

An aerial photograph of a rugged coastline. In the foreground, a rocky outcrop juts into the sea, topped with a white lighthouse and a small building. The sea is a deep blue-green, with white foam from waves crashing against the rocks. In the background, a green valley stretches towards rolling hills under a sky with soft, colorful clouds. A large, semi-transparent graphic of the letters 'IAVE' is overlaid on the image. The 'I' is a vertical bar on the left, 'A' is a vertical bar in the middle, and 'V' and 'E' are large, stylized letters on the right.

Science & Education Report

MS Fridtjof Nansen 2025

MS FRIDTJOF NANSEN

Europe's Atlantic
Highlights

23th April - 4th May
2025





Science & education program

During this voyage, we ran **4 citizen science** projects in total: eBird, Inaturalist, Nasa Cloud observer, SecchiDisk project. You were able to enrich your mind with **14 lectures** on different topics from birds to rocks. You also took part in the **10 discovery sessions** we put on.

A lot of you were very interested in the scientific aspect of our voyage and we thank you all for your enthusiasm. Here we provide a resume of our science activities.



Lectures & Discovery sessions

- 14 Lectures
- 10 Discovery sessions
- 4 Citizen science projects
- 4 Science boats



Wildlife Watch

54 Species:
22 Mammals
54 Birds



NASA cloud observer

On this Europe's Atlantic Highlights, we conducted 2 Cloud Observation sessions matched to satellite flyovers.

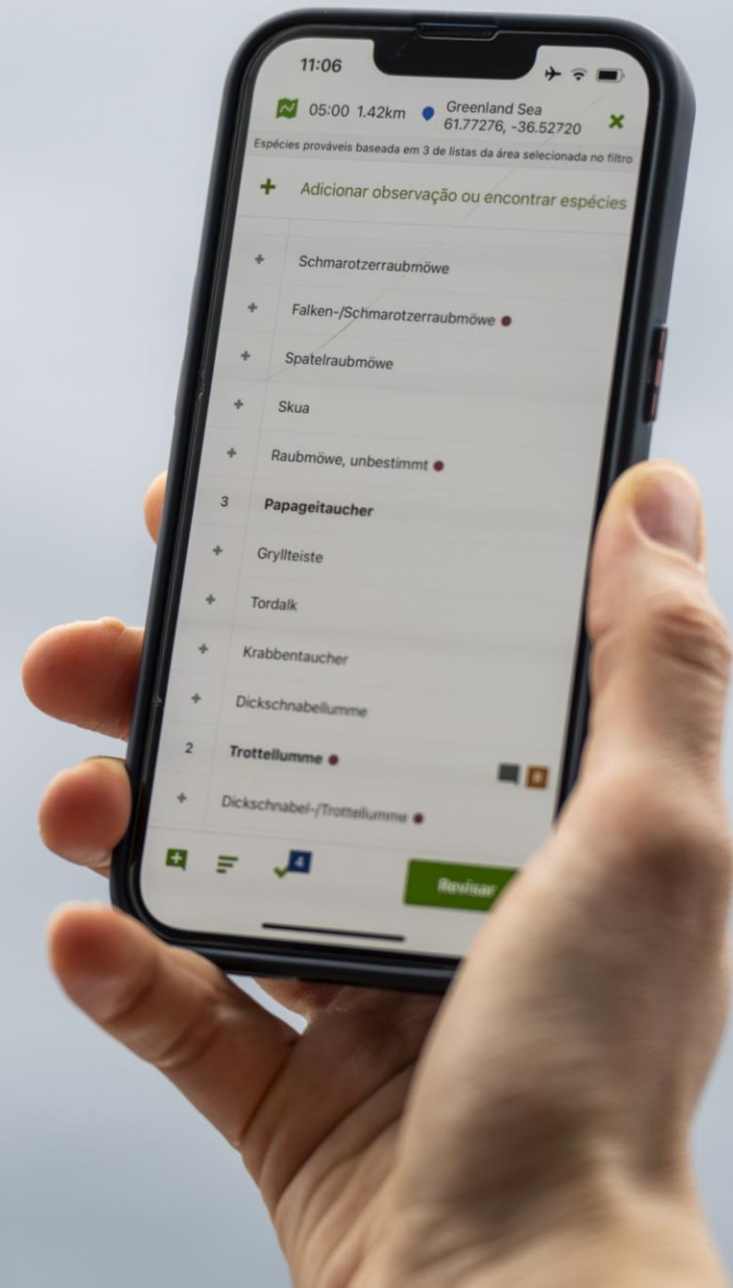
Thank you to the 30 Cloud Observers who participated in the program, and remember you can continue to do this at home!

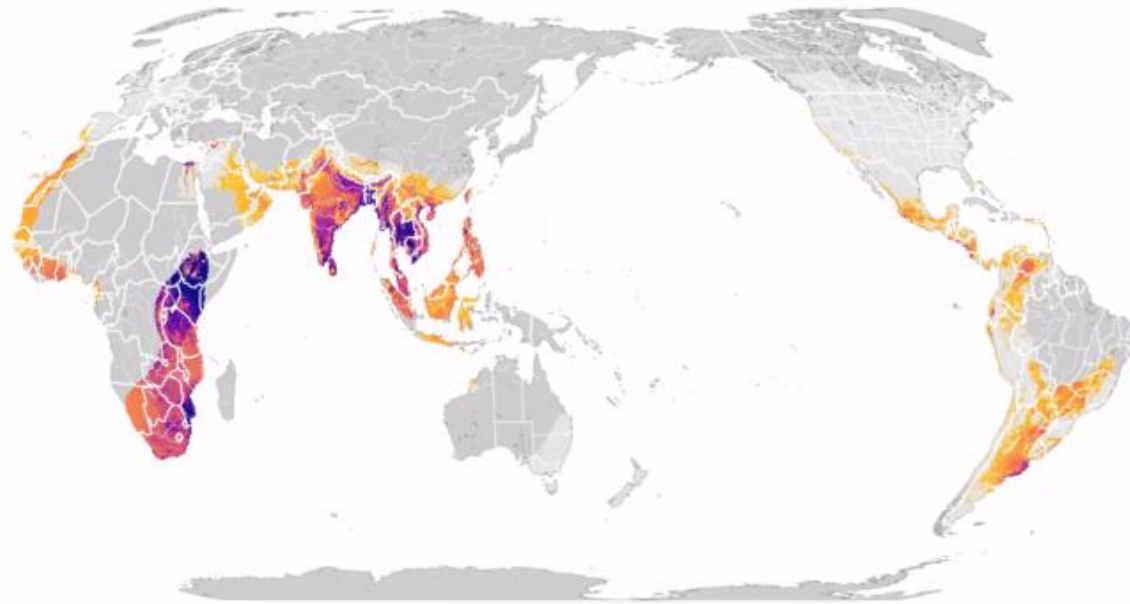


The eBird project

During this voyage, our ornithologist, did **17 surveys**. At least **49 species** were observed. The most numerous species were Feral Pigeon, Yellow-legged Gull and Common Swift. Find the trip report for the voyage and the checklists here:

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/355940>



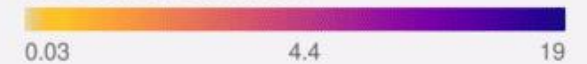


Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

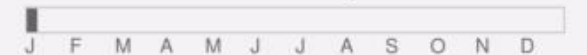
Abundance

Estimates of relative abundance for every week of the year animated to show movement patterns. Relative abundance is the estimated average count of individuals detected by an eBirder during a 1 hour, 1 kilometer traveling checklist at the optimal time of day for each species.

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE



WEEK OF THE YEAR January 4



Modeled area (0 abundance)
No prediction

eBird data from 2006-2020. Estimated for 2020.
Fink, D., T. Auer, A. Johnston, M. Strimas-Mackey, O. Robinson, S. Ligocki, W. Hochachka, L. Jaromczyk, C. Wood, I. Davies, M. Iliff, L. Seitz. 2021. eBird Status and Trends, Data Version: 2020; Released: 2021. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. <https://doi.org/10.2173/ebirdst.2020>

Trip Report on eBird



Species Observed

1	Mute Swan	✔
17	Mallard	
253	Rock Pigeon	✖
2	Stock Dove	✔
18	Common Wood-Pigeon	✔
3	Eurasian Collared-Dove	✔
150	Common Swift	✔
1	Whimbrel	
1	Common Sandpiper	✔
4	Ruddy Turnstone	
10	Black-legged Kittiwake	
2	Black-headed Gull	
76	European Herring Gull	
243	Yellow-legged Gull	✔
3	Great Black-backed Gull	
27	Lesser Black-backed Gull	

4	Common Tern	
17	Sandwich Tern	
4	Northern Fulmar	
2	Cory's Shearwater	
2	White Stork	✔
25	Northern Gannet	
10	Great Cormorant	
2	European Shag	
4	Little Egret	✔
8	Western Cattle-Egret	✔
4	Gray Heron	✔
1	Purple Heron	✔
1	Western Marsh Harrier	✔
9	Black Kite	✔
1	Common Buzzard	✔
2	Eurasian Kestrel	✔
1	Peregrine Falcon	

5	Eurasian Magpie	✔
30	Eurasian Jackdaw	✔
23	Carion Crow	✔
1	Great Tit	✔
4	Barn Swallow	✔
2	Common Chiffchaff	✔
7	Eurasian Blackcap	✔
3	Eurasian Wren	✔
8	European Starling	
5	Song Thrush	✔
2	Eurasian Blackbird	
7	European Robin	✔
1	Common Nightingale	✔
10	House Sparrow	✔
1	Meadow Pipit	
2	Common Chaffinch	✔

eBird

iNaturalist

Throughout this voyage, you played a vital role in documenting the incredible biodiversity of Portugal, Spain, France & Germany. By capturing and submitting images of wildlife and plant life, you contributed to a global effort to track species distribution and monitor ecosystems.

Together, we gathered:

108 Observations

85 Species Identified

5 Observers Participating

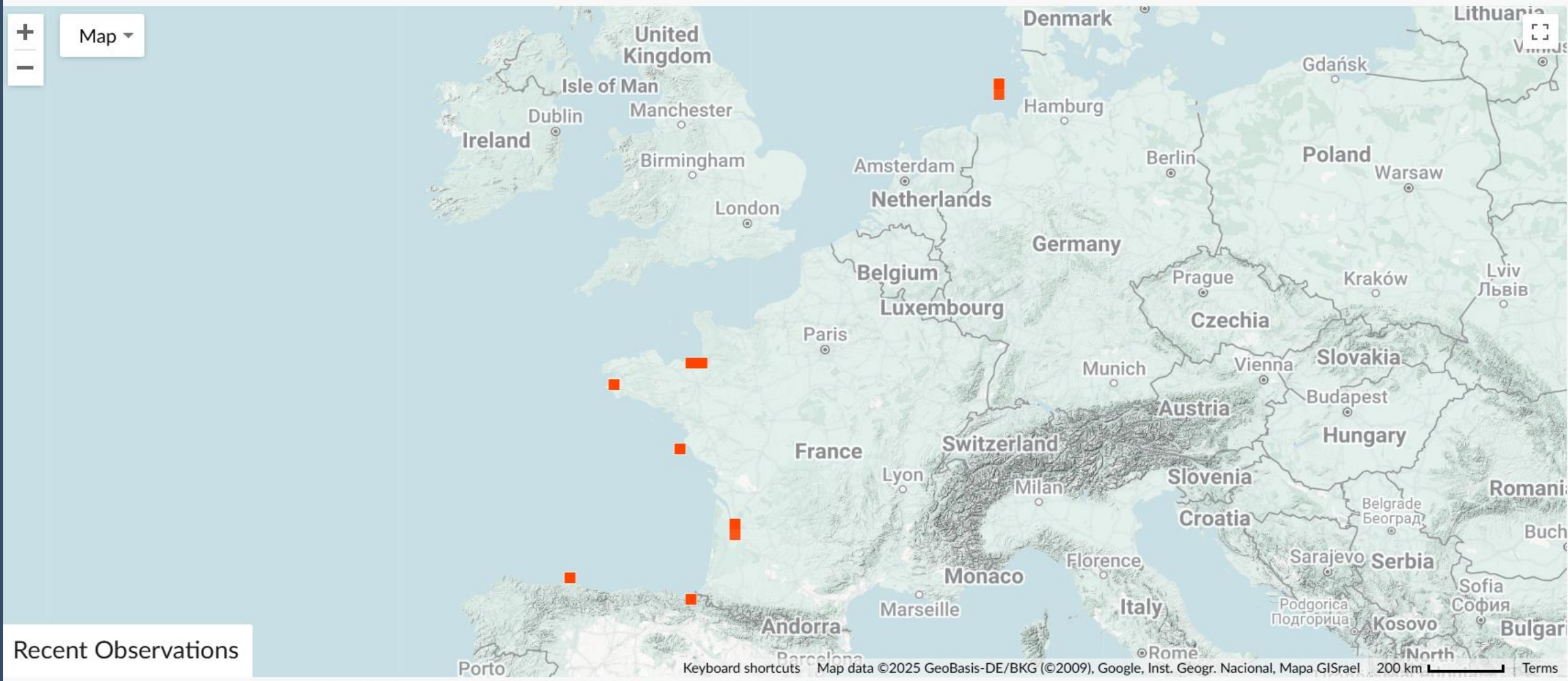
Each observation helps scientists build a clearer picture of biodiversity in Mediterranean and temperate regions. Want to explore our findings? Scan the **QR code** to view our collective data and see the impact of your contributions:



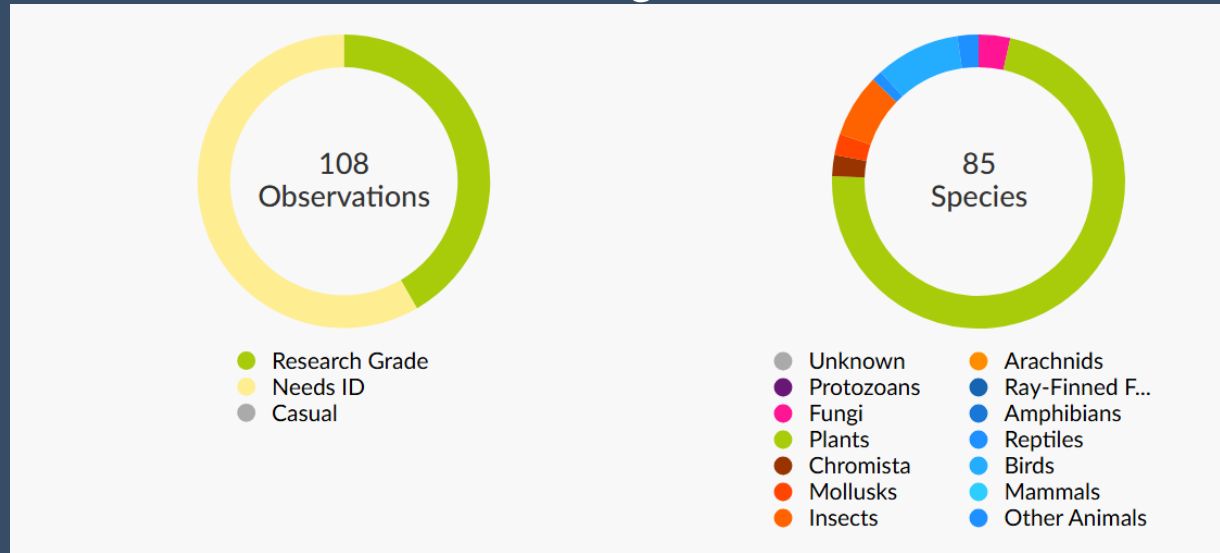
Credit: Chiara Giulia Bertulli

FNEUR2502 – MS Fridtjof Nansen 23/4 – 4/5/2025

Map of Observations



FNEUR2502 – MS Fridtjof Nansen 23/4 - 4/5/2025



Recent Observations

[View All](#)



Tamarisks
Genus *Tamarix*

1 2d



Common Murre
Uria aalge

1 3h



Large White-headed
Gulls
Genus *Larus*

1 3h



Common Eider
Somateria mollissima

2 1h

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Rhubarb
(*Rheum rhabarbarum*)

🛡️ 1

🕒 in 2h



Creeping Willow
(*Salix repens*)

🛡️ 1

🕒 in 1h



Common Murre
(*Uria aalge*)

🛡️ 1

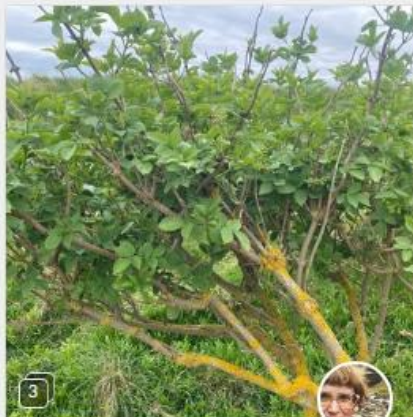
🕒 1h



Seaside Sunburst Lichen
(*Xanthoria aureola*)

🛡️ 1

🕒 in 1h



European Black Elderberry
(*Sambucus nigra*)

🛡️ 1

🕒 in 1h



Common Yarrow
(*Achillea millefolium*)

🛡️ 1

🕒 1h



Heart-podded Hoary Cress
(*Lepidium draba*)

🛡️ Research Grade

🛡️ 2

🕒 1h



Lawn Daisy
(*Bellis perennis*)

🛡️ Research Grade

🛡️ 2

🕒 1h



HappyWhale

This voyage wasn't a success in terms of whale sightings. However, our marine scientist Ian, together with the science team, was able to capture a glorious few moments with bottlenose dolphins. We also saw harbour porpoises and enjoyed the social behaviour of them swimming in the wake at the bow of the ship. Thank you so much for helping us gathering amazing pictures and moments!

[View our data](#) on the global map





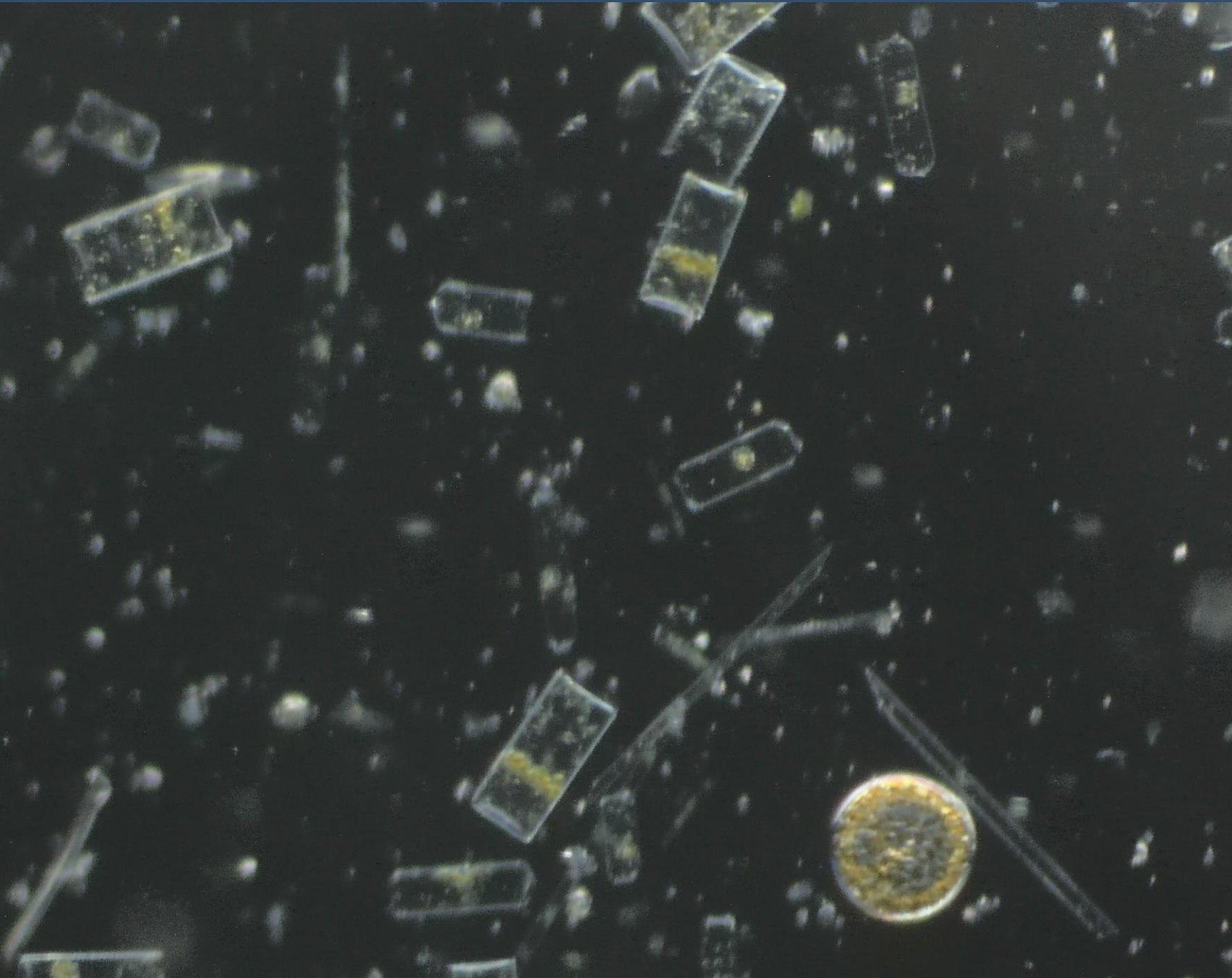
Science Boat

We had 4 science boat sessions during this trip in: Douarnenez & St Malo. We performed multiple secchi disk measurements to document the turbidity/clarity of the water and assess the abundance of phytoplankton.

Date	Location	Depth (m)
12.08.24	Douarnenez	10.6
18.08.24	St Malo	-



[View our data](#) submitted to the Secchi Disk Project



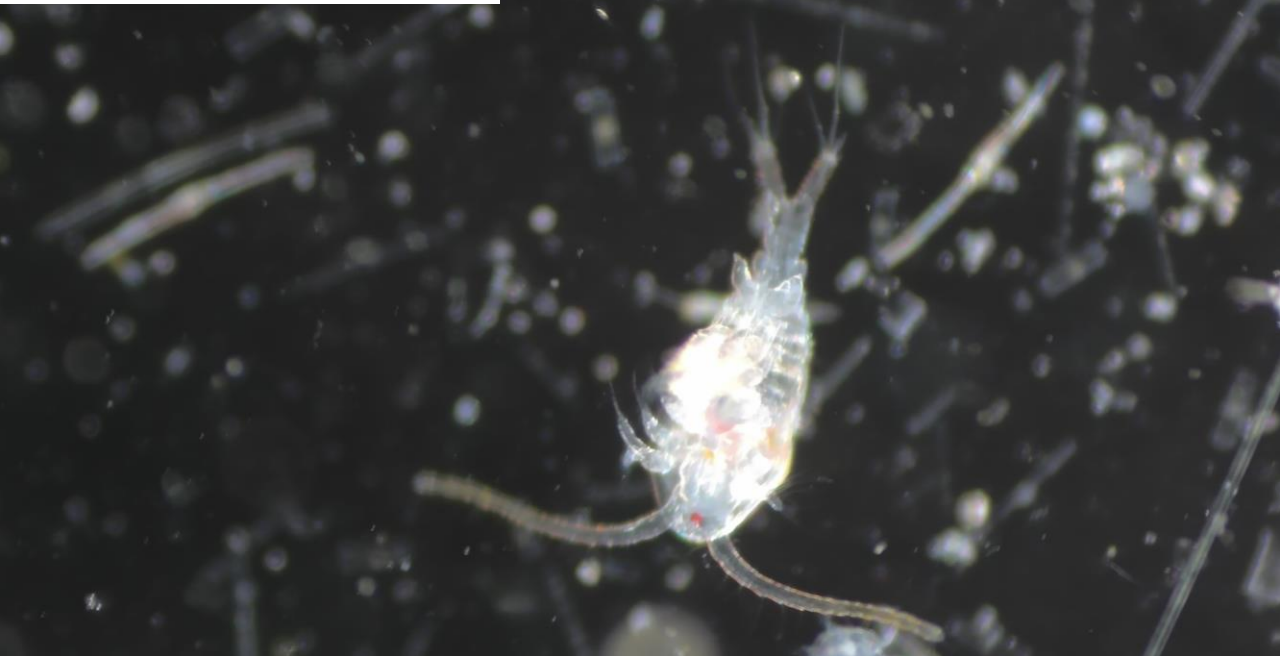
Plankton Samples

Back in the science centre, we brought the ocean into focus—examining our water samples under the microscope to uncover the hidden world of **phytoplankton** and **zooplankton**.

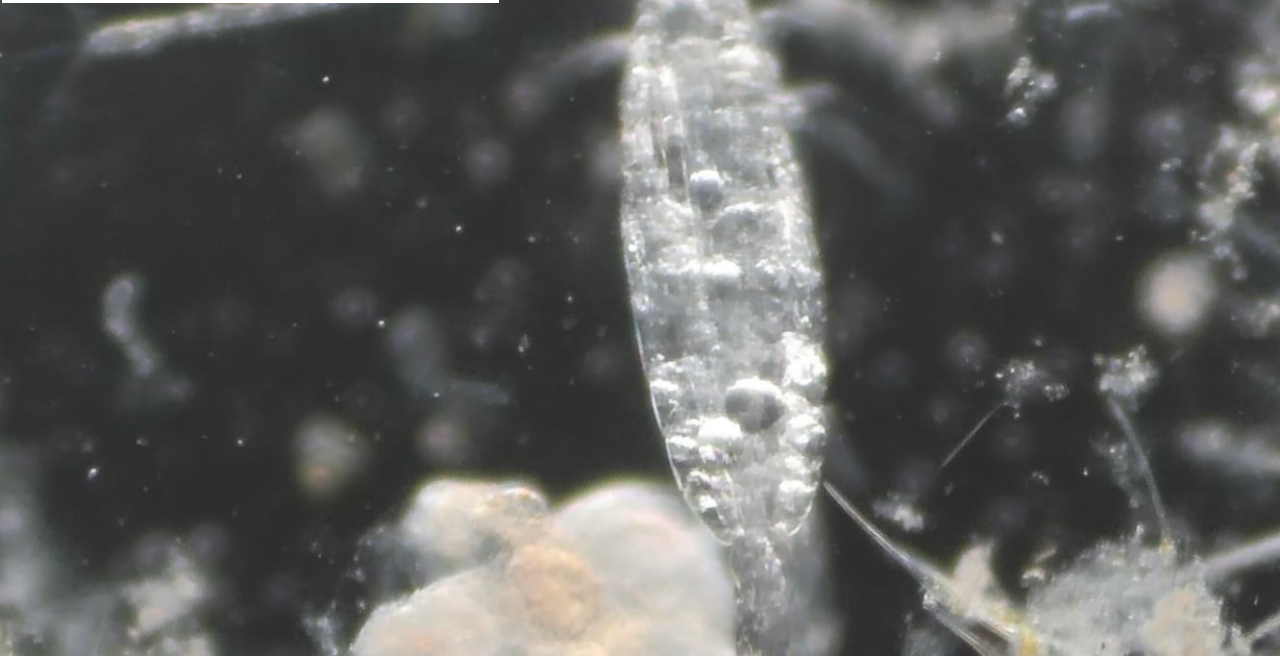
Using microscopes, we projected magnified images onto the screen, allowing everyone to see the intricate details of these tiny organisms. Smaller binocular microscopes offered a hands-on experience, inviting you to search for life in each drop of water.

The samples revealed a world dominated by diatoms, a type of phytoplankton that forms the foundation of the marine food web, and by copepods. What seemed invisible to the eye became a vivid reminder that even the smallest life forms shape this vast and wild ecosystem.

A) Copepod - zooplankton



B) Copepod - zooplankton



C) Diatom - phytoplankton



D) Diatom - phytoplankton



Wildlife List - Birds



Wildlife List – Birds

Scientific Name	English	Deutsch
<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Northern Fulmar	Eissturmvogel
<i>Calonectris borealis</i>	Cory's Shearwater	Corysturmtaucher
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Great Cormorant	Kormoran
<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>	European Shag	Krähenscharbe
<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Northern Gannet	Basstölpel
<i>Uria aalge</i>	Common Guillemot	Guillemot marmette
<i>Grus grus</i>	Common Crane	Grue cendrée
<i>Sterna vittata</i>	White Stork	Weißstorch
<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Purple Heron	Purpureiher
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	Graureiher
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	Seidenreiher
<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Cattle Egret	Kuhreiher
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Mute Swan	Höckerschwan
<i>Graugans</i>	Greylag Goose	Anser anser
<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	Egyptian Goose	Nilgans
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	Stockente
<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Common Eider	Eiderente
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common Buzzard	Mäusebussard

Wildlife List – Birds

Scientific Name	English	Deutsch
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	Wanderfalke
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Eurasian Kestrel	Turmfalke
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Sperber
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Marsh Harrier	Rohrweihe
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite	Schwarzer Milan
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Oystercatcher	Austernfischer
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel	Regenbrachvogel
<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Sanderling
<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Dunlin	Alpenstrandläufer
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	Flußuferläufer
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy Turnstone	Steinwälzer
<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull	Lachmöwe
<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Kittiwake	Dreizehenmöwe

Wildlife List – Birds

Scientific Name	English	Deutsch
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Heringsmöwe
<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Yellow-legged Gull	Mittelmeermöwe
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	Silbermöwe
<i>Larus marinus</i>	Great Black-backed Gull	Mantelmöwe
<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich Tern	Brandseeschwalbe
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	Flußseeschwalbe
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Wood Pigeon	Ringeltaube
<i>Columba oenas</i>	Stock Dove	Hohltaube
<i>Columba livia domestica</i>	Feral Pigeon	Felsentaube
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Collared Dove	Türkentaube
<i>Apus apus</i>	Common Swift	Mauersegler
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow	Rauchschwalbe
<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Crag Martin	Felsenschwalbe

Wildlife List – Birds

Scientific Name	English	Deutsch
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Eurasian Skylark	Lerche
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow Pipit	Wiesenpieper
<i>Motacilla alba</i>	White Wagtail	Bachstelze
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren	Zaunkönig
<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Common Redstart	Gartenrotschwanz
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	European Robin	Rotkehlchen
<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Nightingale	Nachtigall
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	Singdrossel
<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Garden Warbler	Gartengrasmücke
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Blackcap	Mönch-Grasmücke
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Common Chiffchaff	Zilpzalp
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow Warbler	Fitis
<i>Parus major</i>	Great Tit	Kohlmeise

Wildlife List – Birds

Scientific Name	English	Deutsch
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common Starling	Star
<i>Corvus corone</i>	Carrion Crow	Aaskrähe
<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Eurasian Jackdaw	Dohle
<i>Pica pica</i>	Magpie	Elster
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	Hausperling
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch	Buchfink
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Goldfinch	Distelfink
<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Linnet	Hänfling
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Common Blackbird	Amsel



Wildlife

List

Marine Mammals

Wildlife List – Marine Mammals

Scientific Name	English	Deutsch
<i>Tursiops Truncatus</i>	Bottlenose Dolphin	Großer Tümmler
<i>Phocoena Phocoena</i>	Harbour Porpoise	Schweinswal
<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	Grey Seal	Grauwal

HEX

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