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BIG SEAWEED SEARCH: GUIDE TO TAKING PHOTOS

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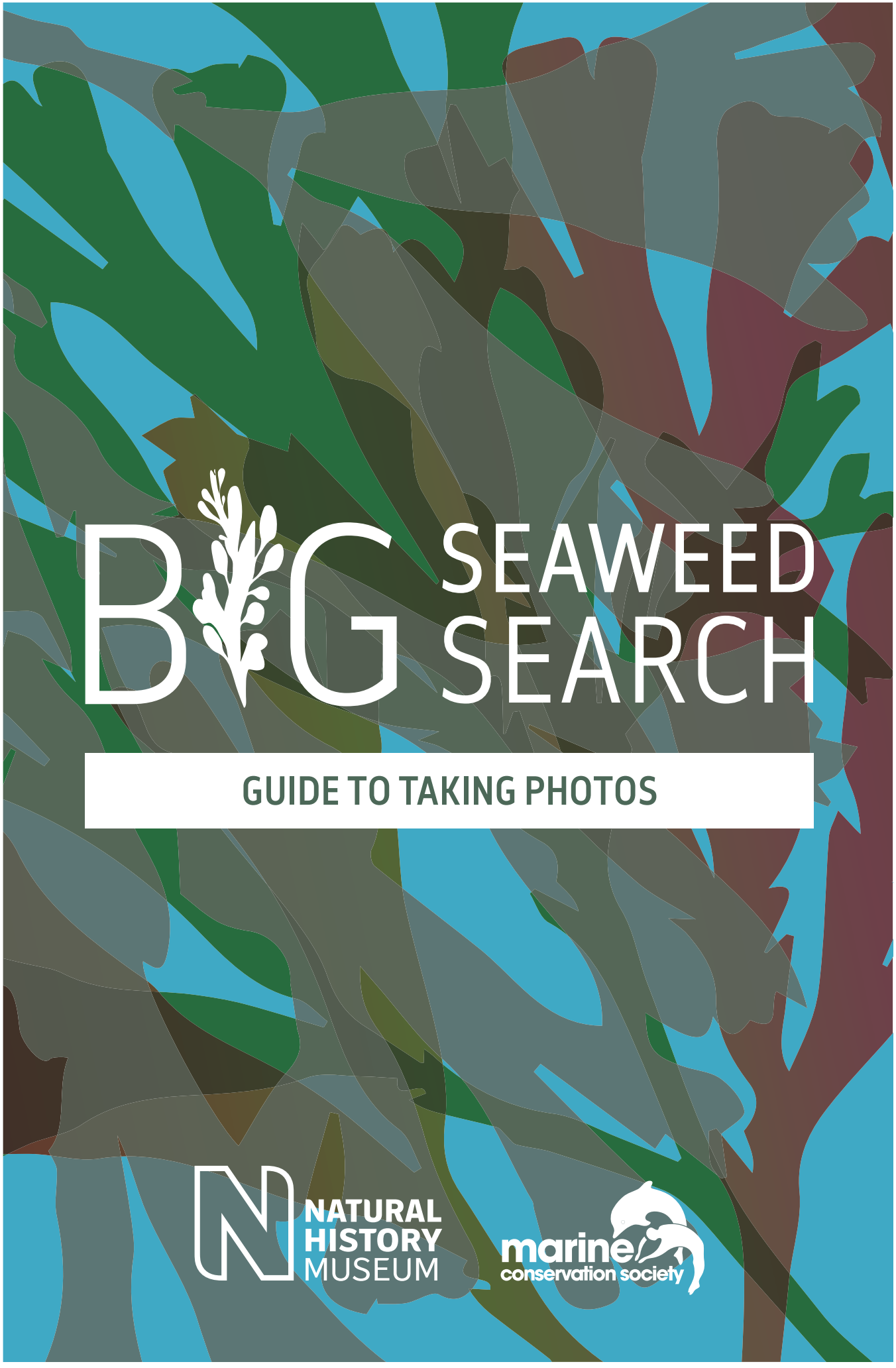


HELLO!

The Big Seaweed Search asks YOU – a citizen scientist – to take survey area photos and seaweed identification photos. This guide describes and illustrates both types of photo, and includes printable labels to place next to the seaweed in your photos.

1. SURVEY AREA PHOTOS

a. Walk down to the edge of the shore where you are going to start your survey.
Always make sure that it is safe to do so, and bring a companion to watch for waves.

b. Select your five-metre-wide survey strip.

c. Get out your camera or smartphone.
Facing the top of your shore, take a photo of your survey area.

TIPS FOR SHARP PHOTOS

- Ensure that you are familiar with your camera's settings. Automatic settings can often be used to take a clear photograph.
- Turn off the flash. It can change the quality of the image, create harsh shadows and glare on close-up images, so detail can be lost.
- To avoid blurry images, plant your feet firmly on the ground, then aim and focus your camera on your subject. Take a deep breath, and squeeze the trigger as you exhale. This is especially helpful in low lighting as the camera shutter stays open longer, so you have to stay still for longer.

2. SEAWEED IDENTIFICATION PHOTOS

a. Make sure it's identifiable.
The Big Seaweed Search Guide has photos of the 14 seaweed species of interest and their identifiable features. Try to have at least one identifiable feature in your photo to make it easier for the scientists to confirm your identification. Make sure that your photos are in focus and close enough to the seaweed so that the features are easy to see. Don't forget to check your camera lens is clean!

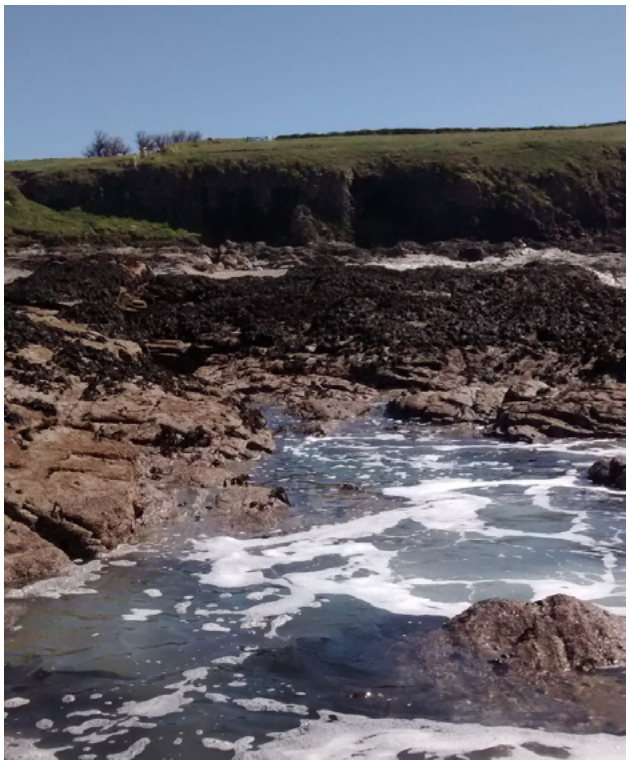
b. Make sure it's attached.
Only record seaweeds that are attached to rock or other hard surface.

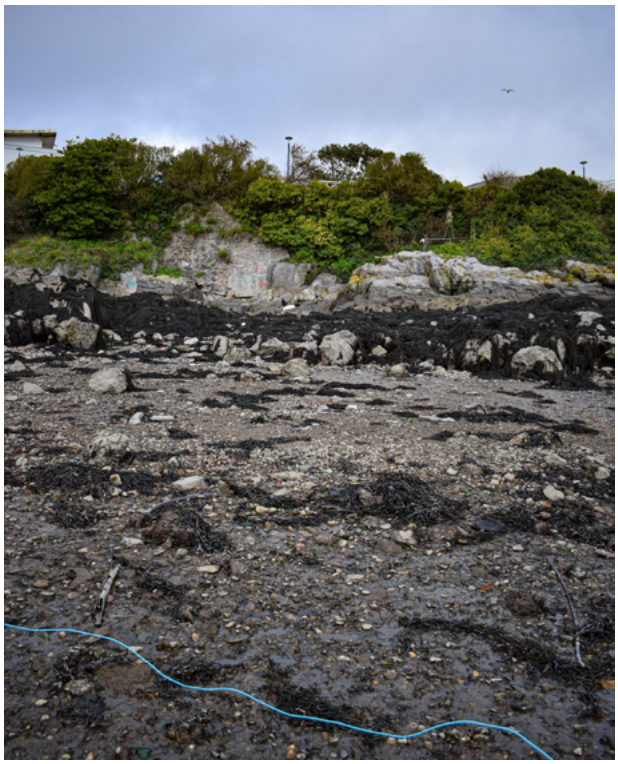
You're surveying in the **intertidal** zone, which experiences a lot of wave action. This, along with storms, growth cycles and predation, can cause seaweed to come loose from the rock or other hard surface to which it is attached.

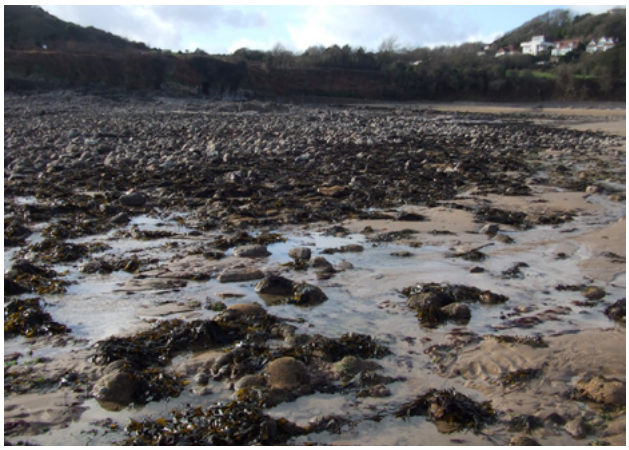
This 'drift' seaweed can raft in the sea to other beaches. If you record a drift seaweed in its new location, you could record a species that doesn't naturally appear at your survey site. Scientists cannot use this data.

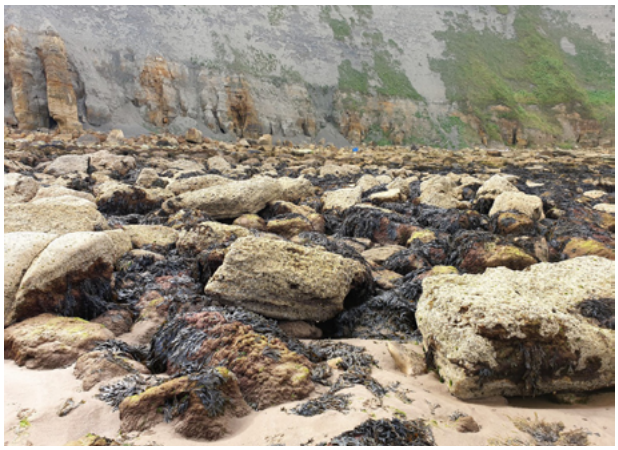
To check that the seaweed is attached, move your hand down and along a frond of the seaweed until you get to its base. If its base isn't attached to a rock or hard surface, then you don't need to record it. If its base is attached, then you can record it and take a photo. Make sure that the photo shows that the seaweed is attached.

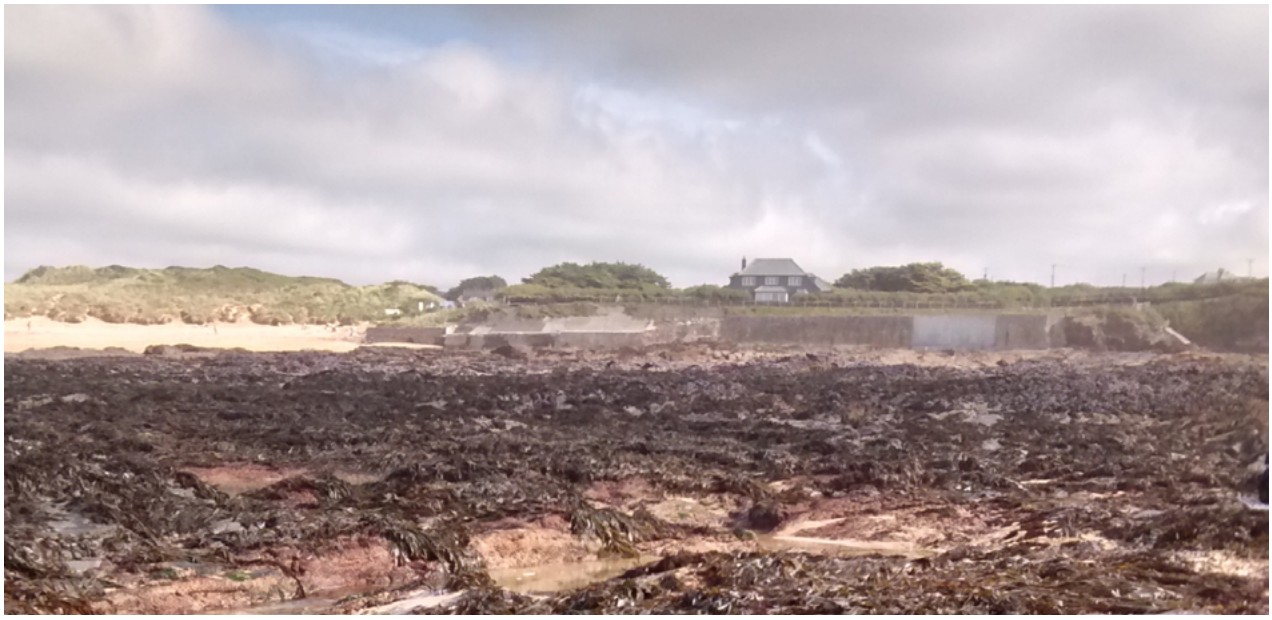
1. SURVEY AREA PHOTOS











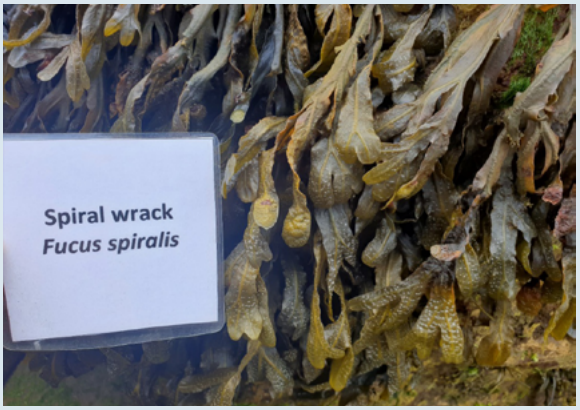
2. ID PHOTOS

A. MAKE SURE THE SEAWEED IS IDENTIFIABLE

✓ DO'S

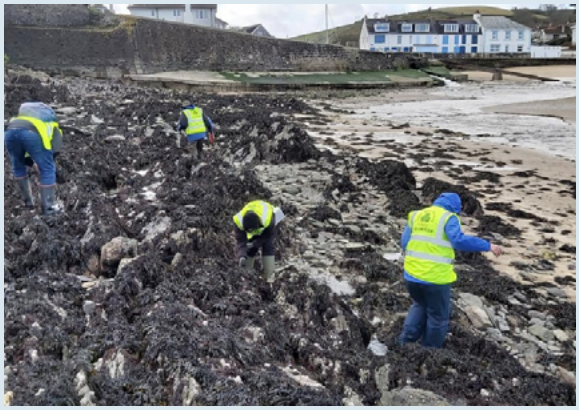
Do include identifiable features
For example, here you can see the distinctive button growth of thongweed.

Do have the image in focus
For example, Bladder wrack is hard to distinguish in a blurry photo compared to a focused photo.



Do use the guide to identify the species

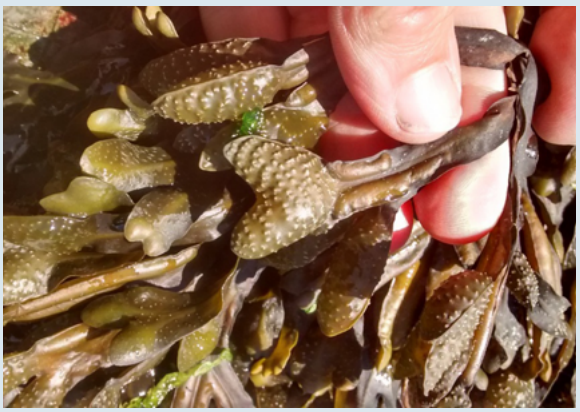
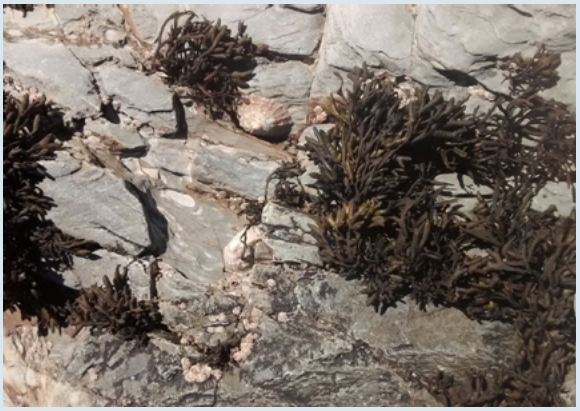
× DON'TS



Don't take a picture from far away
Although this photo isn't useful for the identification of seaweed, it is a really good example of a survey area photo.

2. ID PHOTOS

B. MAKE SURE THE SEAWEED IS ATTACHED

✓ DO'S	✕ DON'TS
 Do check seaweed is attached before taking photos	 Don't take a photo of drift seaweed
 Do take a photo that shows it is attached	

Print this page then cut out these labels to place next to the seaweeds when you take photos of them.

Calcified crusts

Coral weeds

Dabberlocks
Alaria esculenta

Sugar kelp
Saccharina latissima

Serrated wrack
Fucus serratus

Bladder wrack
Fucus vesiculosus

Knotted wrack
Ascophyllum nodosum

Spiral wrack
Fucus spiralis

Channelled wrack
Pelvetia canaliculata

Thongweed
Himanthalia elongata

Wireweed
Sargassum muticum

Wakame
Undaria pinnatifida

Harpoon weed
Asparagopsis armata

Bonnemaison's hook weed
Bonnemaisonia hamifera