

BRIGHTON MARINA

Combined data from B & H Records and Sussex SeaSearch

Comments at end of document

Recorder site no: 4124
File code: MA12, QSNCI SURVEY NO.152, SNCI 33
Site name(s): Brighton Marina
Grid reference(s): TQ3302
TQ3303
TQ3402
TQ3403
Vice-county(s): East Sussex
Modern county(s): East Sussex
Site status(es): Private owner
SNCI
Marine SNCI

Site Description

This was at one time the largest marina in Britain. The harbour and berths were completed in 1978. The floating pontoons support a rich sub-littoral flora and fauna including species such as the Plumose Anemone (*Metridium senile*) and the Sea squirt (*Ciona intestinalis*). The marina is a well-known site for bird-watchers especially during the spring and autumn migrations. Kittiwakes, Cranes, Skuas, Purple Sandpiper, Velvet Scoter, Smew, Black Tern, Roseate Tern, Shag, Gannet and Hoopoe are just a few of the more unusual species that have been seen here in recent years either flying over or in the Marina.

G Legg 22.1.99.

Enclosed and sheltered anchorage with access to the sea. The entrance faces a spending beach of sand and sea defence blocks. The main marina consists of 2 floating jetties with floating pontoons, pier piles and other structures, all covered with a dense growth of species. These structures create a variety of marine habitats with 100 species recorded. The spending beach is also an important stopping-off point for migratory birds (together with a second spending beach to the W) The Inner Marina forms the frontage to the marina apartments, separating the marina from the sea cliff. It is enclosed and very sheltered, non-tidal and very slightly reduced in salinity. The walls have a high cover of solitary ascidians and green algae; the seabed is mostly soft mud with numerous Gobies and many anemones and small shrimps. A continuous film of live and decaying algae on the mud surface supports other marine life.

Sussex Sea Search carried out a survey of the Marina. The ecological survey of Brighton Marina was a European pioneer, showing that marinas are not the barren wasteland they were thought to be. The waters provide ideal nursery conditions for some fish. Since the pontoons and jetties rise and fall with the tide, several deep-water species have colonised which would be hard to find elsewhere. A great deal remains to be learnt about the significance of marinas for marine life.

Outer Marina

Records

Scientific name	Common name
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Sula bassana (L.)	Gannet
Phalacrocorax aristotelis (L.)	Shag
Aythya marila (L.)	Scaup
Melanitta fusca (L.)	Velvet Scoter

Mergus albellus L.	Smew
Grus grus (L.)	Crane
Calidris maritima (Brunnich)	Purple Sandpiper
Rissa tridactyla (L.)	Kittiwake
Sterna dougallii Montagu	Roseate Tern
Chlidonias niger (L.)	Black Tern
Upupa epops L.	Hoopoe

Marine

Species names

Sponges

Leucosolenia botyroides
 Scypha ciliata
 Halichondria bowerbanki
 Halichondria panicea

Cnidarians

Tubularia indivisia
 Plumularia catharina
 Campanularia sp.
 Aurelia aurita
 Obelia dichotoma
 Metridium senile
 Sagartiogeton undatus
 Sagartiogeton laceratus

Worms

Polynoidae Scale worm
 Pomatoceros
 Nephthys caecae
 Eulaia viridis
 Lanice conchilega
 Aglaophenia pluma

Crustacea

Leander squilla
 Leander serratus
 Galathea squamifera
 Ligia oceanica
 Idotea baltica
 Eurydice pulchra
 Jassa fulcata
 Hippolyte varians
 Homarus gammarus Lobster
 Maja squinado
 Cancer pagurus Edible crab
 Necora puber Velvet Swimming Crab
 Carcinus maenas Shore crab

Molluscs

Lacuna vincta
 Crepidula fornicata slipper limpet

Mytilus edulis Common mussel
Sepia officinalis

Sea Mats

Bugula simplex
Echinoderms
Asterias rubens Common starfish
Ophiothrix fragilis
Psammechinus milliaris

Sea Squirts

Aplidium proliferum
Ciona intestinalis
Ascidiella aspersa
Aplidium proliferum
Diplosoma listerianum
Ascidia conchilega
Styela clava
Polycarpa scuba
Botrylus scholoseri
Molgula manhattensis

Fish

Anguilla anguilla
Trisopterus luscus Bib
Spinachia spinachia Fifteen-spined Stickleback
Labrus mixtus Cuckoo Wrasse
Pholis gunnellus Butterfish
Gobiidae
Conger conger
Belone belone
Syngnathus acus
Dicentrarchus labrax
Labrus sp.
Blennius pholis
Pomatoschistus minutus
Gobius niger
Pleuronectes platessa

Algae

Erythrotrichia carnea
Scinaia furcellata
Rhodophysema elegans
Ahnfeltia plicata
Plocamium cartilagineum
Calliblepharis ciliata
Rhodymenia delicatula
Rhodymenia pseudopalmata
Lomentaria clavellosa
Lomentaria orcadensis
Antithamnion
Ceramium nodulosum
Ceramium strictum
Griffithsia corallinoides

Halurus flosculosus
 Cryptopleura ramosa
 Hypoglossum hypoglossoides
 Brongniartella byssoides
 Chondria dasyphylla
 Polysiphonia elongata
 Polysiphonia stricta
 Hincksia secunda
 Dictyota dichotoma
 Taonia atomaria
 Desmarestia aculeata
 Desmarestia ligulata
 Laminaria saccharina Kelp
 Enteromorpha linza
 Enteromorpha intestinalis
 Ulva lactuca Sea lettuce
 Bryopsis plumosa

Brighton Inner Marina

Key..... Survey Site Hab Habitat name....

565 714 1 1 Concrete wall with Ciona , ?low salinity.
 566 714 1 2 Soft mud with algae and gobies, ?low salinity.

Key.	Survey.	Site name	Grid ref..	Species.....
349	714	Inner Marina Brighton.	TQ 342 032	Sagartiogeton laceratus CARIDEA Ciona intestinalis Gobiidae ALGAE Enteromorpha

Comments

The marina effectively provides habitats in shallow water for deep water species. The pontoons being particularly significant and rich with notable ‘flagship’ species such as the light-bulb sea squirt and plumose anemones.

Clearly, compared with the outer marina (tidal) the inner is under recorded; little data.

Any development that would encourage the mixed and varied fauna listed above would be a good thing.