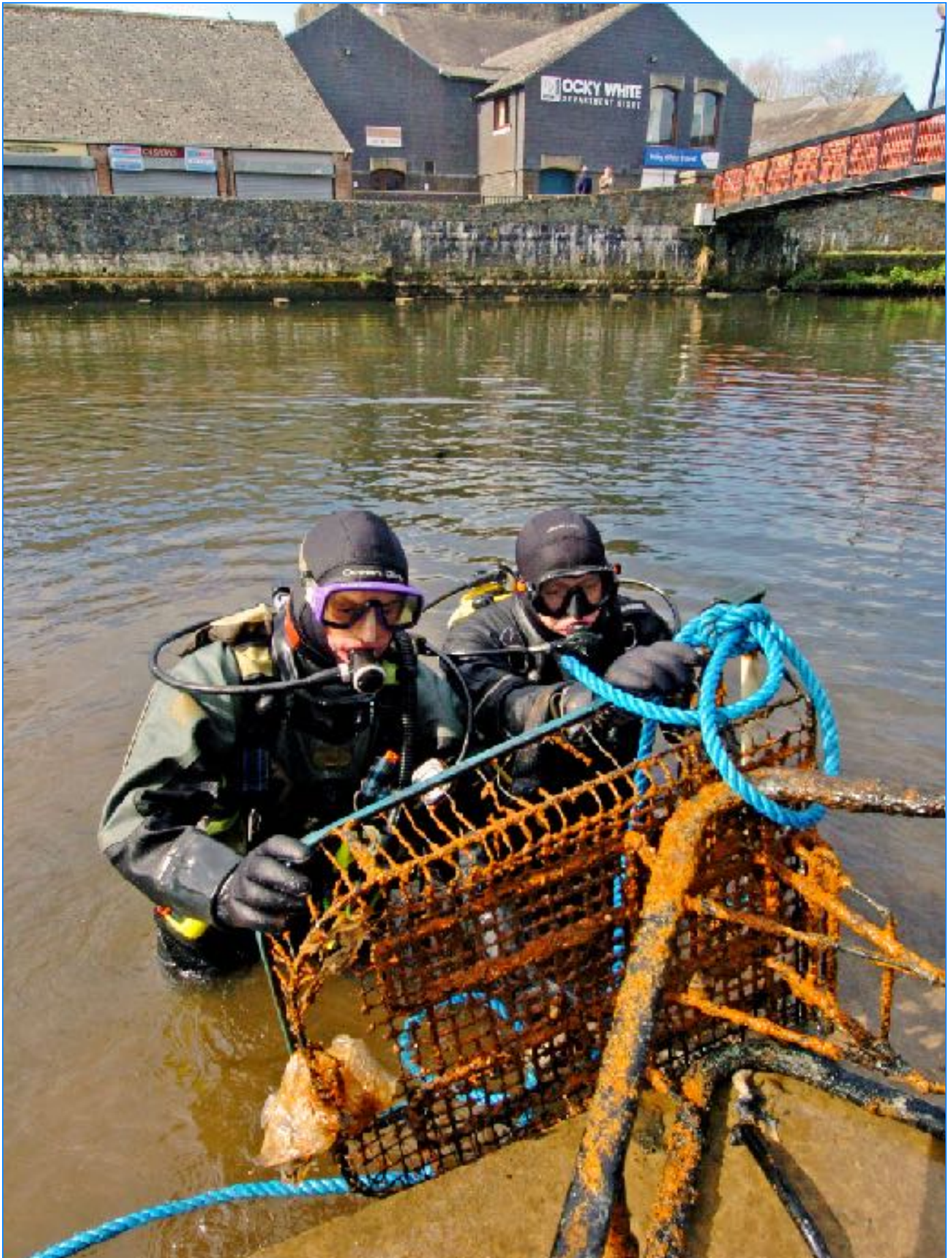
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4. 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Sri Lanka – April

NARC were honoured to be invited to Sri Lanka to carry out a number of clean-up and educational events. It was a fantastic 2 weeks and much warmer than our usual weather at the beginning of the diving year. Please note all volunteers contributed to their own travel costs and NARC funding was not used for the trip.

The 2020 was impacted significantly by COVID19 where only a limited number of dives were carried out. COVID guidance and risk assessments were followed during all clean-up dives.

Stackpole Quay & Milford Haven – August 15

Stackpole Quay – 4 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 4m x 2.5m of netting found on reef.

Collier – 6 volunteers – 2 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 182 weights / 50 hooks / 750 metres of monofilament line / 1 can / 1 bottle. Animals released = 1 ling.

Skomer Island Marine Conversation Zone – August 16

Low Point – 2 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 5 lobster pots returned to fisher. Animals released = 8 brown crab / 1 lobster / 1 bull huss.

Wooltack point – 2 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 lobster pot.

Skokholm island and Milford Haven Waterway – Sept 12

SE Skokholm – 2 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 lobster pot returned to fisher.

N Middleholm – 6 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 lobster pot returned to fisher.

Protheroes – 4 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 1 green plastic bottle / 1 cardboard box.

Dudley Pole – 6 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 2m long tube / 3 angling weights.

The Collier – 4 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 5 prawn pots / 4 lobster pots / 2 boat anchors / 3 pieces of netting / 6m of rope / 2 plastic bottles / 1 tennis ball. Animals released = 1 lobster / 1 pollack. Skomer MCZ and Milford Haven Waterway

Skomer Marine Conservation Zone and Milford Haven Waterway - Sept 13

South Mewstone – 2 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 10 lobster pots . Animals released = 4 Lobsters / 6 Brown Crab / 3 Spider Crab. Pots returned to Stevie James.

The Bury – 2 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = Nothing found.

The Behar – 7 volunteers – 3 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = 10 lobster pots. Animals released = 6 Lobsters / 5 Brown Crab. Pots returned to Neil Evans.

Behar Reef – 2 volunteers – 4 metre viz – dive time of 45 mins = Nothing found.

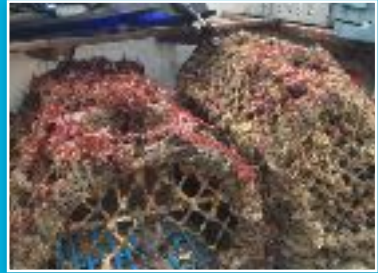


A Summary of dive activity for 2020

Total dives = 10; Angling weights recovered = 248; Metres of monofilament line = 1200; Lobster pots recovered = 15; Shellfish released = 15; Fish released = 4

4.1 OTHER WORK IN 2020

COVID19 had significant impact on NARC plans to attend events and raise awareness of marine litter.



5. PROJECT FINANCES

5.1 Income

Funder	Amount
Balance Jan 2020	£3296
Barti – Du	£1354
Donation	£1240
Folly Farm	£1750
Sea changers	£1000
Picton	£45
Total Amount	£8,686

5.2 Expenditure

Service	Amount
Boat Hire	£1650
Insurance	£547
Publicity and Marketing	£45
Equipment and air fills (Donated HDS)	£0
O2 Kit	£653
Peilicase	£82
Total Amount	£2,978
Balance Jan 2021	£5,708

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Registered address 4 Richmond Crescent, Haverfordwest, Wales, SA61 1EH

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NARC will continue to be an active member of Global Ghost Gear Initiative exploring solutions for what is a global issue.

NARC will continue to raise awareness of marine litter and its impacts using associated social media platforms.

Clean-up events	Education and awareness	New schemes
10 events booked with more TBC	Reprint angling tackle tips leaflets and new general leaflet	Update awareness raising videos
Funded dives to recover lost commercial fishing gear	Update website with images and video rich improvement	Work with other initiatives around the UK
	Continue to increase social media and communications. Work with schools	ID relevant recycling projects, particularly for monofilament line

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NARC would also like to thank Tim Gosling and all the dive clubs who kindly offer their ribs and divers.

Lastly and most importantly many, many thanks to all the NARC volunteers who freely give up their time for this good cause. Thanks to everyone for another fantastic year!





