



**ON ALMOST EVERY DIVE  
NARC RELEASES  
ENTANGLED MARINE  
WILDLIFE**



**LOST LOBSTER POTS IN  
SKOMER MARINE  
NATURE RESERVE**



**OUR RECORD IS 730  
ANGLING WEIGHTS IN 1  
DIVE AT STACKPOLE  
QUAY**



**THE DIVERSITY OF  
LITTER IS STAGGERING.  
WE HAVE EVEN FOUND  
THE KITCHEN SINK!**

## NEPTUNE'S ARMY OF RUBBISH CLEANERS

### ANNUAL REPORT 2015



## Winner of “Most Admired Voluntary Organisation in Wales 2009”



Neptune's army of rubbish cleaners (NARC) is an entirely voluntary group, made up of divers and non divers, with a passion for keeping the underwater environment litter free. Since 2005, the group has carried out 100s of underwater clean-up dives and been involved in a number of educational and awareness raising projects, in an effort to highlight the impacts of marine litter.



Part of Milford Haven



## 1. INTRODUCTION

This annual report has been produced to provide a progress update on 2015, provide a background to NARC and highlight our work since 2005. The report covers our underwater clean-up events, our efforts in raising awareness of marine litter, other work, and our collaborative future plans. The finance section is included, primarily for our funders but also to demonstrate what can be achieved with modest funding and volunteer effort.

### 1.1 ABOUT US

While the impacts of litter washed up or left on our shoreline can easily be seen, the same cannot be said for marine litter that is below the surface of the ocean. NARC is a voluntary group of divers and non divers with a passion for keeping the underwater environment in Pembrokeshire as pristine as it should be. Since its inception in 2005 by local diver Dave Kennard and Keep Wales Tidy, the group has carried out 100s of underwater clean-ups and a number of awareness raising events.

NARC can be found at a number of sites along the coastline throughout the diving season, collecting litter that is often having a negative impact on the habitat and the wildlife it supports. Divers descend in buddy pairs armed with scissors, bags, trays, lifting bags and a great belief in what they are doing. Dives can last almost an hour in which litter is collected, bagged and sent to the surface for retrieval by a support boat.

The diversity of litter found on dives is staggering with mobile phones, shopping trolleys, bicycles, revolving chairs, skate boards, batteries and quite literally the kitchen sink! Litter type is dependant on the diving location and aim e.g. mainly angling litter at popular angling spots, commercial fishing equipment when working with local fishermen and fly tipped litter where there is easy access to estuarine locations.

The impacts upon wildlife are only too apparent with fishing line often cut from spider crabs and lobsters, dog fish released from hooks and lost crab pots ghost fishing. The litter can also be a hazard to divers and other water users. Once retrieved the various items are cleaned, sorted, recorded and recycled where possible.

### 1.2 THE BENEFITS

The group is doing its best to reduce the amount of litter in the underwater environment. By removing foreign objects from the sea bed NARC helps make the underwater environment a cleaner and safer place for wildlife and other water users. We believe the following benefit from NARC's actions:

Helping to keep the  
underwater world  
litter free since 2005



NARC have carried out  
100s of clean-up events  
within the  
Pembrokeshire Marine  
Special Area of  
Conservation. We have  
worked with angling  
coaches to develop  
tackle tips leaflets  
aimed at reducing tackle  
loss



- Marine wildlife - less entanglement potential/ decrease in potential ghost fishing from lost commercial fishing gear
- Bathers - less sharp and entangling hazards
- Divers - less entanglement hazards from lost line, ropes, nets
- Leisure craft users - Less chance of entanglement to propellers etc
- Anglers - a reduction in seabed litter decreases the chance of further entanglement

It is not only the obvious marine wildlife such as seabirds and seals that benefit from less marine litter. Pink seafans are a warm water soft-coral at the northern limit of their geographical distribution in Pembrokeshire. They grow at less than 5mm per year and can live for over a hundred years. They are specially listed for conservation action in the Wildlife and Countryside Act and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Two of the pictures below show a seafan covered in lost angling line which had been trapped by a discarded soft drink can. The second shows it after fifteen minutes effort to cut it free of lost line.



## 2. RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT UNDERWATER LITTER

NARC was formed by concerned divers who had become aware of the increasing amount of litter they found underwater and the damage caused to marine habitats and wildlife. Whilst also carrying out underwater clean-up events the group are always looking for more proactive ways to limit the amount of marine litter.

Raising awareness of the issue is an important part of the work.

Since its inception NARC has:

- Produced leaflets which are available from most dive centres in Pembrokeshire
- Keeps a project website updated with data, information and news – [www.narc-cc.org.uk](http://www.narc-cc.org.uk)
- Given educational talks about marine litter to community groups and schools
- Visited Ireland, funded by Keep Wales Tidy, to promote the idea to Irish dive clubs
- Produced 6 awareness raising videos





- Produced two ground breaking site specific leaflets providing visiting anglers with tackle tips on how to minimise tackle loss and underwater maps
- Assisted the Marine Conservation Society with the “hang on to your tackle campaign” sitting on the working group and providing advice on tackle bin placement
- Linked in with wider initiatives e.g. Ghost Fishing, Plastic Oceans, School projects, World Animal Protection
- Is a working group member of Global Ghost Gear Initiative

The group also uses local and national media to help raise awareness of marine litter and has had coverage on the BBC National UK news at ONE, BBC The One Show, HTV Welsh News, Newyddion, BBC Wales Today, BBC XRAY, Channel 4 Born to be Wild, BBC Wildlife Detectives and a number of National radio stations and newspapers.

### 3. RECOGNITION OF NARC'S WORK

In its first year, NARC won the Beach Improvement category and the Peter Cambridge Trophy for voluntary organisations and schools working to improve their local environment in Keep Wales Tidy's Tidy Wales Awards 2006.

In 2009 NARC were voted the “Most Admired Voluntary Organisation in Wales” by the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action. This is one of the most prestigious awards for the voluntary sector.

In 2010 NARC were finalists in the Keep Wales Tidy Awards in the “Long Term Effort” category and in 2012 were chosen as one of 20 National projects to celebrate 20 years of Environment Wales.

#### Endorsements of NARC's work from NARC supporters

##### Sue Burton (Pembrokeshire Special Area of Conservation Officer)

"Not only are the members of N.A.R.C. doing their individual bit to help make the marine environment a cleaner and more natural place to be, for themselves and fellow users (divers/fishermen.), but they are also improving the environment for the wildlife. N.A.R.C.s activities help to fulfil some of the required actions from the Pembrokeshire Marine S.A.C Management scheme (under refuse and litter, and raising awareness). It is for this reason that the relevant authorities group for the S.A.C. chose to help fund some of N.A.R.C.s activities in 2007."



**Simon Preddy (KEEP WALES TIDY)**

"N.A.R.C. has made an invaluable contribution to the Pride in Our Communities project within Pembrokeshire. They have raised the awareness of the problem of fly-tipping around our waterways and undertaken activities to clean up the mess. The divers have willingly and consistently given their time to help improve our local environment."

**JIMMY McVEIGH AN TAISCE (Clean coast Officer)**

"As part of the Clean Coasts Project David Kennard of N.A.R.C. came over to Ireland to teach Irish divers, including members of the Irish Underwater Councils about how to conduct underwater clean ups. This was a very successful exchange of knowledge and a number of dive groups have undertaken clean ups since N.A.R.C.'s visit. Their presentation was very informative and left the Irish divers with the required skills to conduct clean ups of their own. Their enthusiasm for the protection and preservation of the marine environment is infectious."

**Kate Lock (Skomer Marine Conservation Zone)**

"N.A.R.C volunteers do a superb job of clearing the sea bed of litter including miles of angling line, bucket loads of lead weights and fishing pots. The litter if not cleared and kills and damages marine life. Monofilament line tangles fish and crabs and also cuts into the soft tissue of sponges and corals like the pink sea fan, (a UK protected species). Public awareness of the damage caused by marine litter is needed and N.A.R.C. plays a key role in promoting the awareness through their work. In the Skomer Marine Conservation Zone we are particularly grateful of the efforts of N.A.R.C. where the quantities of lost tackle below popular angling sites is of concern."

**Gill Bell (Marine Conservation Society)**

"N.A.R.C. has been very supportive of M.C.S. activities within Wales and in addition to promoting marine conservation, B.A.P. species recording and sustainable fishing through the Good Fish Guide, they have also carried out two underwater clean surveys as part of the M.C.S. Beachwatch 2008 weekend"

**Dr Lou Luddington, (Marine Biologist , Marine Conservation Society & NARC Volunteer)**

"I find it very distressing seeing litter when I am diving or snorkelling, especially if there is potential for entanglement or damage to marine life. Volunteering with NARC gives me the chance to clear up some of this litter as part of an effective team whilst also raising public awareness of the problem. Part of NARC's role is to highlight this problem and encourage anglers to reduce loss of tackle by using the appropriate lead weights or by switching to biodegradable fishing line and lures. This is a fantastic hands-on project which I am proud to support!"

**David Jones, (Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum & NARC Secretary)**

"As someone who not only enjoys and appreciates the marine environment in my spare time I'm lucky in that my career involves me in Coastal Zone Management. Marine policy and projects can take a long time to develop, where the outputs and outcomes are often time consuming and difficult. One of the many things I love about volunteering with NARC is that your work is instant, gratifying and really does make a difference. In just one dive you can free entangled wildlife and improve the habitat. I'm really proud of our partnership working, especially with the Pembrokeshire and Welsh Federation of Angling Coaches in producing site specific tackle tips leaflets for anglers."







## 4. 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

### Folly Farm April 20th

Ysgol Pen-y-Bryn Special School in Swansea have chosen to raise awareness and money for NARC in a new book aimed at helping children when visiting Folly Farm. NARC attended the book launch and look forward to working with the school in the future. For more details click [here](#).

### Folly Farm April 25th

The volunteers of local dive group Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners (NARC) have teamed up with Folly Farm to educate visitors on the dangers of marine litter and the impact it can have on wildlife. Based for a day at Penguin Coast at Folly Farm, a team of divers from the local voluntary group joined forces with a giant penguin mascot and Folly Farm colleagues to draw in the crowds and spend some time raising awareness and welcoming contributions towards NARC's efforts. Thanks to the interest on the day sparked by activities such as face painting and penguin bingo, more than £500 was raised. This brought the fundraising total to £1000 thanks to a further donation from Folly Farm for £500. The full press release can be found [here](#).

### Skomer Marine Conservation Zone May 9th

4 volunteer divers braved the 10 degree water temp to kick off the NARC 2015 cleaning season. This is the first of a number of events planned for Skomer this year. A sunny day and a 10 AM start from Dale saw pretty decent 4-5 metre viz greet two buddies teams at East Hook and Low Point. Along with sightings of Octopus and Crayfish 4 divers recorded:

Low Point	201 weights	125 Hooks/line	3 spark plugs
East Hook	54 weights	35 hooks/line	2 spark plugs/1 rod /1 reel

### Hobbs Point May 31st

8 volunteer divers and 7 shore helpers mucked in on our first of many planned visits to Hobbs this year. A windy wave chopped sea state looked much better underwater with 3 metre viz making things easier than normal. We managed to release a hooked dog fish. Divers recorded:

30 weights/1 rod/1 lobster pot/Line/2 spark plugs / 11 bottles/2 cans 2 mugs/hosepipe/rope/2 car radio speakers/1 pushbike/1 scooter/2 spark plugs/1 rod /1 reel

### Stackpole Quay and Barafundle ledges June 13th

4 volunteer divers left a sunny Dale at 0830 and were greeted by a staggering 10 metre + of viz. This is the first of a number of events planned for the Stackpole area this year. Along with sightings of an abundance of sea slugs and dog fish, they recorded a Crayfish and a baby Anglerfish. 1 dog fish was released from a lost angling rig and a spider crab untangled from line. At Barafundle ledges 2 dead dogfish were found entangled and hooked. Divers recorded:

Stackpole Quay	101 weights/42 hooks/line/3 bottles/2 cans/3 spark plugs
Barafundle Ledges	42 weights/line/speargun

### Watch house Point June 14th

After a morning chat with some local fishermen 4 volunteers went on a lost lobster pot hunt. After diving a stretch of coast from Watch house Point to Dale in 8 metres of viz Narc volunteers managed to find and retrieve 40 lost pots. A fantastic effort in 10 metres of water that tested our lifting bags and gear to the max. The dive was supported by the local fisherman and the pots were handed back. In the process of retrieval 12 crabs/14 spider crabs and 10 lobsters were released from ghost fishing gear. Divers recorded:

40 lobster pots







### Skomer Marine Conservation Zone June 26th

4 volunteers and 5 metre viz helped in finding, bagging and sending 8 lost pots to the surface from the North Wall of Skomer. We were dropped in on a couple of shot lines put down by local fisherman to mark the lost pots. One of the shot lines went slightly deep meaning a buddy pair were unable to locate them, next time! Divers recorded:

North Wall      8 lost pots

### St Ann's Head July 9th

Continuing our efforts to assist fishermen in removing lost fishing gear we headed towards St Ann's Head after reports from local fishermen. 4 volunteer divers headed out towards St Ann's Head to look for a string of 10 pots. Sadly after trying for over 45 minutes we were unable to locate the pots and returned to the boat.

### Collier wreck in Milford Haven July 9th

The 2nd dive of the day saw us joined by two local fishermen in an effort to locate and retrieve lost gear around a well know ship wreck, the Collier. 5 metre viz helped in finding, bagging and sending 8 lost pots and rope to the surface. Some of the pots were ghost fishing and a number of undersized shellfish were returned to the water by the fishermen who were also reacquainted with their gear. We also found a large commercial fishing net but were unable to send it as it was buried in sediment. Divers recorded:

Collier Wreck    8 lost pots and rope

### Skomer Marine Conservation Zone July 10th

Our first visit of the year to Wooltack Point saw us change tack and move from targeting commercial gear to recreational angling. 8 volunteer divers jumped into 3 metre viz and bagged weights, hooks and line. We also cut free an entangled Pink Sea Fan that was smothered in line. Next up dive 2 and 3 were aimed at wrecks after reports of lost pots. On the Behar we recovered metres of lost rope and on the Matronna more rope and pipe. Divers recorded:

Wooltack Point    32 weights/ 66 hooks/ Line

Behar              Metres of rope    Matronna    Metres of rope/ Plastic Pipe/1 Bottle



Part of Milford Haven





**Skomer Marine Conservation Zone July 11th**

With 9 volunteer divers on board we met up with local fisherman looking for a lost string of pots in the vicinity of the Garland Stone and Bull Hole however due to the sea state becoming challenging we had to postpone our plans. Due to it being our tenth year and as a thank you to the volunteers Plan B was a dive on the North side of Middleholm where the 4-5 metre viz enabled us to locate a huge old anchor, retrieved 1 lost lobster pot and some rope.

Our 2nd dive of the year at Low Point was aimed more at recreational angling where we found and collected weights, line and hooks. We also unhooked an entangled dog fish and with wind, waves and opposing tides enjoyed (not sure if that is the correct word) a very adventurous journey home! Divers recorded:

Middleholm	1 lost pot and rope
Low Point	105 weights/110 hooks /Spark plug

**Middleholm and Skomer Marine Conservation Zone August 10th**

With 8 volunteer divers on board we once again met up with local fisherman looking for lost pots. The North side of Middleholm came first where 6 metre viz enabled us drop down into the warming waters and locate 7 pots. 6 lobsters, 1 wrasse, 2 edible crab and 6 spider crabs were released. Unfortunately we also managed to lose the dive ladder off the boat, something we hope to retrieve on a future dive!

We aimed our other dive at potential angling litter and headed to two spots we have cleaned many times before. Low Point came first where we dropped 4 divers into 5 metre viz. we released an entangled spider crab from mono filament line and bagged the usual weights, line and hooks. East Hook seemed much cleaner from a litter point of view – perhaps our tackle tips leaflets are working!?! We only found 6 weights, line and hooks freeing a hooked trigger fish that swam off relieved to be free again. Divers recorded:

Middleholm	7 lost pots
Low Point / East Hook	126 weights/130 hooks/line

**Stackpole Quay August 23rd**

After Fridays planned clean-up being called off due to the weather we thought we would ignore the Met Office yellow warning for heavy rain and thunder and head off to Stackpole. An 8 AM start meant a 5 AM rise for our volunteers travelling from Bridgend and Carmarthen. Considering the forecast and the fact it was hammering down a great effort! 6 volunteers either already in dry suits or wearing water proofs left Dale for the fairly lengthy but always spectacular trip along the Castlemartin coast.



4 metre viz wasn't bad considering the weather and the fact it was raining meant there were no anglers on the ledges and no moving feathers to avoid underwater. Although aimed at angling litter we still found two lost pots and released two spider crabs and a velvet. A dog fish was also cut free from entanglement. There were lots of small pollock, pouting and bass on the dive which was a great to see. After about 50 mins the team of six sent the lifting bags up which amongst other things contained lots of line which was snagged in the kelp. Good to get that mono-filament out of the water.

Back on the boat we enjoyed a pretty splendid bit of home made cake baked the evening before by Dave K – who then spent quite a bit of time unblocking the toilet. The incidents were unrelated and elevated Dave to being the skippers best mate! Divers recorded:

Stackpole Quay 32 weights/76 hooks and lots of line/2 reels/2 rods/2 spark plugs/2 cans/1 bottle/ cloth/3 plastic bags/1 battery/ 1 golf ball/ 1 BBQ

### Hobbs Point Sept 6th

5 volunteer divers joined in for our second visit of the year to Hobbs. One of our sites that you never quite know what you are going to find and it didn't fail in delivering a range on non-nautical items! The viz wasn't great but then it often isn't! We managed to free an entangled dog fish and divers recorded:

Hobbs Point 22 weights/20 hooks and line/1 rod and reel/2 crab lines/1 can/8 bottle/ rope/1 lighter/ 1 battery/ 1 shoe/ 3 pieces of metal/ 4 plastic bags/ 2 hammers/1 saw/81 mm shell/car mirror/power sander/pint glass

### Porthlysgi Sept 7th

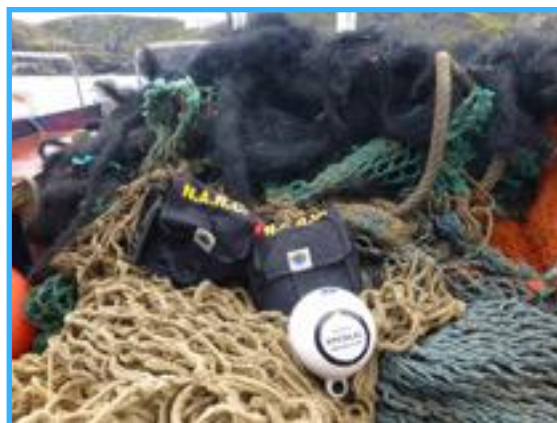
Working with World Animal Protection we left Dale at 8 AM with 10 volunteers on board. After yesterdays focus on fly-tipping we turned our intentions to lost commercial gear and headed North to meet up with some local fishermen who had knowledge of lost gear.

We split the team into "pot hunters and net hunters" and got to work. Less than 1 metre of viz, a little bit of current and a depth of 24 metres kept things interesting. The first dive provided 13 pots of which 12 were ghost fishing. 11 lobsters, 21 edible crabs, 12 spider crabs, 2 velvet swimming crabs and 1 wrasse were removed from the pots, which were then handed back to fishermen. Dive 2 and 3 was focussed on retrieving what turned out to be 2 whelk pots, line and 4 types of commercial net all entangled together which was estimated to be over 1.5 ton.

Getting the net on board proved to be a challenge as we started to drift into Ramsey Sound. A huge collaborative effort including Derek Rees in the boat 'Island Trader' and Greg Morgan RSPB warden on Ramsey Island saw us finally get the whole mess on board! Huge thanks to everyone who helped in what was one of NARC's biggest ever hauls! Read more about the day here <http://www.worldanimalprotection.org.uk/blogs/out-rubbish-cleaning-animal-protectors> Divers recorded:

Dive 1 13 lost pots and metres of line

Dive 2 and 3 2 lost whelk pots Approx 1.5 tons of commercial nets







**Sept 10th and 11th**

NARC were honoured to be invited to the launch of Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) in London. The two day event brought together leading experts, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the Marine Stewardship Council, Young's seafood and Australia's Northern Prawn Fishery to share their knowledge and expertise to ensure safer, cleaner oceans.

Mike Baker, Chief Executive of World Animal Protection, said: "Ghost gear is a largely hidden problem, but millions of dolphins, seals, whales and seabirds become trapped and die because of it. "In order to have safer, cleaner oceans we need sustainable solutions on a global scale. "This initiative brings real hope that these solutions can be found, with industry, governments, charities and academics all pulling together to free the oceans of Ghost Gear."

NARC Secretary, David Jones who attended the event, said, "It was fantastic to be invited to an event that was truly global. For our volunteer group, now in its tenth year, to exchange views and be part of an event with such potential to help on a worldwide setting is really exciting. We cant wait to share what we do locally in Pembrokeshire and are really pleased to be part of a working group in the GGGI."

Dave Kennard, NARC Chair added, "Working with local fisherman has seen us lift over 90 lobster pots this year. Without their help this would not be possible. We look forward to working with the fishing industry in Wales to try and lesson the impacts of ghost gear whilst still cleaning up more general marine litter, hopefully for at least another ten years!"

**Sept 16th**

Pembrokeshire Coast Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners initiative shortlisted for the Campaign for National Parks Park Protector of the Year Award. Cleaning the seabed of rubbish and removing discarded fishing equipment to enhance our marine environment have been recognised in this year's annual Campaign for National Parks Park Protector of the Year Award.

The Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners (NARC), which operates off the Pembrokeshire Coast project is one of five exciting conservation, heritage and amenity projects in the running for the



Campaign for National Parks' prestigious annual Park Protector Award, sponsored by the Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust.

It has been shortlisted following judging from a total of 15 projects. The winning entry – to be announced at the end of the month, will receive £2,000 at a parliamentary reception in London on 21 October.

Award sponsors Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust judge Jeremy Colls, added he was pleased with the range of projects nominated this year: "These are generally strong projects which reflect well on the diversity and utility of work within the National Parks. Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners is tackling an unglamorous and largely unseen but very harmful blight on the littoral fringes of a coastal park."

### Sept 19th

A bright sunny September day with only a breath of wind was a great start to what turned out to be a record breaking day for NARC. 12 volunteers left Dale at 0800 with a potential record number of dives ahead. Once again, working with local fishermen had enabled us to plan between 6 and 7 dives over the day, spread across a number of locations in Pembrokeshire.

First up came the wreck of the Dakotian where 4 divers and 2 metre viz allowed us to locate 7 lots pots and release 3 lobsters and 6 edible crabs. The Caroline was next on the hit list with 3 divers removing 2 large clumps of rope. Leaving the Haven behind we headed to Ramsey to meet a local fisherman. We had two sites and a limited amount of slack water so 2 NARC volunteers jumped on board the fishing boat and headed off to Ramsey whilst 5 of us jumped in at Silvia Rock. An hour later we had lifted 14 pots taking us into 3 figures for the year! From the 4 pots at Silva we released 2 lobsters, 10 edible crab, 1 spider crab and a wrasse. No time to celebrate records – the Hen and Chicks was next on our list.

3 volunteers recovered 2 lost pots and released 1 pipefish. Another planned meeting with fishermen saw us head south to Sheep Island. Thankfully the sun was still shining, the teas were flowing and there was even bacon butties to keep things on track. 3 volunteer divers, 5 meter viz and another 4 pots sent to the surface. We released 6 lobsters and 1 wrasse with all pots ghost fishing. After reports of a tangle net being lost 2 volunteers went in as the sun began to sink towards the horizon. The tangle net turned out to be a string of 22 lost prawn pots which were sent by lifting bags up to the boat. All the pots were ghost fishing and with time not on our side it was impossible to note the amount of species. We did however return juvenile spider crabs, whelks, scorpion fish, lumpsucker, dog fish, rockling, pollock and pipefish. All the pots were returned to the fishermen and we made it to the end of a very successful day of NARCing. A record 49 pots were lifted and we managed to visit 7 sites in one day! Huge thanks to all the volunteers, the skipper and crew and the local fishermen for providing us with detailed locations.

Divers recorded:

Dakotian	7 lost lobster pots
Caroline	2 large clumps of lost rope
Silvia Rock	4 lost lobster pots
Ramsey Island	10 lobster pots with snagged rope
Hen and Chicks	2 lost pots
Sheep Island	4 lost pots
Monk Haven	22 lost prawn pots





#### 4.1 OTHER WORK IN 2015

- Continuous updating of our project website [www.narc-cc.org.uk](http://www.narc-cc.org.uk) which contains information on the group and recorded 300 hits in one day after the BBC National News coverage.
- Distributed copies of the site specific tackle tips leaflets which have underwater maps and site specific advice for Stackpole and Skomer MNR
- Displayed boards and information at a number of events
- Collected footage at a number of clean-up dive events to produce an educational video on Marine Litter and the work of NARC
- Liaised and provided information to the National Trust, the Crown Estate and the BBC to raise awareness of marine litter
- Joined the new international network on ghost fishing, GGFI and became a working group member to exchange knowledge on worldwide solutions
- Made multiple contacts with local fishermen to assist with retrieving lost commercial fishing gear
- Dived with World Animal Protection on a worldwide ghost fishing project
- Teamed up with Folly Farm and Ysgol Pen-y-Bryn Special School to raise awareness of marine litter
- National coverage for NARC's 10th year to raise awareness of marine litter





## 5. PROJECT FINANCES

### 5.1 Income

Funder	Amount
Balance Carried over from 2014	£1125.52
Keep Wales Tidy	£500
South Hook / PAVS	£2011.50
Port of Milford Haven	£2000
Environment Wales	£3774
World Animal Protection	£969.94
Donations	£1640
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>£11920.96</b>

### 5.2 Expenditure

Service	Amount
Boat Hire	£5830
Insurance	£465.20
Publicity and Marketing	£696.2
Events	£139.55
Equipment and air fills	£1505.95
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>£8636.9</b>
<b>Total carry forward for 2016</b>	<b>£3284.06</b>

### Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners Committee

David Kennard, (Chairman) / David Jones, (Secretary/Fund raising) / Ceri Jones, (Safety and Diving Officer) / Meg Pugh, (Public Relations Officer) / Lloyd Jones, (Video and equipment Officer) / Blaise Bullimore, (Data Officer) / Anghard Rees, (Social Event Officer) / Andy Davies, (Treasurer)

Annual Report by David Jones



## 6. PLANS FOR 2016

We hope this report shows our existing sponsors the value of NARC's work and how their contributions are actioned throughout the year.

NARC plans to celebrate its eleventh year with a continued programme of clean-up events and to continue our collaboration with local fishermen. There will be an update and reprint of the tackle tips leaflets aimed at being proactive in reducing lost tackle using education.

NARC will continue to be an active member of Global Ghost Gear Initiative exploring solutions for what is a global issue.

NARC are part of a new collaborative project with the Pembrokeshire fishing industry, Pembrokeshire Marine SAC, Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum and World Animal Protection. Pembrokeshire Sustainable Shellfish Initiative aims to raise awareness and understanding amongst the fishing industry and coastal communities of the problems associated with ghost fishing of static gear and encourage fishermen to introduce one or more voluntary initiatives into their fishing practices which can help reduce their impact on the environment.

Clean-up events	Education and awareness	New schemes
13 events booked with more TBC	Reprint angling tackle tips leaflets	WAP sponsored Ghost Fishing days
Funded dives to recover lost commercial angling gear	Video as part of collaborative project with fishermen on solutions to ghost fishing	Work with fishing industry, SAC Officer, PCF, WAP to relocate lost gear. Collaborative project looking as sustainable solutions to minimise ghost fishing
Clean-up trip to Greece with Elotraki Divers to share best practice. (Personal contributions by NARC volunteers for travel costs)	Website updated with data collection	Look at options to become a charity

## 7. THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The group would like to thank all the sponsors and funders for 2015.

Jo Horsley and Environment Wales / World Animal Protection / Ed / South Hook / Folly Farm / Natural Resources Wales / PAVS / Keep Wales Tidy and the kind donations from the general public.

NARC would also like to thank Andy Truelove, Brian Dilly, Venn Duke, Derek Rees and Greg Morgan RSPB warden on Ramsey Island and all the dive clubs who kindly offer their ribs and divers.

**Lastly and most importantly many, many thanks to all the NARC volunteers who freely give up their time for this good cause. Thanks to everyone for another fantastic year!**





