

The Great Eggcase Hunt

Mermaid's purses are the eggcases of sharks, skates and rays. There are over ten species of skate and ray and a few sharks in UK waters that reproduce by laying tough leathery eggcases on the seabed. Once the baby shark, skate or ray has hatched, the eggcases are washed up onto our beaches.

Finding eggcases on the beach indicates that there are nursery grounds nearby. Eggcases are different shapes and sizes depending on the species, so we can identify which species are breeding where.

The Great Eggcase Hunt is a project run by the Shark Trust. Their website www.eggcase.org provides lots of information about doing your own eggcase hunt, including lots of resources to download. The information collected helps in shark, skate and ray conservation, and it is a fun day out on the beach. You can do an eggcase hunt at any time of year, but you are most likely to find something after a storm. Even if you don't find any eggcases the results are useful to the Shark Trust.



For more information contact the Shark Trust - 01752 672020.

