



The Big Rock Pool Challenge



Ben Holt

CEO & Co-Founder of The Rock Pool Project

20th November 2025

25th National Biodiversity Network Conference



Big Rock Pool Challenge

Why go Rock Pooling?



**Amazing
wildlife!**



What is the Big Rock Pool Challenge?

- **Community-driven** initiative combining to protect and celebrate **marine biodiversity**.



Supported by:



In partnership with:



Marine
Biological
Association

THE
**ROCK
POOL**
PROJECT

THE **BIG** ROCK POOL CHALLENGE

BioBlitz Battles!



European Green Crab

1



Velvet Swimming Crab

1



Hairy Porcelain Crab

1



Saint Piran's Hermit Crab

2

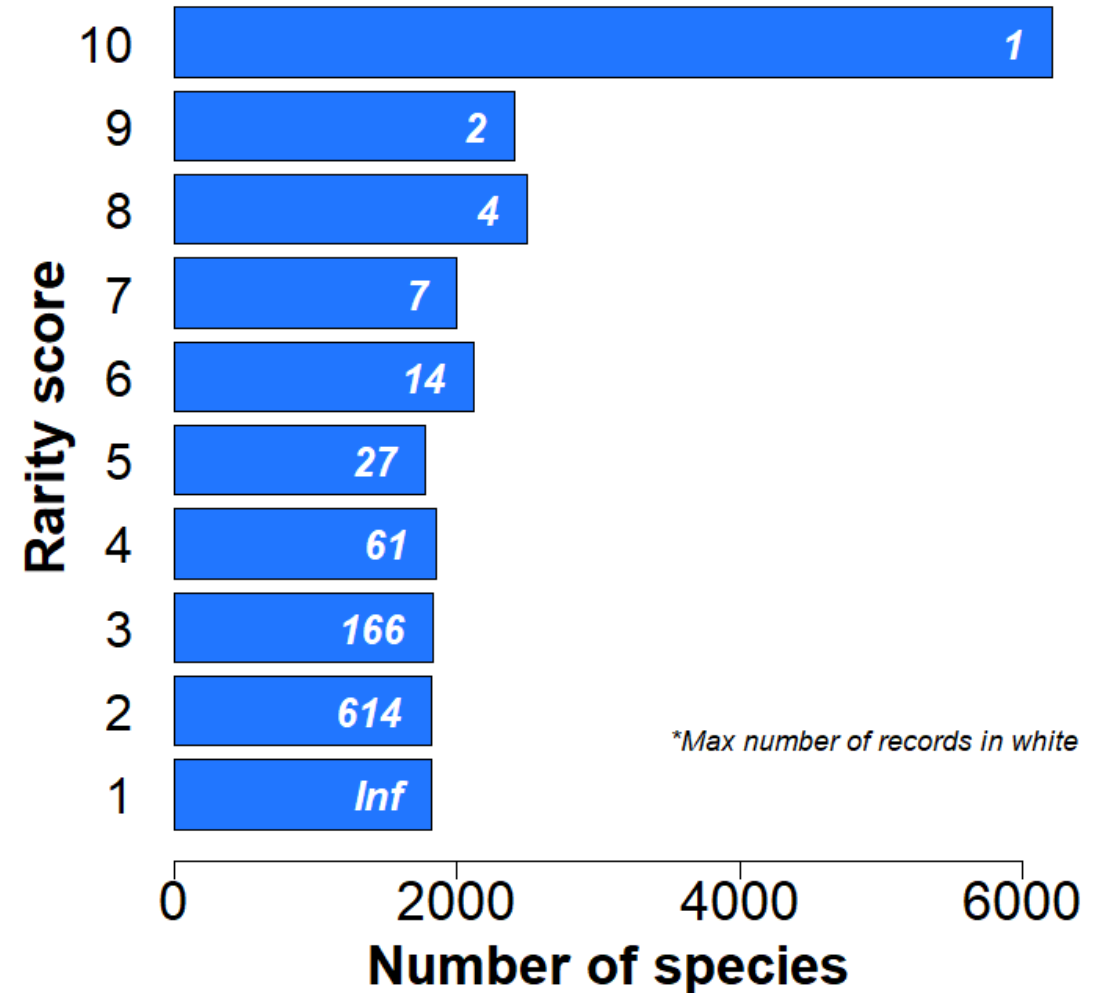


Arch-fronted Swimming Crab

4

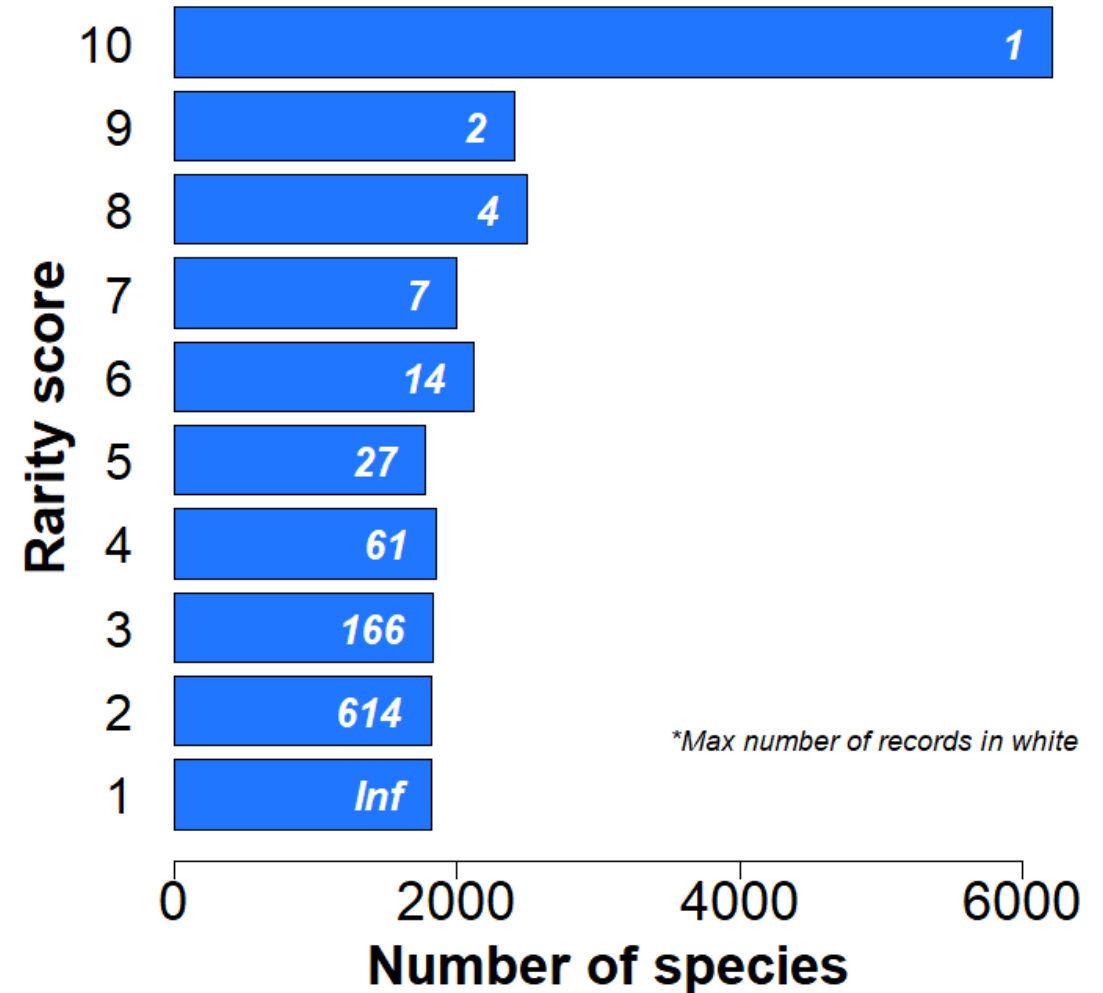


Calculating Rarity Scores



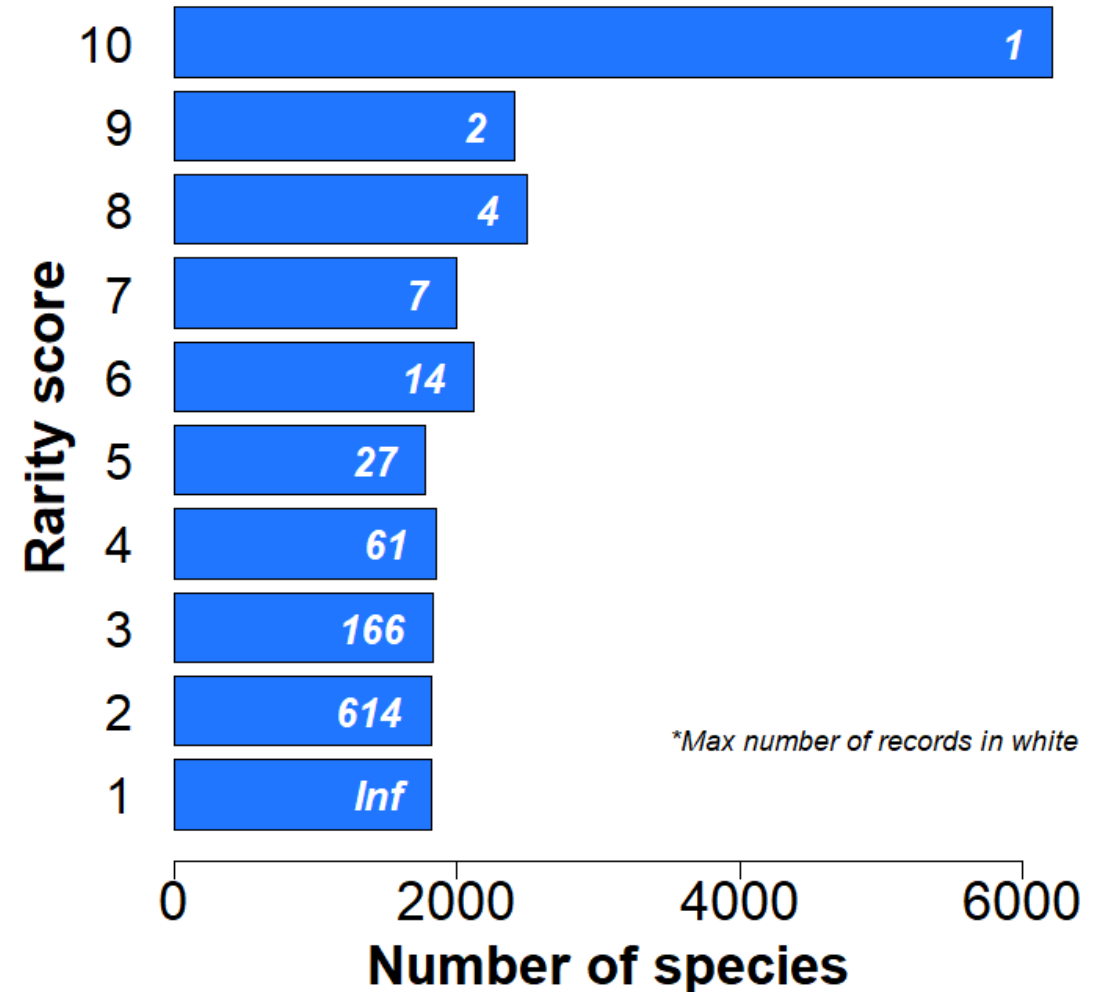
Calculating Rarity Scores

- Reviewed annually



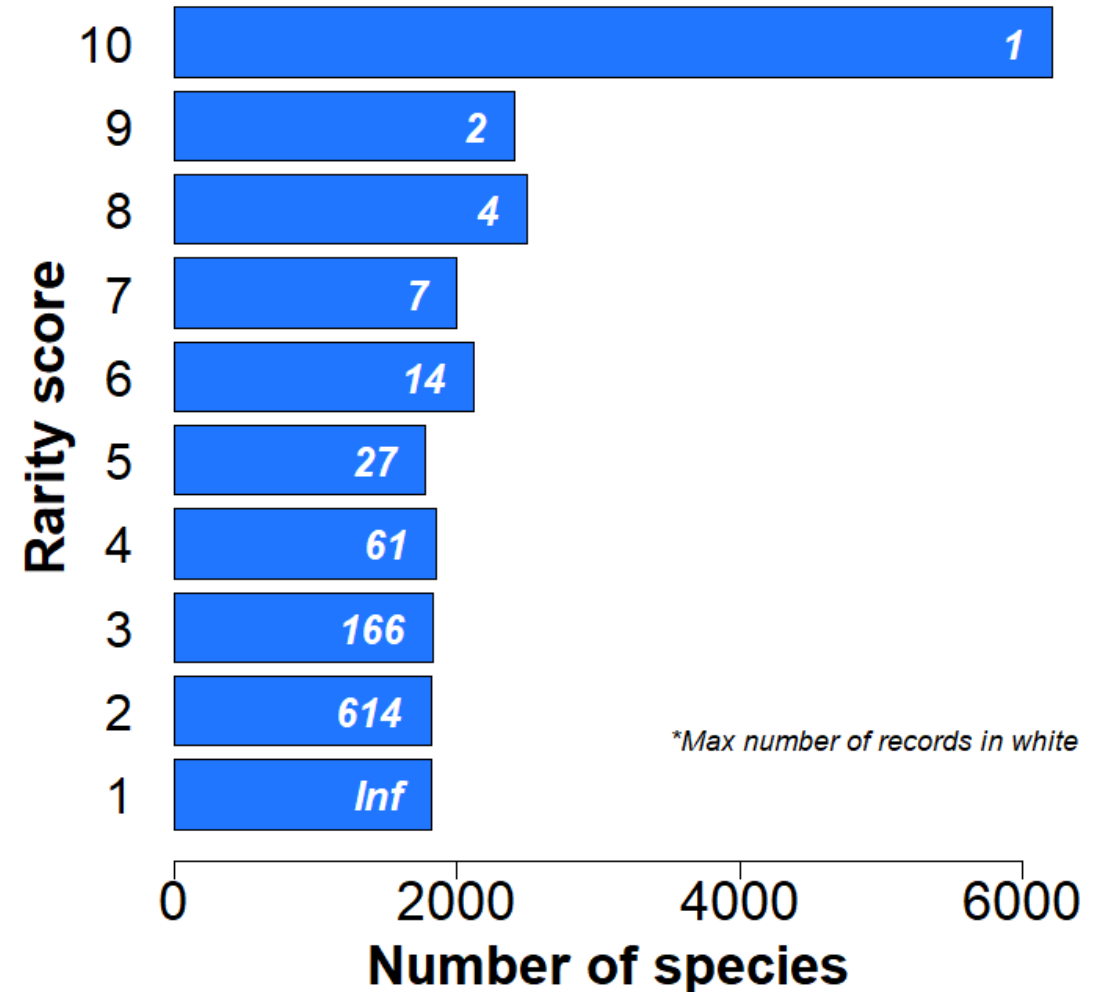
Calculating Rarity Scores

- Reviewed annually
- Based on UK iNaturalist records per species
 - **All species!**



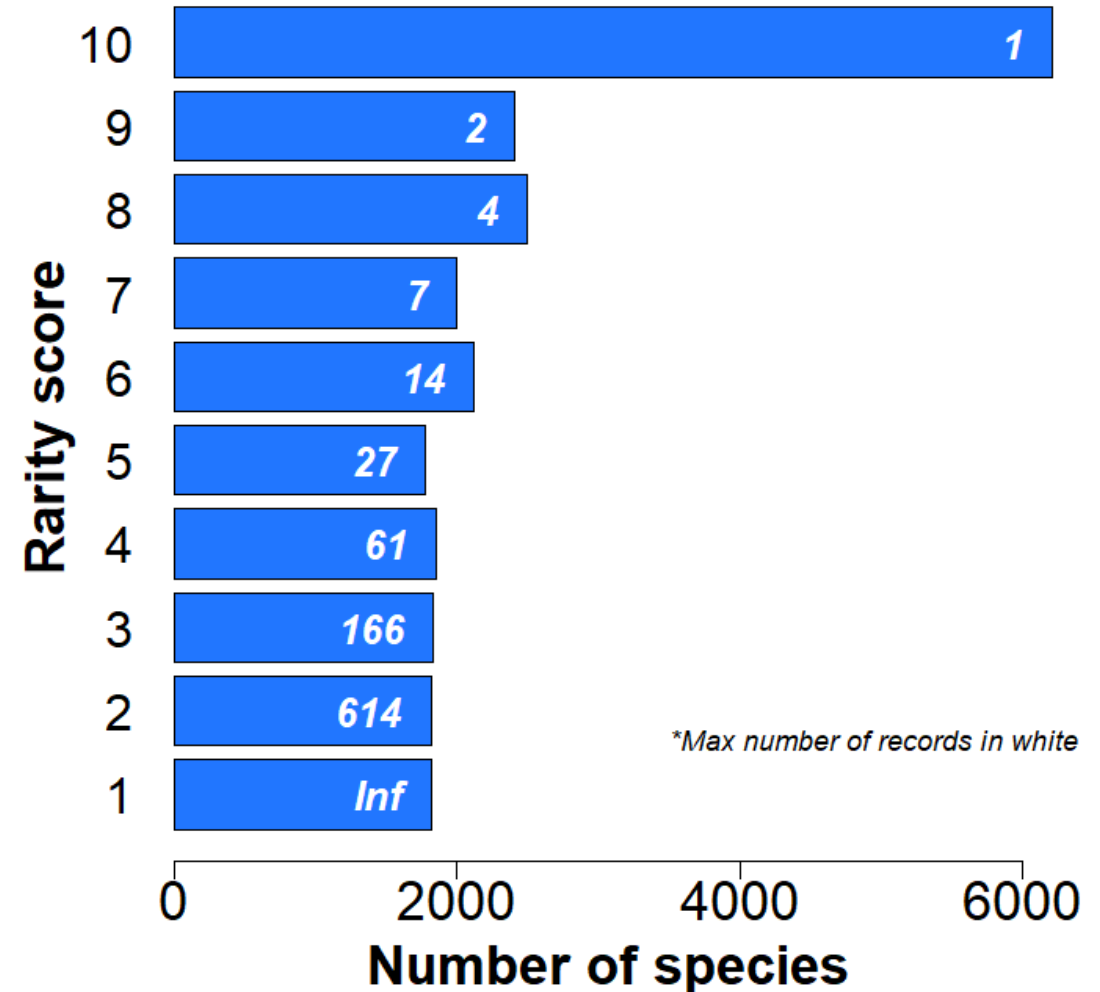
Calculating Rarity Scores

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- Species level only



Calculating Rarity Scores

- Reviewed annually
- Based on UK iNaturalist records per species
 - **All species!**
- Species level only
- Research grade only



THE **BIG** ROCK POOL CHALLENGE



**Monthly community
BioBlitz battle events**

THE **BIG** ROCK POOL CHALLENGE



**Monthly community
BioBlitz battle events**



**Annual 'Rock Pool
BioBlitz Finals'**

THE **BIG** ROCK POOL CHALLENGE

#BigRockPoolChallenge

**NATIONAL
BIOBLITZ
17-25 MAY
2025**

THE
ROCK POOL
PROJECT
• NATIONAL BIOBLITZ •



Scan QR code to learn
more and register!

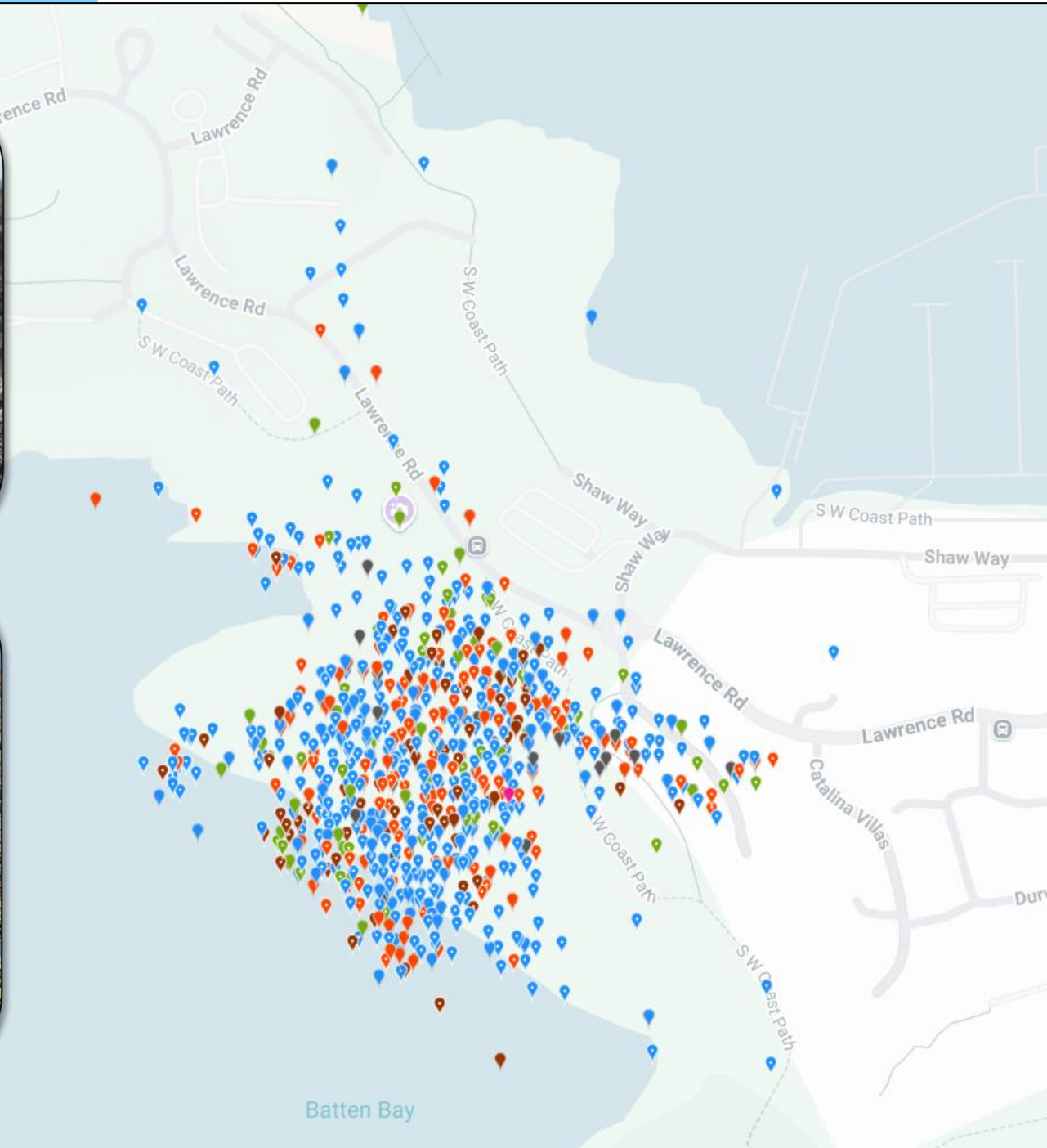


National BioBlitz

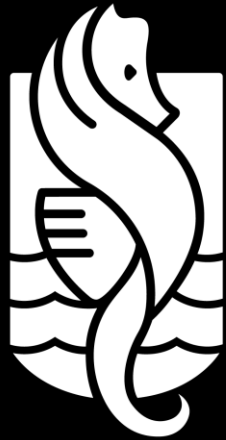
Locations of National BioBlitz Observations (2025)







Making the data work for nature



DASSH

Marine Biological Association

Big Rock Pool
Challenge
Events

iNaturalist

Project website

Participants

NBN, GBIF, etc



Scientists

MBA hub



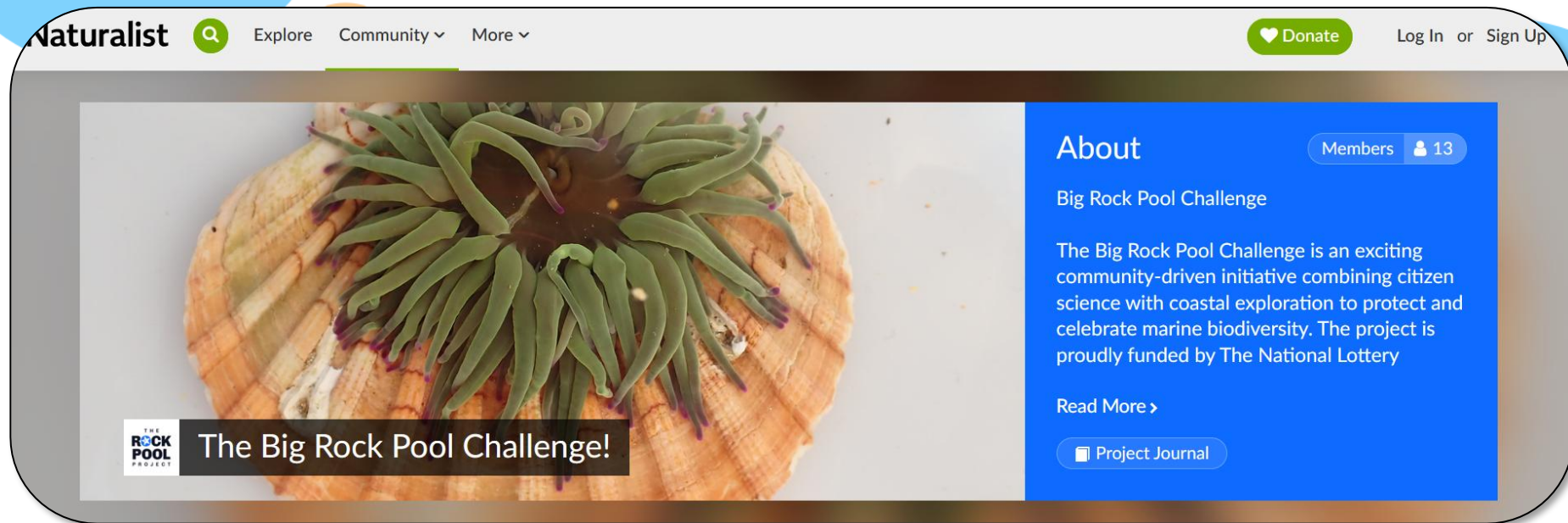
MBA
membership

Non-native
species reporting



Conservation
management

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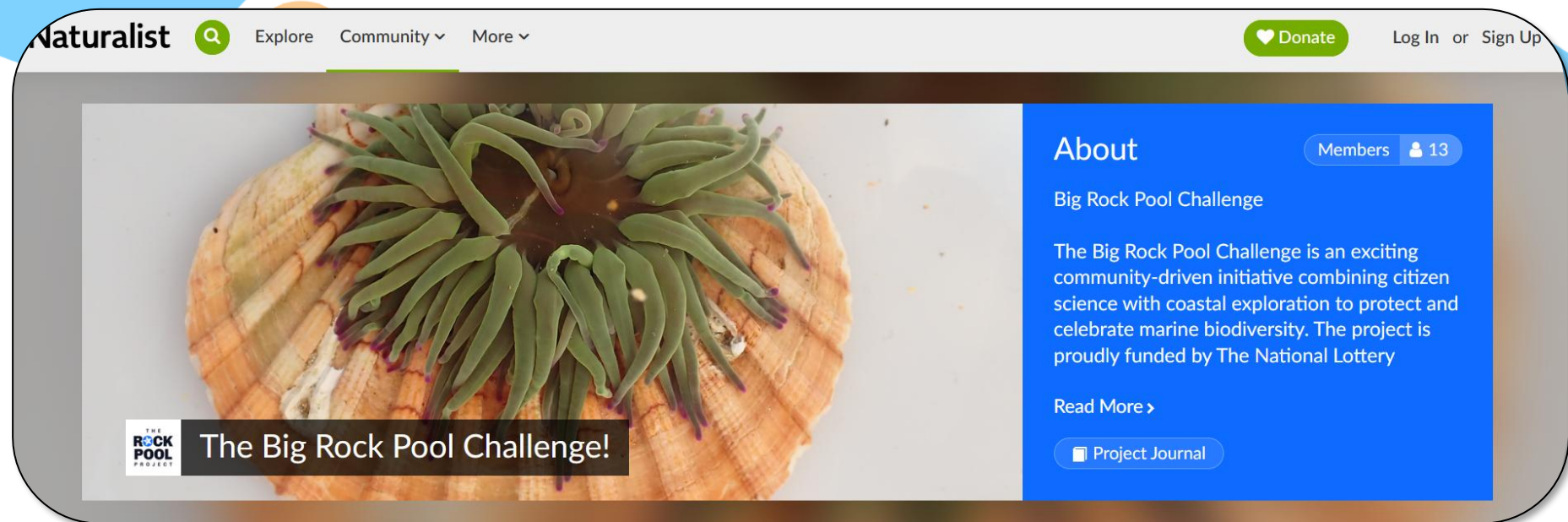
www.inaturalist.org/projects/the-big-rock-pool-challenge

Since October 2024:

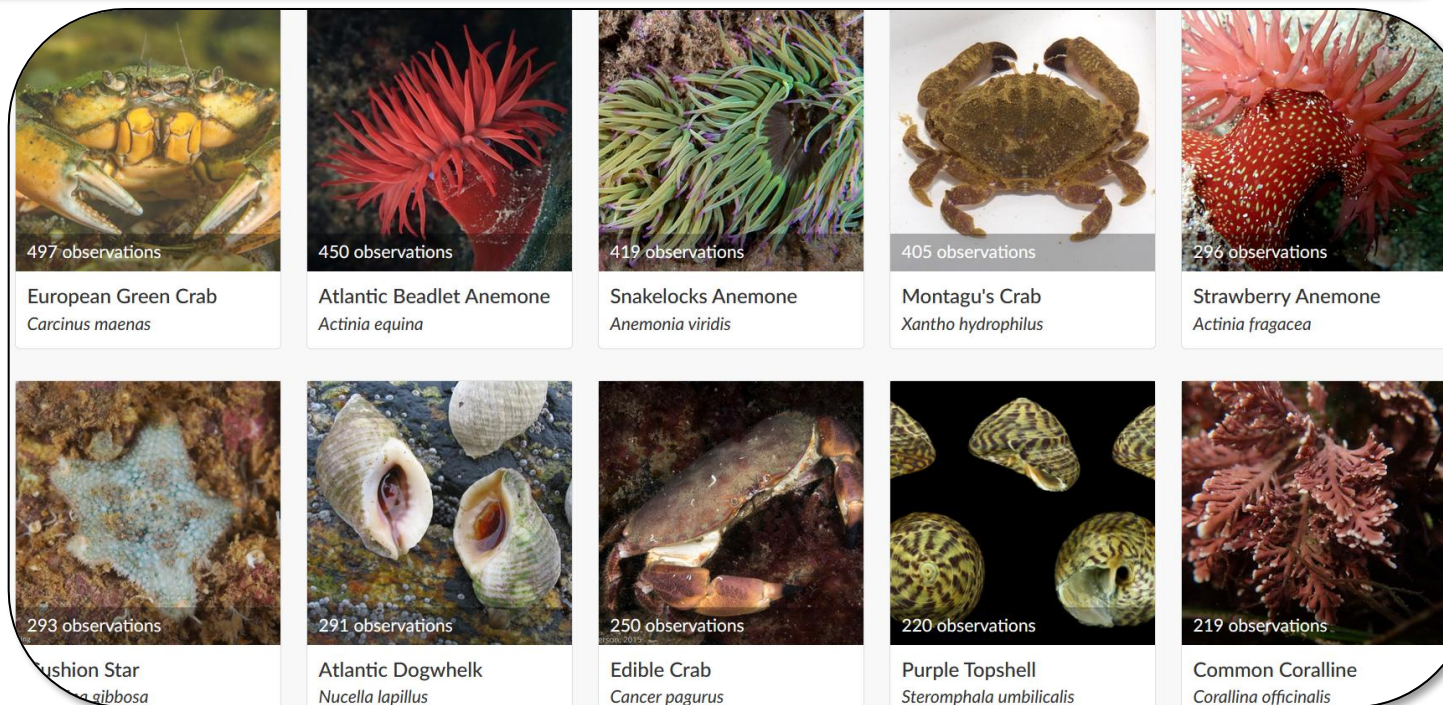
- 16,062 observations
- 789 Species
- >1,162 participants
- 606 Non-native species records



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[www.inaturalist.org
/projects/the-big-
rock-pool-
challenge](https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/the-big-rock-pool-challenge)



What's next?



What's next?

- 15 new hubs across the UK



What's next?

- 15 new hubs across the UK
- New uses for our data



What's next?

- 15 new hubs across the UK
- New uses for our data
- Improve data flow



Thank you!



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