

VOLUNTEERS WANTED to participate in beach surveys!

Want to learn more about marine wildlife and what you can find along your local stretch of beach? Want to get outdoors regularly and collect data which will help conserve our marine environment?

The Wildlife Trust of Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside are setting up a local volunteer group to help monitor Sefton's coastline, and would like YOU to get involved. The group will conduct regular beach surveys at many of Sefton's coastal hotspots and help us discover what marine life is living just under the waves.

Find out all about it here:

<http://www.merseysidebiobank.org.uk/downloads/Volunteers%20wanted%2016-11-2011.pdf>

SAVE OUR Marine Conservation Zones!

Cheryl Nicholson - Marine Conservation Officer, North West Wildlife Trusts - wants your help to counter a threat to our recommended network of 127 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs).

After years of pressure, and with huge public support, the Marine and Coastal Access Act of 2009 promised a coherent network of protection around the coasts by 2012. Now 127 marine sites around England's coast, including fifteen in the Irish Sea, have been recommended by four regional stakeholder groups to become MCZs next year.

However, there is a very real fear that only a fraction of these will be recommended for designation, which would be a disaster for our marine wildlife. This is a once in a lifetime chance for us to protect the wildlife in our seas, and we can't let it slip away.

Please write to Richard Benyon and show your support at this link -

<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/saveourmczs>

Where are our HEDGEHOGS?

Did you know that the Hedgehog has been a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species since 2007 because of declines in its numbers? Like lots of other so-called 'common' mammals in Merseyside & West Lancashire, Hedgehogs are under-recorded and we do not have a complete picture of their distribution in our area. Now is a great time of year to look for squashed Hedgehogs on our roads, as they are moving around making their last preparations for hibernation.

If you see a Hedgehog (dead or alive) when you are out and about please take a moment to send us the record on <http://www.MolePatrol.org.uk> - it's really easy to do and your records can help us understand how the Hedgehog is faring in our area.