



Pembrokeshire Coast
National Park Authority

Daugleddau Estuary
and
Milford Haven Waterway
ANNUAL
SHELDUCK SURVEY

Report for 1997

J.E. Hodges, Ecologist

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Fig. 1: Map showing the area covered by the 1997 survey, and distribution of shelduck broods

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- Appendix 1: Boat specifications
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Summary

The Daugleddau Estuary and Milford Haven Waterway hold internationally important numbers of shelducks during the winter months. In addition, there is a small summer population which has been the subject of annual boat-based surveys between 1991 and 1996. The survey was repeated in 1997, in June and August, as part of a programme of environmental monitoring and research in the estuary system. The 1997 season was as successful as that of 1996 in terms of total number of broods seen on the water, although the number of ducklings was lower. The number of ducklings seen was, however, on a par with those seen in the 1960s and 1970s. In addition to shelducks, the numbers of other estuary birds were estimated, as in previous years. These showed that in early August, the numbers of curlew present were above the threshold of national importance.