

We would like to thank the following for permission to use their images: 1 = Pete Hayward/Tony Nelson-Smith (reprint from Collins Guide to the Sea Shore), 2 = Peter Dyrwyda (Dyrwyda, P.E.J. 2003. Gower Peninsula, South Wales: landscapes, habitats and biodiversity), 3 = Pat O'Brien, 4 = Rowan Byrne, 5 = Amy Dale, 6 = Michelle Cronin, 7 = Patricia Byrne.



1



2



6



**Species 1: Common Jellyfish (*Aurelia aurita*).** This is the most familiar jellyfish. It is recognised by its four purplish/pink gonad rings. The rest of the jellyfish is transparent and has numerous short tentacles around the margin of the bell (difficult to see when out of water). Up to 400mm in diameter, normally much smaller. Found from April to September. **Mild sting.**



1



**Species 2: Compass Jellyfish (*Chrysaora hysoscella*).** Most distinguishing characteristic is the reddish-brown 'V' shaped markings on the bell. Has 24 long tentacles dangling from the margin and four frilly mouth-arms trailing from the inside. Colour is white to yellow with brown 'V' shaped markings. Up to 500mm in diameter. July to September. **Can sting.**



1



2



**Species 3: Barrel jellyfish (*Rhizostoma octopus*).** These jellyfish are surprisingly solid to feel and have a massive dome shape. They have a ghost white colour with purple lobes around the margin. Dangling from the centre are eight mouth-arms that resemble a cauliflower in shape. They have no tentacles but prolonged exposure **can cause an allergic reaction.** Up to 1m in diameter! All year round but most abundant in July to September.



1



Up side down in pool!



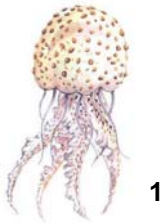
5



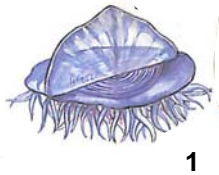
**Species 4: Blue jellyfish (*Cyanea lamarckii*).** Translucent body with blue-purplish ring inside. Masses of tentacles on the margin. Up to 300mm in diameter. Like a smaller version of the Lion's Mane. Occurs April to July, uncommon. **Stings!**



**Species 5: Lion's Mane Jellyfish (*Cyanea capillata*):** Can reach a bell diameter of 2 meters, normally much smaller. Bell margin divided into 8 lobes and 8 clusters of up to 150 tentacles each. Tentacles are longer than the oral arms. Colour varies from deep red to yellow individuals. **Warning! These jellyfish sting severely.**



**Species 6: Pelagia jellyfish (*Pelagia noctiluca*):** Bell has warts or bumps on it. Very small jellyfish, about the size of a closed fist, up to 10cm in diameter. Has only eight tentacles. Occurs autumn/winter. Similar to the common jellyfish, however they occur at different times of the year. **Warning: Can sting**



**Species 7: By-the-wind-sailor (*Velella velella*).** Not a true jellyfish, but a close relative. Bluish oval disk reaching 8cm in length. Equipped with a 'sail' that projects above the surface of the water to catch the wind and aid their dispersal. Around the margin of the float is a ring of tentacle-like fishing appendages. Can occur all year round. **Mild sting**



**Species 8: Portuguese Man O'War (*Physalia physalis*).** Again not a true jellyfish but related. Large & conspicuous float up to 30cm long & 10cm wide. Float is silver-blue with red/pink tinging. rest of colony is blue purple. **WARNING! Inflicts severe stings.**

**Species 9: Sea gooseberry (*Pleurobrachia pileus*).** Not a jellyfish at all but a Ctenophore. Shaped like a gooseberry and is transparent. Up to 20 mm long. If you look close you can see 8 ciliary plates or comb rows. **No sting.**

Dr Tom Doyle  
Coastal & Marine Resources Centre (CMRC),  
University College Cork,  
Haulbowline, Naval Base,  
Cobh, Cork, Ireland.  
Email: t.doyle@ucc.ie



  
Swansea University  
Prifysgol Abertawe

Dr Vicky Hobson  
Institute of Environmental Sustainability  
School of Environment and Society  
Swansea University, Singleton Park  
Swansea UK SA2 8PP  
Email: V.J.Hobson@swansea.ac.uk

Website: [www.jellyfish.ie](http://www.jellyfish.ie)