



# The Irish Sea Network



Sand mandala and photo credit: Simon Wheatley

# Irish Sea Day 2024

## Impact report

Thanks to funding from:



sea-changers

John Ellerman  
Foundation



Esmée  
Fairbairn  
FOUNDATION

The Irish Sea Network is a partnership of 10 Wildlife Trusts from around the Irish Sea, Northern Ireland Marine Task Force (NIMTF), Irish Wildlife Trust, and the Sustainable Water Network (SWAN) who have come together to improve our collective impact for nature.

1200

people  
engaged



through  
10  
events



across **6** nations  
including Isle of Man,  
Scotland, Wales, England,  
Republic of Ireland and  
Northern Ireland

415

wish fish

347 written at  
events & 68 online



# Irish Sea Day highlights



## Cross border collaboration

The Irish Sea Network collaborated on organising 10 events around the Irish Sea's coast: St Bees beach, Half Moon Bay, Chester, Talcre Beach and Flint Castle in England. New Quay and Holyhead in Wales. Isle of Man. Carlingford Lough covering both Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland. Port William in Scotland.



## Shared messages

We celebrated the Irish Sea while raising awareness of the the wonderful diversity of marine life within it, the connectivity of people and wildlife, the pressures on the marine environment and the need for stronger protection and management. We distributed joint resources (e.g. leaflets and key species fact sheets) to share these key messages.



## Connecting with the sea

People connected with the Irish Sea through rockpool rambles, guided coastal walks, snorkel safaris, sea kayak taster sessions, beach cleans, life sized basking shark modelling, Virtual Reality experience and much more.



## Engagement

We engaged approx. 1200 adults and children on Irish Sea Day. MPs were invited to the events to see why protecting the Irish Sea is so important. The MP for Morecambe and Lunesdale attended the event in Lancashire (England). On the Isle of Man, Lieutenant Governor & Lady Lorimer attended the event.



## Arts and games

The events were filled with marine themed arts & crafts and games, fancy dress parades, sand sculpture competitions, a sand mandala, and theatre and brass band performances.



## Citizen science and learning

People took part in citizen science through marine bioblitzs, marine mammal and seabird surveys and seaweed ID. There were opportunities for interactive learning about marine wildlife, talks on the Irish Sea's history and heritage and Marine Protected Areas.



## Wish fish

415 members of the public shared their wishes for the Irish Sea, writing them onto paper fish or uploading them to an online map, adding their voice to the growing school of wish fish.



## Media uptake

Social media leading up to and on the day reached 10,607 people. There was a live interview on BBC Radio Cumbria and Lancashire and we also spoke on Three FM & IoM Today



# The Irish Sea Network



Photo credit: Jack Bradshaw

# Wish fish

## Key themes

# Wish Fish

## Key themes

On Irish Sea Day

# 415\*

people from around the Irish Sea added their hopes for the Irish Sea to the school of wish fish

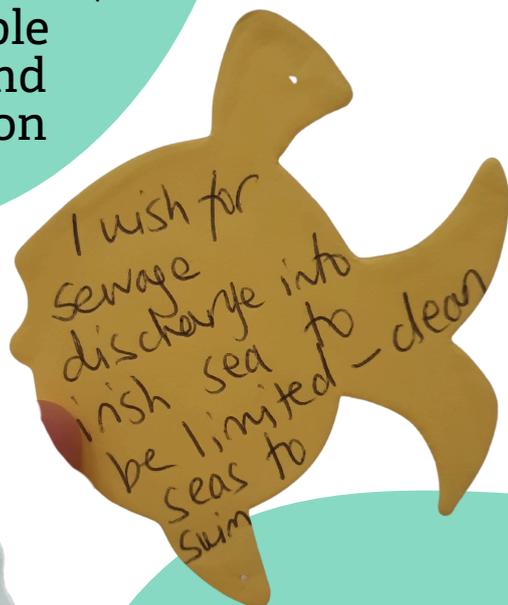
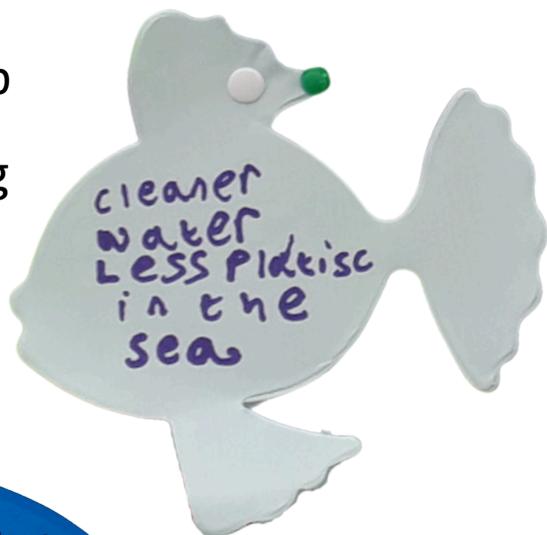


# 97

wishes for better protection including MPAs, sustainable fishing and restoration

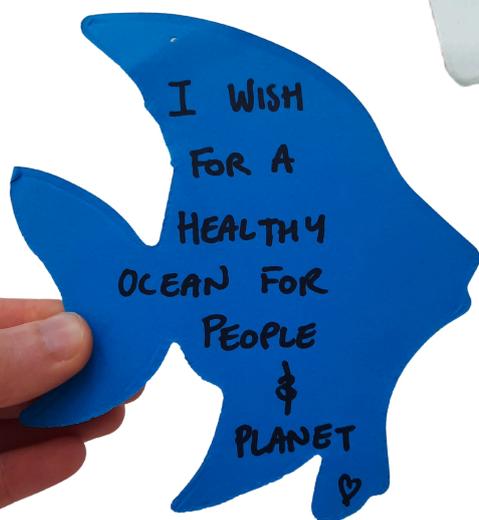
# 71

wishes to stop plastic and litter entering the sea



# 100

wishes for a cleaner Irish Sea and less pollution



# 79

wishes for more wildlife and healthier ecosystems



\*415 wish fish were collected in total from all events and online. Wishes from the Isle of Man were not categorised and therefore are not included in the key themes numbers. Some fish had multiple wishes and were counted in multiple categories. Where the handwriting or theme was unclear the wish was categorised as 'miscellaneous'