

VERSPREIDINGSONDERZOEK MOLLUSKEN IN HET KANAAL

Onderstaand bericht kwam enige tijd geleden in het Engels bij de redactie binnen. Besloten is het ongewijzigd in het Engels over te nemen. Het betreft een oproep vondstgegevens in te sturen met betrekking tot het in bijgevoegd kaartje aangegeven gebied. (Zie adres aan einde van het bericht).

DOMMIC**A new initiative to record the Distribution of Marine Mollusca in the Channel.**

Members of the Nederlandse Malacologische Vereniging are likely to be familiar with distributional studies carried out by the Conchological Society of Great Britain & Ireland. The Society has been in the forefront of recording the distribution of marine Mollusca in British waters and the north-east Atlantic. The publication of two national Distribution Atlases in 1982 and 1990 effectively marked the end of one era of recording in British waters. Recording efforts are now being directed towards more detailed local and regional projects.

The DOMMIC project was launched by the Society in 1995 to map the Distribution of Marine Molluscs in the Channel. The area known as the English Channel or La Manche forms a discrete geographical unit c. 450 km in length and with a width varying from 30-160 km. The map below shows the extent of the survey area with recording units of 6' Latitude by 6' Longitude (equivalent to an area of c. 90 km²)

There are many factors which make the Channel an ideal area for biogeographical studies:

Differences in coastal geology, shores and sublittoral substrates, varied hydrography, a strong tidally swept mid-channel (which creates a north/south divide), and a gradual cooling of the climate from south-west to north-east. These characteristics contribute to several recognised faunistic boundaries.

It is hoped that by carrying out new survey work and synthesising all existing data, the resulting maps will provide a detailed insight into the distribution and ecology of the molluscan fauna and the factors that control it. It is only by having such data that answers to prime questions can be provided and species in need of conservation and management can be identified.

The success of this project will depend on the involvements of a wide range of interested individuals and organisations and the project will be greatly enhanced by cooperation with European continental colleagues. We understand that many Dutch conchologists visit the Channel coast shores of France on collecting or recording expeditions and we would like to invite them to participate in DOMMIC. This is how you could help:

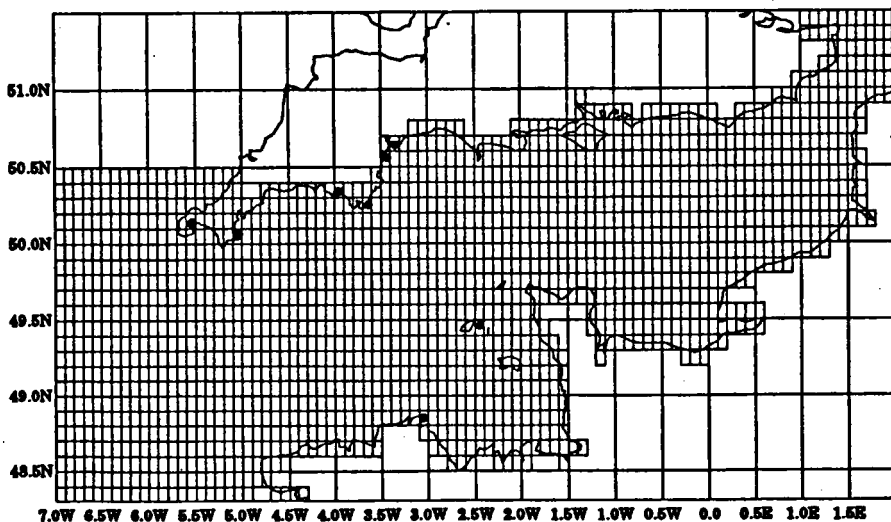
Submit new and post-1990 records. Lists and records should be accompanied with as much other data as possible but should include

the Date and Name of Recorder with ideally, precise National Map Reference or Lat/Long data. There is much scope for recording. The map has been marked up with all of the post-1990 records held in the Conchological Society's databank for *Raphitoma purpurea*. We are sure that it will prove to be frequent in the southern and western part of the survey area.

Inform other potential contributors to DOMMIC, particularly marine stations, academic institutions and natural history societies. Make contact with other organisations who collect molluscan data: Fisheries departments, Water authorities, Environmental and conservation organisations. Contact boat owners for possible inshore dredging work. Tell us of your interests and recruit others.

For further information on any aspect of the project, to request blank recording cards or to submit records, please contact the DOMMIC coordinator:

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Map showing the DOMMIC survey area,
plotted with post-1990 records of living *Raphitoma purpurea* (Mont.)