

Press release - 17.09.2019

By Halldis Ringvold, Sea Snack Norway, Gelatinous sphere project

Mystery on large gelatinous spheres solved!

Genetic testing of four spheres from Norwegian waters show they are egg mass of southern shortfin squid (*Illex coindetii*).

For two years (2017-2019) we have gathered around 80 observations of large gelatinous spheres. The oldest are about 30 years old, and the youngest a few weeks. Spheres are reported from Norway and south to the Mediterranean Ocean. Spheres are on average 1 m in diameter, over 50% have a dark streak through center, and are free floating in the water mass. Project leader is Sea Snack Norway by Halldis Ringvold. Several observations from the Mediterranean are collected from the database DORIS, by Michel Péan (<https://doris.ffessm.fr/>). (Other participants are mentioned below.)

Illex coindetii is a 10-armed squid within Ommastrephidae family, distributed on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. It was described by the French researcher Jean-Baptiste Verany in 1839, honouring Dr. Coindet from Geneve.

The results will be published, as for our first observations (Ringvold & Taite 2018)*.

This has been a project relying on volunteer work, so we would like to thank everybody who helped out!

*Ringvold H, Taite M. 2018. Using citizen science to obtain data on large, floating gelatinous spheres from NE Atlantic, attributed to egg mass of ommastrephid squid (Oegopsida, Cephalopoda, Mollusca). *Marine Biology Research* 14: 672-681.

Participants:

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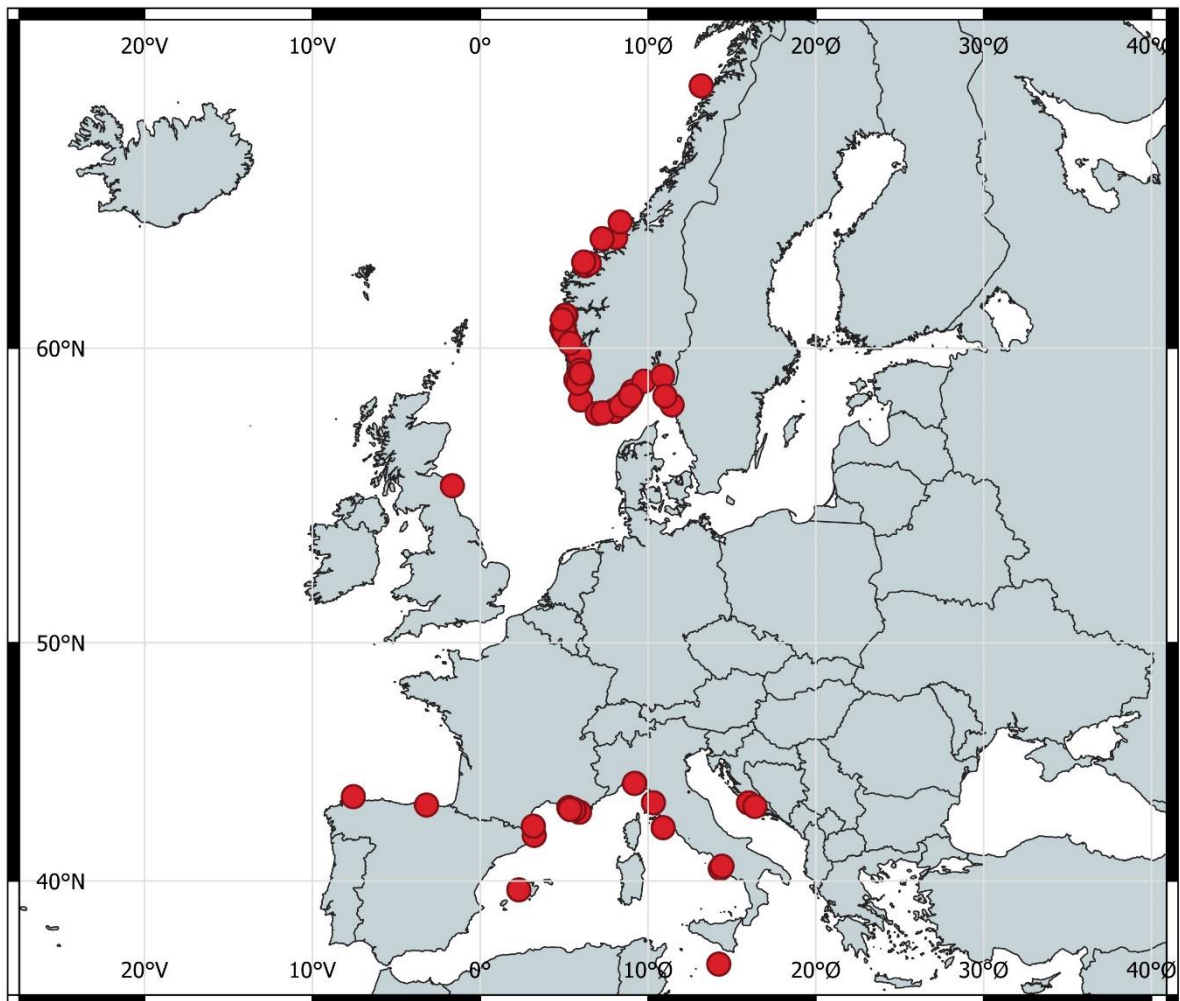
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5 DORIS, the naturalist website of the French Underwater Federation (FFESSM), France

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- 9 Arendal undervannsklubb, Norway
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- 11 Møreforsking as, Norway
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- 14 University of Bergen, Norway
- 15 NTNU, Norway
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Map



Kart: Halldis Ringvold/ Sea Snack Norway/ Geleballprosjektet