



Pembrokeshire Coast
National Park Authority

Daugleddau Estuary
and
Milford Haven Waterway
ANNUAL
SHELDUCK SURVEY

Report for 1999

**DAUGLEDDAU ESTUARY AND
MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY:
ANNUAL SUMMER SHELDUCK
SURVEY**

REPORT FOR 1999

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Contents

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page no</u>
Summary	<i>i</i>
1. Introduction	1
2. Scope of the annual summer survey	1
3. Aims, objectives and methods	2
4. Results	3
5. Discussion of results	7
6. Future monitoring	8
7. Acknowledgements	8
Appendices:	
Appendix 1: Boat specification	
Appendix 2: Tabulated data	
Appendix 3: References	

Fig 1. Map showing the area covered by the 1999 survey, and the distribution of shelduck broods.

SUMMARY

The Daugleddau Estuary and Milford Haven Waterway hold nationally 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 1998. The survey was repeated in 1999, in June and August as part of a programme of environmental monitoring in the estuary system. The results indicate that in terms of numbers and average size of broods of ducklings seen during the survey, the 1999 season was considerably less successful than the preceding three seasons. Ground predators such as foxes were thought to be a significant factor affecting breeding success/survival of young. Data on other water birds once again confirmed the importance of the estuary system in August, especially for curlew.