

# Marine Conservation Society Jellyfish Survey

While some jellyfish are harmless or have a very mild sting, others have a painful and even dangerous sting. MCS would therefore recommend that, for your own safety, you do not touch jellyfish. Please adhere to the Health and Safety advice on the back of this flyer.



*Cyanea capillata*

**Lion's mane jellyfish:** Large, usually 50cm but can reach 2m in diameter. Large, reddish brown, umbrella-shaped bell with a mass of long, thin hair-like tentacles as well as 4 short, thick, frilled and folded arms. This jellyfish stings.



*Pelagia noctiluca*

**Mauve stinger:** Up to 10cm. Has a deep bell with pink or mauve warts, 16 marginal lobes and 8 marginal, hair-like tentacles. Manubrium bears 4 longer frilled arms with tiny pink spots. This jellyfish stings.



*Chrysaora hysoscella*

**Compass jellyfish:** Typically up to 30cm. Colour variable, but usually has pale umbrella-shaped bell with diagnostic brownish V-shaped markings, 32 marginal lobes and 24 long, thin tentacles. 4 long, thick, frilled arms hang from the manubrium. This jellyfish stings.



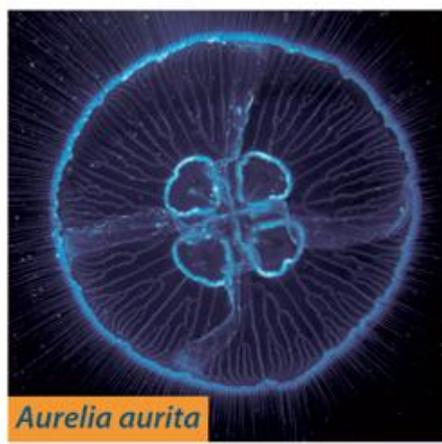
*Rhizostoma octopus*

**Barrel or Root mouth jellyfish:** Up to 1m in diameter. Robust, with a spherical, solid, rubbery and largely white bell, fringed with purple. The bell lacks tentacles but 8 thick, frilled arms hang from the manubrium.



*Cyanea lamarckii*

**Blue jellyfish:** Up to 30cm. Similar shape to *C. capillata* but smaller with a blue bell through which radial lines can be seen. Mild sting.



*Aurelia aurita*

**Moon jellyfish:** Up to 40cm in diameter. Transparent, umbrella-shaped bell edged with short hair-like tentacles. Recognised by the 4 distinct pale purple gonad rings in the bell. Manubrium (mouth and arms, underside and centre of bell) bears 4 short, frilled arms. Mild sting.



*Velella velella*

**By-the-wind-sailor:** Not a jellyfish, but a floating, solitary hydranth. Up to 10cm long and blue-purple in colour. Upright sail and chitinous float are diagnostic, with a mass of small tentacles surrounding the mouth on the underside. Occurs in vast swarms.



*Physalia physalia*

**Portuguese Man-of-War:** Not a jellyfish, but a floating colony of hydrozoans. The oval-shaped, transparent float with crest is diagnostic. Blue-purple in colour, with many hanging 'fishing polyps' below that may be tens of metres long. Extremely dangerous to humans due to their powerful sting. Rare in the UK but if found in numbers they should be reported to the local authorities.

# Jellyfish Survey

Use the [Jellyfish Identification guide](#), produced by MCS (see overleaf: [www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org))

You can help record jellyfish strandings or where swimming in the sea around our coast!

Identification of live jellyfish is usually easy - but once washed up on the beach it can become more



difficult, so may be 'unidentified'. You can always take photos - top & underside - to help with the record/identification later.

Report online & send to us at:

[thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk)

Jellyfish are the staple diet of leatherback turtles that occasionally visit, so this information along with environmental



factors such as sea temperature, plankton production & current flow, we hope to understand what influences the seasonal distribution of jellyfish & leatherbacks in UK waters.

**Health and Safety:** Some jellyfish can sting, so...

- Never touch jellyfish with bare hands
- Always use a stick or wear arm length rubber gloves if you need to turn them over for identification
- Beware of the stinging tentacles and keep your face and any exposed skin well clear
- Seek medical attention in the case of a severe sting

## Treating sea creature stings - NHS advice

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Stings-marine-creatures/Pages/Treatment.aspx>

You can treat some stings yourself using first aid - but if the symptoms are serious, such as severe pain, swelling or difficulty breathing, **dial 999 to request an ambulance immediately.**

**Jellyfish:** Most jellyfish stings are mild and don't require treatment, or you can treat them yourself. However, **dial 999 if there are severe symptoms**, such as difficulty breathing or chest pain, or if a large or sensitive area of the body such as the face or genitals has been stung.

**Someone stung by a jellyfish should be treated out of the water - Any remaining tentacles should be removed using tweezers or a clean stick** (wear gloves if they're available). Applying an ice pack to the affected area helps to reduce pain and inflammation.

Vinegar is **no longer recommended** for treating jellyfish stings, because it may make things worse, by activating unfired stinging cells. The use of other substances, such as alcohol and baking soda, should also be avoided. Ignore any advice you may have heard about urinating on the sting. It's unlikely to help and may make the situation worse.

**Use a razor blade, credit card or shell to remove any nematocysts** (small poisonous sacs) that are stuck to the skin. It may help to apply a small amount of shaving cream to the affected area first.

Aftercare: Any pain and swelling can be treated with painkillers, such as paracetamol & ibuprofen.

**Portuguese man-of-war:** stings can be treated in a similar way to jellyfish stings (see above). After carefully removing any remaining tentacles from the skin (see above), thoroughly wash the affected area with seawater (not fresh water). Afterwards, soak the area in hot water to ease the pain. Pain from a Portuguese man-of-war sting usually lasts about 15-20 minutes. Seek immediate medical assistance if you experience severe, lasting pain, or if the affected area becomes infected.

7-2015

## North East Kent



Marine Protected Area



The North East Kent Coast is one of the best sites in Europe for wintering birds, and marine life of the chalk caves, reef and sandy bays.

For more details visit [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk)

or [www.nekmpa.org.uk](http://www.nekmpa.org.uk)

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