

## Report of Observations (Summer time) - Seagull reactions to Drones

### Drones

I used a variety of drones to see the effect that they had on the gulls. The bigger the drone the more of a reaction I had with the gulls, but due to safety reasons I was only able to use the very big drone when very few people were around, apart from Candles on the Cobb.

### Reaction to Drones

To be honest using drones only really moved the gulls around Lyme, on some flights they seemed to fly inland to the town. But they return. So I really don't think drones work as method of moving them away from Lyme. However to clear them aware for an event, it has some merit, but it is short lived.

### Patterns & Times of Day

The gulls know the best places and times it seems to be for fish and chips!

There are three main areas:

- 1 - Left of the Life Boat Station
- 2 - The Harbour inn to the Trampoline man
- 3 - By the wall next to the Clock Tower

The gulls have their look out areas and fight for prime locations to swoop. They also seem to gather at lunch time and evening time when there are more people eating food.

On one flight, there was a group of 50 people eating fish and chips by the beach huts, east of the trampoline man. They were seated in chair and their food was in paper rather than the bright blue boxes used for some of the stalls of fish and chips. I watched and not one attack ? very odd, unless they take time to build up a pattern of where the food is and this one off event confused them. However on talking to the group as they were leaving I asked if anyone had had their chips taken by the gulls and they said no. But they did say that they gave them their left over chips !

I am going to do a test without drones to see if my loud speaker with Bird of Prey noises has any affect. The idea is to see if the sounds of a Bird of Prey that they can't see has an affect. We know the sight of a Bird of Prey works! but I wonder if sound on its own might have a result! I will let you know !

I have learnt a lot from flying the drones solely to see the affects on the gulls and to observe their reactions. Other than clearing the way on a special event, I don't think drones are affective, they just move the gulls around Lyme.

## IDEAS !!

### Education of the Public to Not feed gulls !!

1 - I think more signs might help telling people not to feed the gulls and that there is a fine for anyone found doing so

2 - I wonder if all the take-aways were given or required to affix a 'Sticky Label' to their boxes or fish and chips in paper or whatever. That clearly says Don't Feed the Seagulls and there is a fine if seen feeding them might help?

### Other Things to try to Stop the gulls swooping on people

3 - Bird of Pray sounds - I will test and let you know ! I think Alan over the tannoy is too soothing for them !! the odd swak of a Desert Eagle Owl might be an option ? Alan said he is not very good at making Bird noises !!

4 - Flags - Gulls don't like things that flap & the colour Red & Sparkle  
I have read reports which I have copied the link below from the Guardian, where they painted areas with Red. I think combining Flags that Flap with a pleasing design with Red, might be worth trailing. Gulls also don't like things that sparkle, so I have created a mock up flag with both ideas, just an idea.

Here are some flag designs and maybe trial by attaching to the Fossil Lamp posts as that is a very popular Gull look out perch and then test them on the beach areas that the Gulls know is good for food

5 - I have already mentioned the covered seating areas like Mark Hixs, so I will leave that idea with you

6 - Water Pistols !! Wardens to be armed with Water Pistols, gulls hate water jets and pistols and a great way to keep cool in the summer ! Motion-activated water blasters are harmless harassers.

Screen shots of Flag design ideas - It seems that having Red and sown in disks that reflect might be worth testing - Just Ideas













## REFERENCE MATERIALS...

### Research by other people - Seagulls and Colours

#### The colour Red used in Scotland - Red used as a deterrent

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk/scotland-blog/2012/mar/30/seagulls-red-card-arbroath>

**Objectives/Goals** If I lay out different colored towels on the beach and put food on each of them I predict that Seagulls are attracted to colour and they are attracted to the bright colour blue the most because Seagulls live near the ocean where food for survival is found.

**Methods/Materials** I set four feeding areas, 1 on a red, green, blue and white towel. On white towel I placed a bird deterrent made up of a 20.48cm x 20.48cm red paper with a black circle 20.32cm in diameter. I fed the Seagulls 140 grams of white Market Pantry bread cubed and place in the centre of each towel. I placed the towels 152.4cm apart from each other. I timed how fast the food got eaten, 3 different times on 2 different days at the same time of day with similar weather condition and temperature.

**Results** My data proved that Seagulls are attracted to colour. Seagulls are attracted to green most. 90% of the time the birds went to the green towel first to eat the bread. They would eat from the blue towel and white towel and lastly the red towel. In fact, they seemed frightened by the red towel. They would flap their wings and were hesitant to land on the red towel. They flew above it and around it but wouldn't land on the red towel. However once a single bird was brave enough to land on the red towel it would peck at the towel a couple of times and then finally it would eat from the red towel. The other birds would then follow.