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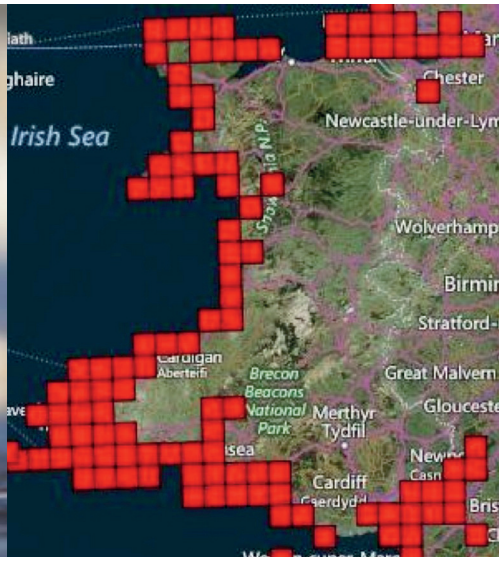


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Grey seal

Description and status

This large mammal spends most of its time out at sea where it feeds on fish. It is often found on rocky shores, although large colonies of grey seals breed on sandy shores. Their charismatic, fluffy white pups can be seen hauled out on beaches between October and December.

The pups remain on land being weaned by their mothers until they have moulted their white coats and trebled their birth weight. This only takes about 20 days from birth, at which point they head to the sea to hunt for themselves. The grey seal can be distinguished from the common seal by its larger size and longer head with a sloping 'roman nose' profile. As the name suggests they are mainly grey in colour, with darker blotches and spots.

Grey seals are the most commonly found in Welsh waters. 238 grey seal pups were born on Skomer Island alone in 2019.

Threats

Grey seals have historically suffered severely due to hunting by fishermen concerned about diminishing fish stocks, and their numbers have declined as a result. Thankfully, grey seal populations have increased due to a ban on shooting during the hunting season. The largest European population is found in the British Isles with approximately 4% breeding in Wales. Although protected, they still suffer from illegal shooting, pollution and disturbance when breeding.

Actions required

- Sustainable fisheries management to safeguard food.
- Effective management, monitoring and enforcement of terrestrial and Marine Protected Areas to safeguard critical habitat and prevent negative interactions with people.
- Legislation that aids the elimination of plastic litter infiltrating the marine environment, which can result in entanglement of marine life.

Species Champion



Samuel Kurtz MS
Party: Welsh Conservative
Region: Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire



More information

- Marine Conservation Society facts
- wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/marine/marine-mammals-and-sea-turtles/grey-seal

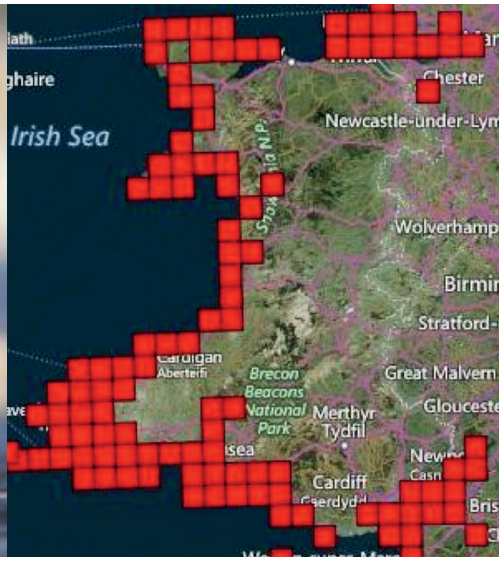
Lead member

MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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Pencampwr Rhywogaeth



Samuel Kurtz AS
Plaid: Ceidwadwyr Cymreig
Bro: Gorllewin Caerfyrddin a De Sir Benfro



Mwy o wybodaeth

- Marine Conservation Society facts
- wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/marine/marine-mammals-and-sea-turtles/grey-seal

Prif aelod

MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Morlo llwyd

Disgrifiad a statws

Mae'r mamal mawr yma'n treulio'r rhan fwyaf o'i amser yn y môr ble mae'n bwydo ar bysgod. Mae i'w ganfod yn aml ar lannau creigiog ond mae poblogaethau mawr o'r morlo llwyd yn magu ar draethau tywodlyd. Mae eu cŵn bach gwyn carismatig a blewog i'w gweld yn cael eu llusgo allan ar draethau rhwng misoedd Hydref a Rhagfyr.

Mae'r cŵn yn aros ar y tir yn cael eu diddyfnu gan eu mannau nes eu bod wedi bwrw eu cotiau gwyn ac wedi treblu eu pwysau geni. Dim ond am ryw 20 diwrnod ar ôl eu geni mae hyn yn para ac wedyn maent yn mynd allan i'r môr i hela drostynt eu hunain. Mae posib gwahaniaethu rhwng y morlo llwyd a'r morlo cyffredin gan fod y morlo llwyd yn fwy a gyda phen hirach, a'i 'drwyn Rhufeinig' ar ogwydd. Fel mae'r enw'n awgrymu, llwyd yw ei liw yn bennaf, gyda smotiau a blotiau tywyllach.

Morloi llwyd yw'r rhai mwyaf cyffredin yn nyfroedd Cymru. Ganwyd 238 o fabanod morloi llwyd ar Ynys Skomer yn unig yn 2019.

Bygythiadau

Yn hanesyddol mae morloi llwyd wedi dioddef yn ddifrifol oherwydd hela gan bysgotwyr sy'n bryderus am stociau pysgod yn lleihau, ac mae eu niferoedd wedi dirywio o ganlyniad. Diolch i'r drefn, mae poblogaethau'r morlo llwyd wedi cynyddu yn sgil y gwaharddiad ar eu saethu yn ystod y tymor hela. Mae'r boblogaeth Ewropeaidd fwyaf i'w chanfod ar Ynysoedd Prydain, gydag oddeutu 4% yn magu yng Nghymru. Er bod y morlo llwyd wedi'i warchod, mae'n dal i ddioddef oherwydd saethu anghyfreithlon, llygredd ac aflonyddwch wrth fagu.

Gweithredu angenrheidiol

- Rheolaeth gynaliadwy ar bysgodfeydd i ddiogelu bwyd.
- Rheoli, monitro a gorfodi effeithiol ar Ardaloedd Gwarchodedig ar y tir a'r môr i ddiogelu cynefin hanfodol ac i atal rhyngweithio negyddol gyda phobl.
- Deddfwriaeth sy'n cynorthwyo i ddileu sbwriel plastig sy'n ymdreiddio i'r amgylchedd morol, a all arwain at niweidio bywyd morol.

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