



Pembrokeshire Coast  
National Park Authority

**Daugleddau Estuary**  
and  
**Milford Haven Waterway**  
**SURVEILLANCE OF SUMMER**  
**SHELDUCK POPULATIONS**

Report for 2005

**DAUGLEDDAU ESTUARY AND**  
**MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY:**  
**ANNUAL SURVEILLANCE OF**  
**SUMMER SHELDUCK**  
**POPULATIONS**

**REPORT FOR 2005**

**J. E. HODGES**  
**PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL**  
**PARK AUTHORITY**

**DAUGLEDDAU ESTUARY AND MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY: ANNUAL  
SURVEILLANCE OF SUMMER SHELDUCK POPULATIONS**

**Report for 2005**

**Contents**

<b><u>Section</u></b>	<b><u>Page no</u></b>
Summary	i
1. Introduction	1
2. Scope of the annual summer shelduck survey	1
3. Aims, objectives and methods	2
4. Results	3
5. Discussion of results	7
6. Future surveillance	7
7. Acknowledgements	8

**Appendices**

Appendix 1: boat specification

Appendix 2: tabulated data

Appendix 3: references

Fig. 1: area included in the 2005 survey and the distribution of shelduck broods recorded during the survey.

## 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 surveys carried out between 1991 and 2004. The summer boat survey was repeated in June and late July 2005, as part of a co-ordinated programme of environmental surveillance in the estuary system. The aims, and objectives, methods used and results obtained during the survey are described in this report.

The results indicate that 2005 was one of the least successful years for shelducks in the estuary system since the early 1990s, in terms of numbers of broods recorded during the survey. Predation by ground and avian predators is thought to have been a significant factor in the number and size of broods seen, and in the survival of ducklings to fledging. Disturbance (on water and/or on land) may also have played a part. Data collected for other wetland birds once again confirmed the importance of the estuary system during the autumn migration period, especially for species such as curlew. The report concludes with a recommendation for the continuation of the annual surveillance of summer shelduck populations in the estuary system, as part of the MHWESG annual work programme.