



News sheet - August 2004

Editorial

One of the main aims of these news sheets is to provide feedback to regional co-ordinators and other observers on cetacean sightings obtained over the previous two months, either in the form of a summary of sightings reports or, particularly in areas of relatively low cetacean activity, an actual list. We are attempting to provide as comprehensive a review as possible but this depends very much upon the contributions we receive. There remain some geographical gaps in reporting, and in future we would be very pleased to receive sightings (and other) information for those areas as well.

During the last week in August, our National Whale and Dolphin Watch was held. Although regional reviews below for the months of July and August refer to some activities and sightings obtained during this event, there will be a detailed report with maps in the December issue of the Sea Watch News Sheet.

REGIONAL ROUND-UPS

Shetland Islands – Sightings submitted to Shetland Sea Mammal Group

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|------------|---|
| 5th July | A minke whale and a harbour porpoise were seen off Sumburgh Head. |
| 8th July | 3 harbour porpoises were observed off Sand of Sand, Fetlar. |
| 14th July | A harbour porpoise was seen in Brei Wick, Lerwick. |
| 26th July | 5 harbour porpoises were seen in Mousa Sound. |
| 29th July | A bottlenose dolphin was reported from Olnafirth; there are no confirmed Shetland records. |
| 1st August | A pod of 4-5 killer whales, including one male, was in Yell Sound at mid-day. Disturbed by two successive ferries, they swam back out of the sound towards Ollaberry, disappearing round the point of the ness at Toft. |
| 3rd August | Two killer whales were seen from the Fair Isle ferry just off Sumburgh Head. |
| 4th August | There were 2 minke whales feeding off East Ham, Mousa between 16:20 and at least to 16:50, with 12+ harbour porpoises also there. |
| | 6 killer whales were reported from Baltasound (presumably off Balta rather than in the voe). |
| 5th August | 2 minke whales were observed feeding off Mousa with at least 10 Harbour Porpoises also there. |
| | At least 13 harbour porpoises were seen off Sumburgh Head. |
| 6th August | At least 18 Atlantic white-sided dolphins were seen in Vassa Voe, Nesting, from mid-afternoon until well into evening. They were in two groups at first, with six close in, more or less opposite the school and at least another 12 almost as far out as the Point of Railsbrough. The more distant group appeared to be vigorously herding and feeding on fish while those further in were just circling. Eventually the main group swam in to join the near-shore group and continued vigorously swimming and breaching. |

	A pod of 7 killer whales passed through Bluemull Sound in the afternoon.
10th August	Two bits of a very old whale carcass washed ashore at Haroldswick.
14th August Voe.	A minke whale was seen in Dury Voe and the Atlantic white-sided dolphins were back in Vassa Voe.
15th August	A minke whale was seen off Mousa, and another possible one was observed off Skeld.
24th August	Tom Thomason reported 40 probable Atlantic white-sided dolphins in Colgrave Sound.
26th August	A minke whale was seen several times off Mousa.

Orkney: Report by Chris Booth – regional co-ordinator for Orkney

A humpback whale was reported by the skipper of a dive boat inspecting a wreck west of the island of Eynhallow at 59° 09.47' N, 03° 10.45' W on 13th August. He estimated it was from 7 to 10 metres in length and the tail width 2 metres. The whale spent some time around the boat and was lifting its tail out of the water. Unfortunately he only telephoned a week after the sighting so it was too late to follow it up.

Date	No	Location	Observer
<u>Harbour porpoise</u>			
3 rd July	2	South-west of South Ronaldsay	RG Adam
30 th July	2 (1juv)	East of Papa Westray	T Dodman
14 th Aug	2	South of Stanger Head, Flotta	CJ Booth
14 th Aug	2(1juv)	Hoxa Head, South Ronaldsay	CJ Booth
20 th Aug	1	South of Stanger Head, Flotta	G Rosie
<u>Killer whale</u>			
1 st July	3	Off North Ronaldsay	V McKenzie
4 th July	7	West of Shapinsay	M Smith
4 th July	3	Off Rousay	M Rinder
6 th July	7	Off Start Point, Sanday	S.Thorne
12 th July	6	Off Start Point, Sanday	R Corser
17 th July	12–15	Mull Head, Deerness	S.Davies
18 th July	10	Noup Head, Westray	A McNamee
26 th July	5	East of Eday	G Rosie
26 th July	8	Mull Head, Deerness	R Flett
6 th Aug	3	South of Westray	T Dodman

North Scotland: Report by Iain Macdonald - regional co-ordinator for North-East Scotland

July started with the live stranding of a one year old female long finned pilot whale at Embo on 2nd July. Unfortunately it was not possible to successfully release the 12-foot whale. In August, a possible pilot whale was also reported off Golspie by a local fisherman. Records of pilot whales in the very shallow waters near the mouth of the Dornoch Firth are rare. As has been the case in recent years, the most frequently recorded species were harbour porpoise, bottlenose dolphin, and minke whale. The number of reported minke whale sightings was lower than in 2003. At the beginning of August, one minke whale was seen at the mouth of the Cromarty Firth, well into the narrower section of the Moray Firth. There have been a small number of such reports in recent years. The 2004 sighting was made all the more memorable for the lucky observers because approximately 20 bottlenose dolphins were also present at the mouth of the Cromarty Firth.

On 25th July, killer whales, including calves, were reported within the entrance to Wick harbour. Anecdotal evidence suggests that possibly the same group of killer whales frequented the Caithness coast on a number of occasions. The animals were possibly feeding upon seals as on each occasion they were seen moving very close to the shoreline and dead seals were allegedly found with signs of having been attacked. A white-beaked dolphin reported as a dead stranding near Brora on 6th August was notable. This species is more frequently recorded off the north coast or further out into the Moray Firth.

North Grampian: Report from Peter Macdonald – regional co-ordinator for North Grampian

July: Despite the weather not being at its best, say as last year, July still gave us some good sightings. 21 days out of the month saw sightings being recorded.

As ever, the bottlenose dolphins were seen the most, with sightings along the coast from Banff to Lossiemouth and in the Inner Moray firth with over 50+ dolphins seen at South Kessock on the 18th.

Harbour Porpoise were seen but not in such big numbers in the Cullen bay area, maybe as we still had the squid boats in our area, this made the difference. Over towards Banff and Lossiemouth, good sightings of small groups of Porpoise were recorded.

Only one sighting of minke whale off Port Soy on the 8th was recorded. We took part in the Port Soy Boat festival.

August: August saw the worst month of the year in fact for a fair long time, but sightings came in with harbour porpoise off Portknockie and Cullen Bay in the first week, we took part in the Burghead Dolphin festival

On the 14th, just missing out on a minke whale sighting that morning, good dolphin sightings were recorded between Burghead , Hopeman, and Lossiemouth that week.

The weather turned for the better after the 25th just in time for the National Whale & Dolphin Watch weekend!

We managed two trips out on the “Gemini Explorer” with sightings of dolphins and harbour porpoise each trip, dolphins were also seen from the shore at Hopeman and Findochty.

South Grampian: Report from Kevin Hepworth – regional co-ordinator for South Grampian

As usual a fairly quiet couple of months for us (or maybe not), although with only six species reported, we fell a long way short of that elusive double figures. Unusually for this region at this period, there were no reported orcas which seem to crop up in July and there were no white-sided dolphins reported which in previous years have occasionally been seen in association with the white beaked dolphins. The sightings that have occurred have generally been more prolonged than previous years and the weather has once again played an important role, preventing almost 30% of the boat surveys from getting out. Curiously, these were mainly in mid July (when land-based watching was at it's best) and the boat did get out fairly regularly in August despite the fog, although visibility was much impaired. The full species list is:

Bottlenose dolphins - Lower activity than usual in the Aberdeen area, with good sightings nonetheless in the South Grampian region as a whole. Sightings involved 20 on the 1st and 2nd July from Doonies Farm, with the same or a second group further south on the same dates, numbering 20 (2nd July - Arbroath) and 22 (3rd July - St. Cyrus). Other reports came in of smaller groups of 2-10 animals on the 3rd July from various widespread locations including Donmouth (Aberdeen Bay), Johnshaven, St. Cyrus, Catterline and Arbroath demonstrating that the animals have a wide range and the ability to travel great distances in short periods. A short lull in activity then picked up with several sightings between 10th and 17th July, generally of 10-15 animals, although 50+ from Montrose on 10th July was exceptional. Another short lull was followed by half a dozen reports in the last week of July of 5-7 animals in the area between Johnshaven and Stonehaven.

When August arrived and whilst the UK as a whole basked in glorious sunshine and balmy temperatures, the east coast was under a perpetual blanket of “haa” for twelve days, making sightings virtually impossible to come by although some effort with a good dose of optimism meant that it wasn't for lack of trying. From mid-August onwards, the mist cleared and bottlenose began reappearing off Aberdeen again with eight out of the eleven bottlenose records coming from Aberdeen Bay after the 14th, peaking with 26 in Aberdeen on the 22nd August and 35 earlier during the day off Stonehaven. The records away from Aberdeen were 20 at Johnshaven (14th August) and 4 at Stonehaven and Montrose on the 27th and 28th August respectively.

Harbour porpoise - A very busy period for harbour porpoise during July and August, with almost twenty records each month although July was characterised with large aggregations on a number of occasions. There were sightings of single or pairs of animals throughout July and August from a number of localities including Girdleness, Aberdeen Harbour, Catterline, Souter Head, Donmouth, Montrose, Collieston, Easthaven, Balmedie, Newburgh, Greg Ness and Porthlethen. Groups larger than this were reported on 3rd July (4 at Arbroath), 5 off Doonies Farm, and 5 separate

animals viewed from Torry Battery, both on the 25th July. A large aggregation of 30 off Girdleness on 27th July was still around later during the day although it had reduced to 25 individuals and on a ferry survey that evening, up to 73 animals had been recorded between Aberdeen and Fraserburgh. The large number of porpoises remained until the end of the month with 30+ in St Cyrus Bay on the 31st July. A gap in sightings then followed until the “haa” began to disperse enabling 5 animals to be sighted off Don mouth on 13th August, which represents the largest group size reported during this month.

Minke whale - the June trend and near perfect July watch conditions meant we experienced a record number of minke whale sightings, with up to three animals present off Don mouth - Girdleness most of July and less frequently during August. Single animals were recorded on the 3rd July (Girdleness), 22nd July (Torry Battery), 25th July (Don mouth), 31st July (Girdleness Point) and 28th August (Girdleness Point), whilst 5 off Souter Head (6th July) and 3 between Doonies Farm and Girdleness on 25th July showed there was ample feed in the area. The remaining sightings were pairs of animals generally off Don mouth, but not exclusively with sightings at Catterline, Stonehaven, St Cyrus and Montrose.

In all, eighteen July and five August records represent a substantial increase on previous years and it is debatable whether this increase combined with the large porpoise and white-beaked dolphin sightings, particularly off Don mouth, reflects an influx of prey animals, increased watching awareness, or better sea states than previous years, but the fact remains that July 27th appears to have been one of those exceptional days that comes along once every while, allowing observation of a number of species over several hours.

White-beaked dolphins - with thirty-five records from July and twelve in August (observations again suffered with the “haa”), this shows a reverse trend to previous years, when numbers have built up in July and peaked in August (although this may reflect weather conditions rather than anything else). Animals were seen in small groups of 2-6 from Torry to Cove on the 3rd, 4th, 6th July on seven occasions, with 6 present at Donmouth and 4 present in Stonehaven Bay on the 6th July. Numbers then started to increase, with 20 viewed from Torry Battery on the 7th July and 16 (two groups - one north and one south) from Girdleness Point on the 25th July. As with porpoise and minke whale sightings, the 27th July proved particularly favourable for viewing white-beaked dolphins with 19 in Aberdeen Bay over several hours that morning. Away from this hotspot of activity, other July records came in from Newtonhill (4 on 7th July), Stonehaven (3 on 20th July and 15+ on the 28th July) and over 27 animals in small groups between Aberdeen and Fraserburgh during a Northlink ferry survey. August records were much fewer, with a couple of reports from Don mouth on 17th and 22nd August, 2 at Souter Head on the 15th August and 3 animals in Cruden Bay on 20th August. August boat trips generally encountered animals with calves as in previous years and despite the thick “haa” one notable survey on 7th August met several white-beaked dolphin groups, one of which comprised 10-12 individuals, four of which were tiny calves, probably only days old. This appears to be consistent with previous years and does seem to suggest the animals come inshore to calve (and take advantage of abundant inshore prey) at this time. The last record for August were two probable white-beaked dolphins on the 31st August seen by the crew of the Hascosay just off Don mouth whilst sat in a holding pattern waiting to get into Aberdeen Harbour.

Common dolphins - during the National Whale and Dolphin Watch Weekend, a ferry survey onboard the NorthLink Aberdeen-Orkney ferry over the 29th-31st August encountered a group of 25-30 common dolphins some 10 miles north of Fraserburgh on the 29th. These animals were approx 3/4-1 mile away on the starboard side under a cloud of gannets and despite the choppy seas put every effort into heading towards the ferry. After initially gaining, the ferry speed of 15 knots meant that 20 minutes after first being observed, the animals had fallen behind and become lost to sight.

Humpback whales - Two hours after the elation of seeing common dolphins on the east coast for the first time, the ferry passed what was undoubtedly a group of at least three humpbacks travelling north across the outer Moray Firth. The animals were observed to blow on several occasions with good views of the back of the animals from only 100-200 m distance before heading westwards.

Report for NW Sutherland from Andy Summers, Senior Ranger, Assynt Visitors Centre

July:

Early in the year the sea went that turquoise colour indicative of a blue-green algal bloom. Some of the fisherman reported exceptional numbers of tiny fish and other larvae as well as huge numbers of jellyfish. Anglers reported lots of mackerel inshore presumably attracted by all the food.

July was an exceptional month here for cetacean sightings. A pod of 40-50 bottlenose dolphins were seen by many people in Lochinver bay and followed by a kayaker from Stoer Point to Achmelvich Bay. But there also lots of killer whale sightings, including a pod of 50 out from Clachtoll.

1 st July	11.00	Clashnessie	1 minke whale
2 nd July		Clachtoll	4-6 unidentified dolphins
2 nd July	12.00	Lochinver	40 bottlenose dolphins
3 rd July	11.00	Lochinver	c. 40 bottlenose dolphins
4 th July	18.30- 20.00	From Stoer Point to Achmelvich	40-50 bottlenose dolphins
6 th July		Clachtoll	6+ unidentified dolphins
10 th July	15.00	Inverkirkraig	12 unidentified dolphins
10 th July	17.30	Achmelvich	2 killer whales
11 th July		Clachtoll	2 harbour porpoises including baby
11 th July		Clachtoll	1 minke whale
11 th July		Clachtoll	30-40 white-beaked dolphins
12 th July		Stoer Point	6 killer whales
12 th July		Stoer Point	1 minke whale
12 th July		Stoer Point	2 unidentified dolphins
12 th July	13.00	Clachtoll	c. 50 killer whales
13 th July	11.30	Achmelvich	Unidentified whale
13 th July	12.00	Balnakeil, Durness	7 white-beaked dolphins
15 th July		Sango Bay, Durness	7-8 bottlenose dolphins
30 th July	16.00	Eddrachillis Bay	5 killer whales
30 th July	12.00	Sango bay, Durness	20+ harbour porpoises

August:

August was a much quieter month for cetaceans. At the end of August, following a SW gale a huge number of seabirds, both young and adults, (and mostly guillemots) were washed ashore. They continued to come ashore for several weeks afterwards on beaches from South Skye to Cape Wrath. Analysis of seven corpses concluded that they died of starvation. This suggests that there was a severe shortage of sand eels and/or smaller herring and sprats in the Minch during late summer.

On a brighter note, the manned Sea Watch at Stoer lighthouses on the 24th attracted a staggering 65 members of the public. Most sat there for the four hours and although there were not enough binoculars, most people saw the four porpoises that swam past. Sods law dictated that the next day, a pod of 12-20 bottlenose dolphins were seen repeated from Stoer to Achmelvich.

5 th August	NW Clachtoll	1 minke whale
15 th August	Scourie	16 bottlenose dolphins
24 th August 11-2.30	Stoer lighthouse	4 harbour porpoises
25 th August 11.00	Achmelvich	20 bottlenose dolphin, including young
25 th August 18.30	Clachtoll	12 bottlenose dolphins
25 th August 20.00	Achmelvich	12 bottlenose dolphins, including young
25 th August	Raffin, Stoer	10-11 bottlenose dolphins

West Scotland – Report by Pia Anderwald and Peter Evans on minke whale studies, August - September 2004

Over the last few years, we have been conducting a study of the behaviour and ecology of minke whales inhabiting the waters around the Small Isles (Eigg, Rum, Muck, and Canna), and between Ardnamurchan Point and the Isle of Skye. This year, we conducted our fieldwork from 16th August until 11th September. During the first week, the weather was kind, and we found the whales aggregated at the entrance of the Sound of Sleat, with up to five minkes feeding on the same shoal of sprat at the same time, joined by hundreds of kittiwakes, Manx shearwaters, guillemots, razorbills, herring and greater black-backed gulls – and a humpback whale. The humpback was first seen in the area on 1st August and stayed for almost a month, and we were lucky to catch the last ten days of its visit. On 14th August, the humpback left the area temporarily and was seen in Gairloch on the west mainland coast north of Skye, before returning again to the Sound of Sleat, where, on 17th August, it performed some impressive breaches between feeding bouts. We saw it again in exactly the same spot at the entrance to the Sound of Sleat and off Mallaig on both the 21st and 22nd August. On 26th, it was seen in the area for the last time by Ronnie Dyer from the “Sheerwater”, this time off Loch Scresort on the east side of Rum. From 26th to 30th August, we were stuck ashore due to bad weather, and when we looked for the whales again on 31st, they seemed to have dispersed.

We did not find any further large feeding aggregations of birds for several days; the kittiwakes had largely left the area, and it was quite difficult to find the minkes. At the same time, we saw unusually high numbers of dead young guillemots floating in the water with no obvious sign of cause of death other than being in poor body condition. From

all this, we concluded that the numbers of sprat had decreased drastically by comparison to the period before 26th August. However, in the evening of 5th September, we encountered a huge feeding aggregation off Arisaig, consisting mainly of Manx shearwaters, guillemots and razorbills, and this group had ten minke whales associated with it! The weather remained good for a few days, and from 6th to 9th September, there was a lot of feeding activity off Arisaig, often with 5 to 8 minkes feeding together. During this time, the whales were also very friendly and curious, rolling round the boat, spy-hopping and checking us out. They really seemed to like James Fairbairns' boat, "Wildfree", from which we worked during the last week of our stay.

Harbour porpoises were seen almost every day that we went out, and very often in close proximity to the minkes. A group of 11 Risso's dolphins was seen at the north end of Rum Sound on 10th September and again north of Sleat Point on the following day. In addition, a group of over 100 common dolphins was seen off the west side of Rum, and aggregations of basking sharks on the northwest side of Canna, on 11th September.

West Scotland: Report from Erika Hearn of Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust

Below is a tally of sightings by cetacean species and areas spotted, with numbers representing the total in the group seen at any one time:

HARBOUR PORPOISE:

Loch Sunart - 3
Sound of Mull - over 40 sightings!
Firth of Lorne - over 101 total
North Arran - 3
"The Minch" - 1
SW Tiree - 1
Loch Alsh - 4
Salen - 4
Ulva - 1
Finuary - 4, 2, 2
Loch Nevis - 3
Shiant Sound - 1, 2

BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN:

Coll - 40
Kilberry, Mull of Kintyre - 6
Harris - 25
Sound of Jura - 6
Fionnphort - 7
Carsaig - 10, 20
Fishnish - 16
Ardalunish Bay - 3
Grass Point, Mull - 12
Loch Torridan - 18
Sound of Mull - 4, 4, 10
Cambletown - 25

COMMON DOLPHIN:

Sound of Rum - 2, 6
Sound of Mull - 5, 1, 5
Sound of Iona - 15
Barra - 4
Coll - 1
Crinan - 20
Hawes Bank - 3
Sound of Canna - 8
Loch Scavay - 8

DOLPHIN Species:

Loch Buie, Mull - 8
Sound of Sleat - 20
Fishnish - 8

Firth of Lorne - 13
Sound of Mull - 2, 3
Tiree - 40

MINKE WHALE:

Oberon Bank - 7
Loch Torridan - 1
Canna - 2
Colonsay - 1
Sound of Rum - 9, 4
Muck - 3
Ulva - 1
Coll - 1, 1
Treshnish - 1
Firth of Lorne – total of 28 sightings
Sound of Arisaig - 1
Rum - 1, 1, 6, 5, 10, 2
Eigg - 3, 1, 2, 1
Ross of Mull - 8
Garvellachs - 2
Sound of Mull – total of over 22 sightings
Gairloch - 7
“The Minch” - 1
Staffin, Skye - 1
Ross of Mull - 3
Firth of Lorne - 4, 2, 1
West of Corryvreckan - 2
Sound of Raasay - 2, 18
Staffa - 2, 3, 2
Sound of Sleat - 9, 2, 2, 1, 4
Iona - 1, 1, 1, 1,
South Rona - 1

ORCA:

Coll - 5, 4
Tiree - 3

HUMPBACK WHALE!:

Sound of Sleat - over eight sightings of a single individual reported, since first seen on 1st August.

North-west England and South-west Scotland: Report from Norman Hammond – regional co-ordinator for the Solway Firth and NW England

July-August: Two very busy months with regular dawn to dusk sea-watches generally from headlands and usual observation points.

The sea borne expedition from Heysham/Fleetwood on July 21st was blessed with fine calm weather, which allowed extra hours afloat, and after exploring the proposed Ormonde OSWF Sites; the Irish Sea provided a smooth crossing for a circumnavigation of the Isle of Man. By the time this was achieved the light was failing and a slow crossing to the Ribble Estuary found us at daybreak among the Morecambe Bay gas fields and an early morning survey offshore from Blackpool north to an early day landing at Fleetwood. Harbour porpoises and grey seals were the most frequent sightings, a few small pods of bottlenose dolphins and several basking shark groups, all moving north.

By contrast our special Solway sea borne cruise on August 25th found the only gale force conditions between several quite calm days. Pilot whales were known to be in the Outer Solway Firth, but after much discussion the boat put to sea and was confined to the Inner Solway Firth where harbour porpoises and grey seals were the species of the day.

Sea-watching with the RSPB at the Mull of Galloway for the National Whale & Dolphin Survey again collected several harbour porpoise sightings plus a single leatherback turtle cruising slowly eastwards into the Solway Firth from the North Channel.

During August, we made several attempts to assess the numbers of harbour porpoises calving in the Inner Solway Firth without a great deal of success as the calm weather required in conjunction with extreme low water did not materialise. At least two pairs are known to have calved in Morecambe Bay but we feel that the ongoing problems with mass cockling caused disturbance there.

Minke whales, usually as singles, were recorded over a wide area in what seemed to be a general movement south from the Clyde area.

Wales: Report from Fernando Ugarte – regional co-ordinator for Wales

July – August: The Welsh coast was battered by an endless succession of low pressures throughout July and August. As a result, there were few days with ideal conditions for those looking for cetaceans in Wales (a list of organisations that carried out cetacean fieldwork in Wales during summer 2004 is provided below).

Harbour porpoise - Despite the weather, harbour porpoises were seen throughout most of the Welsh coast, as reported by research teams in Anglesey, Cardigan Bay and Pembrokeshire.

Common dolphin – Common dolphins were abundant off the Pembrokeshire coast, where Sea Trust S&W Wales carried out several surveys, and in the St. Georges Channel, where ferry surveys between Fishguard and Rosslare, Ireland, were carried out by Sea Trust S & W Wales, and a dedicated survey was made by SWF further south.

Bottlenose dolphin - Bottlenose dolphins were seen off the Lleyn Peninsula by the WDSCS team and by local tour operators in the north of Cardigan Bay. Bottlenose dolphins were seen pretty much on a daily basis feeding off the headlands in the Cardigan Bay cSAC. As in 2003, during July and August there were clear signs of breeding activity among the bottlenose dolphins of Cardigan Bay: physical contact among individuals (fighting and mating?), animals with fresh wounds (battle marks?) and several new born dolphins (gestation lasts 12 months).

Other species – The WDSCS team observed and photographed Risso's dolphins off North Wales. Sea Trust observed Risso's dolphins and minke whales in Pembrokeshire. A member of the public reported the sighting of an animal that sounded very much like a sperm whale, seen from the coastal path near Abercastle.

Sea Watch in Wales: During July and August, as in 2003, Sea Watch had two staff members placed in the Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre: Helen Bates, who acts as education officer, and myself, the science officer. Based on the responses from questionnaires sent to all schools within the area, and on research carried out, Helen designed education sessions approximately half-day long tailored to suit schools individual requirements. Before the summer holidays, Helen carried out talks with visiting school groups, holiday children and the Young Farmers Union, and went out to visit 4 schools, carrying out a series of sessions with each school. A total of 13 sessions were given to these schools consisting of a range of activities, including lectures, games, worksheets, class activities, hands-on art, rock pool talks and investigations and beach activities. Helen held her last school session before the summer break during July, with Llanllwchaearn Community School, Cross Inn. This was a four-hour session, including educational games, talks and activities on the beach and a dolphin-watching trip on board Ermol VI. Both Helen and the dolphins performed well and, needless to say, the kids were thrilled.

In July, we obtained a grant from Environment Wales to create a web site, a series of interactive computer games, a library of underwater sounds, an information campaign about research carried out in the view of tourists, and a dolphin adoption program. This work is being done in cooperation with multimedia designer Alasdair Davies and our associated researcher and bio-acoustician, Malene Simon.

Malene also liaised with Mike Camplin from CCW and with Steve Hartley, skipper of M/V Sulaire, to run a pilot project monitoring bottlenose dolphins and harbour porpoises in the Cardigan Bay cSAC using T-PODs. T-PODs are autonomous devices that log echolocation clicks from dolphins and porpoises. During July, T-PODs were deployed at the headlands of New Quay, Ynys-Lochlyn and Aberporth. These T-PODs were retrieved, maintained and re-deployed several times thanks to Steve's voluntary work, mostly during trips funded by the public to watch dolphins from Sulaire.

My main work during July and August consisted of coordinating the collection of photo-identification data on the bottlenose dolphins, and distance sampling surveys to estimate abundance of marine mammals in the Cardigan Bay cSAC. I worked with a small army of enthusiastic volunteers that also collected opportunistic sightings and effort data from dolphin watching trips, carried out a land based study in cooperation with the Ceredigion County Council and even liaised with the university of Swansea to collect data on jelly fishes and sunfish.

Besides my normal duties, I acted as external supervisor for Jenny Lamb and Rob Lott, MSc students from the University of Wales, Bangor, who did their fieldwork based at the Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre. Jenny combined a T-POD and land based observations to investigate the factors influencing the presence of dolphins in New Quay Bay. Jenny took her POD out of the water and returned to her Scottish home to look at her data during mid August.

North-East England: Report from Andy Tait – regional co-ordinator for Northumberland, Tyne and Wear

July: On a windless evening, a porpoise seen swimming off Cresswell Reef on the 4th near Druridge Bay was the first sighting of July, followed by twelve white-beaked dolphins just south at Blyth, travelling south as far as Seaton Sluice then going out to sea in the late evening. The same group was seen the next morning at 05:30 travelling north past the piers at Tynemouth (at least three calves were seen in the group) on the 5th. A single porpoise was seen off Whitburn Point on the 7th and 9th, followed by four white-beaked dolphins off Souter Lighthouse on the 15th milling on a flat calm morning being seen until lunchtime..A single harbour porpoise was seen off Whitburn again on 16th followed by four white-beaked dolphins again off Souter on the 17th throughout the day joined by another two by evening. Three harbour porpoises were present at lunchtime and another two at Whitburn. Five porpoises were seen very close to South Shield pier on 19th, at Cresswell. On 26th, one porpoise was seen swimming only five metres from the beach on a very quiet evening. Early in the morning of the 27th, a porpoise was seen off Souter.

August: A porpoise was seen off Souter in August on the 1st and the 7th. Two–three porpoises were seen off Whitburn, and three porpoises were seen off Souter on the 15th and 17th respectively. There were also two porpoises at Whitburn on 17th. A bottlenose dolphin was seen leaping off Whitburn on 19th, with three seen on 22nd and two on the 24th and 26th, with one harbour porpoise on 27th. A single bottlenose dolphin came into the River Tyne on the 25th until 31st, interacting with various types of boats. Two unidentified dolphins were seen off Blyth Harbour also on the 31st.

Essex, Suffolk & Norfolk: Reports from Gary Mead & Mark Iley – Biodiversity Project Officer for Essex, and Helen Nott, Norfolk

The following sightings have been reported to us during July and August:

Harbour Porpoise	1	4-Jul-04	13.45	51°57.00 N, 01°25.00 E	
Harbour Porpoise	2	14-Jul-04			RSPB Reserve, Titchwell, Norfolk
Harbour Porpoise	1	15-Jul-04	09:00	52°00.474 N, 1°11.668 E	
White-beaked dolphin	3	17-Jul-04	10.30	51°56.02 N, 01°27.09 E	
Harbour Porpoise	2	17-Jul-04	12.07	51°45 N, 0°53 E	
Harbour Porpoise	1	18-Jul-04	18.15	52°17 N, 01°41 E	
White-beaked dolphin	1	23-Jul-04	12.30	52°32.40 N, 01°45.22 E	
Unidentified dolphin.species	2	24-Jul-04	12.40	51°40.50 N, 02°04.00 E	
Harbour Porpoise	pod	24-Jul-04			RSPB Reserve, Titchwell, Norfolk
Harbour Porpoise	2-3	28-Jul-04	11:00		Inshore – just off Orford Ness LH, Suffolk
Harbour Porpoise	2	31-Jul-04	12.00		Entrance to River Orwell
Harbour Porpoise	1	2-Aug-04	10:00	55°55 N, 01°18 E	
Harbour Porpoise (dead)	1	3-Aug-04		52°12 N, 01°40 E	Off Southwold Harbour (Suffolk)
Harbour Porpoise	2	3-Aug-04	c. 14:00		Knoll
Harbour Porpoise	2-3	5-Aug-04	12.45	51°45.03 N, 1° 01.1 E	Between Bench Head and No.6 Buoy (Mouth of Rivers Colne and Blackwater)
Harbour Porpoise	1	7-Aug-04	11:45	51°59.13 N, 1°24.16 E	Off Bawdsey
Harbour Porpoise	1	8-Aug-04			Harwich Harbour
Harbour Porpoise	2-3	8-Aug-04	10:00 & 14:00		3/4 mile north of Sales Point - Mersea Flats
White-beaked dolphin	2	8-Aug-04	13.45	51°45.846 N, 0°59.467 E	
White-beaked dolphin	2	8-Aug-04	14:00		51°28.649 N, 0°58.530 E
Harbour Porpoise	3	10-Aug-04	10.00-12.30	51°30.43 N, 0°36.94 E	Chapman Buoy - Canvey sea front
Harbour Porpoise	3	11-Aug-04	09.00-09.20	51°45.50 N, 01°06.00 E	
Harbour Porpoise	1	14-Aug-04	11:30	51°48.775 N	
Harbour Porpoise	1	25-Aug-04	12.00		Off the Bradwell Baffle
Harbour Porpoise	1	26-Aug-04	11.30		Between the Baffle and Thirstleth Spit Buoy

Report from North Kent by Jon Bramley – regional co-ordinator for North Kent

Two harbour porpoises, seen from shore off North Foreland Isle of Thanet, on 13th Feb.

Two harbour porpoises, seen from shore off North Foreland Isle of Thanet, on 9th and 17th April.

One minke whale was seen for over 20 minutes swimming off the shore between Dumpton Bay and Joss Bay, Isle of Thanet, on 4th June.

Common dolphin was seen from a boat at 51° 23' 44 N and 01° 11' 46 E, on the 27th and 28th July.

A pod of 'dolphins' (species undetermined) was seen on the 29th July in the vicinity of the wreck UB78, off Folkestone at 51° 01' 01 N and 01° 16' 35 E.

Two harbour porpoises, seen from shore off North Foreland Isle of Thanet, on 19th August.

East Kent: Report from David Walker – regional co-ordinator for East Kent

The following sightings were made from Dungeness:

Harbour Porpoise: one on 20th July, two on 30th July, two on 21st August, one on 23rd August, one on 24th August, one on 25th August, and five on 27th August.

No dolphins were seen from here during July and August.

Sussex: Report from Stephen Savage - regional co-ordinator for Sussex

The National Whale & Dolphin Watch, organised by the Sea Watch Foundation ran from the 21st August to the 29th August. The main weekend of the event was the 28th and 29th August and it was over this weekend that we concentrated our efforts. Due to the Bank Holiday, weather and tides that may affect some sites, this year the event covered a longer period culminating in the main watch weekend.

Sussex Cetacean Watches

Preparation prior to the event

With the help of the funding for the Sussex Cetacean Monitoring Survey we have been able to greatly increase our efforts in regard to watch sites, public involvement and publicity before, during and after the event.

Worldwide Web

We took advantage of the Internet again this year and posted information about the Sussex groups involvement in the National Whale & Dolphin Watch (NWDW) on three websites, British Marine Life Study Society e-group, "Western Approaches to the English Channel" Marine Mammals e-group, and the Sussex Ornithological Society website 'news' This included background to the event, last 2 years results, sponsorship, Sea Watch Foundation website for more information on getting involved and the hotline number for reporting Sussex sightings. The hotline was also publicised for people to contact the Sussex group to enquires about our main manned watch site at Brighton that members of the public could take part in. The Sussex watch was also included in the website events publicity on the Sea Watch Foundation Website.

Press release

We also expanded on our press publicity this year. The main aim of the PR was to encourage people to come along to the Brighton watch site or to keep a look out for cetaceans over the weekend and report them on our hotline number. The press release was sent to the following papers.

Argus (Sussex wide distribution)
West Sussex Gazette

Littlehampton Gazette
Worthing Herald
Shoreham Herald
Eastbourne Gazette

The Shoreham Herald, Littlehampton Gazette and Eastbourne Gazette ran a piece. Two articles appeared in the Argus, (press cuttings attached.) Following the newspaper PR, I was contacted by Southern Counties Radio to do a telephone interview about the event.

Watch sites

In previous years, I have only been able to set up and support two watches, the one at Brighton that I man and a watch at Hastings. This year we have been able to organise and support several sites over the weekend.

These extra watch sites and dates are listed below.

Littlehampton (East Beach) 7-hour watch Saturday 28th Aug. lead person Colin Thomas
Littlehampton (West Beach) 3-hour watch (shorter time because of tide) Sunday 29th Aug
Lead person John and Barbara Smith

Worthing Pier, 4-hour watch Saturday 28th Aug. Lead person Michelle Rodgers

Shoreham Coastguard Tower (LNR) Sunday 29th Aug. Lead person Paul Ashdown

Brighton Watch Site Report 28.8.04

The Brighton Marina was the watch sites promoted as the site for members of the public to visit. They would be able to assist in the watch and also find out more about Sussex Cetaceans and the Sussex Cetacean Monitoring Project supported through the Wildlife Trusts Marine Programme.

The watch started at 10.45am. The location on the marina gave a good view of the sea to the west, south and east. Location of the actual watch 50 48.560 N, 000 06.448W

Watching conditions were good, sea state 1, no wind, and good visibility. By early afternoon the sea conditions changed to sea state 3 and later 3-4. By late afternoon the wind had risen to force 4 from the SW.

We were hopeful that we might see dolphins as the fisherman were catching small numbers of mackerel and black bream plus other species.

I erected a poster supplied by Sea Watch Foundation at the start of the watch so that participants would know where we were and to hopefully attract the attention of passers by. This worked well and numerous members of the public stopped to find out more about the watch, what we normally see etc. This gave a good opportunity to raise awareness with passers by, some stayed for a short while to watch with us. On average, people who stopped to talk stayed between 10 - 15 minutes.

In addition, 12 people took part in the watch during the day for periods ranging between 1 and 2 hours. 4 people left their details for possible involvement in the regional group. Several people who are on the marina regularly took our hotline number to report any sightings they may make in the future.

We had laminated species sheets available for participants and interested public to look at. We also had materials on basking sharks, sea turtles and jellyfish from the Marine Conservation Society, which we included in our watch. We are planning to expand the number of marine species that our observers will watch for, increasing the sharing of sightings with other organisations and increasing public awareness and interest for the volunteers observers.

We also received about 9 calls before or during the event to find out more about the watch. They could not come down on the day, but were interested, so I suggested they check out the Sea watch Website where the results of the National watch could be found. Due to the public interest the watch ended at 4.45pm (instead of 4.00pm).

A 3-hour watch took place at Brighton on the Sunday morning (no public involvement) during the high tide period.

Sussex Sightings: Brighton 28.8.04

At 14.42, we spotted a fin, but far out past the numerous boats that were coming and going at the time. Dolphins usually pass closer to the marina but because of bank holiday weekend, more boats at this time and so probably reason why they were further out. Sighting was only a short observation, fin seen three times in total. It was probably a bottlenose dolphin, just based on experience of seeing this species up close and at a distance over the last 15 or more years. The general feeling was that there could have been more than one but we could not agree on how many. Sea conditions also made it harder to be sure of numbers as they had changed to sea state 3 by the time the observation was made.

Sussex sightings Eastbourne: 28.8.04

I also received a call on the hotline from Mr Skewis who observed two, possibly three, bottlenose dolphins at 2.00pm at Eastbourne from Sovereign Harbour. This was as a result of the newspaper PR.

Eastbourne 29.8.04

A second sighting was received for Eastbourne, also over the hotline (from PR). This was reported by Mr McGreviey, Two bottlenose dolphins seen from Eastbourne Beach at 1.30pm, approximately 200m from shore heading west.

Sussex Sightings: Hastings 29.8.04

Two dolphins were reported on the Sunday at 10.30 off Hastings heading east by Ray Higgins (via Andy Phillips).

Other sightings:

I also received further sightings that fell between the dates 21st August and 27th August. These also came because of the publicity, one via the hotline. These sightings were at Brighton and East Preston.

East Preston, (between Littlehampton and Worthing in West Sussex) 2 bottlenose dolphins near the shore, heading east, 21st Aug. Reported on the hotline by Peter Atkin.

Brighton, two bottlenose dolphins seen just outside the Brighton Marina, Thursday 26th Aug at 4.00pm, reported by Annie Ward.

During the event I also received a sighting from a participant who had seen 2 dolphins feeding just outside the Brighton Marina on the 14th August (outside of the national watch event) observed for 20 mins before heading east.

Both from raising awareness, public involvement as well as the number of Sussex sightings reported, this has been our most successful Sussex watch in the last three years of the National event.

Dorset: Report from Jo Wharam (Durlston Marine Project) – Regional Co-ordinator for Dorset

The summer began well with a sighting in early July of eight bottlenose dolphins seen from the Dolphin Watch Hut at Durlston. This appeared to be the same pod of animals we had been observing earlier in the year (Lumpy, Freedom, Tilly, Samuel *et al.*). A couple of days later, a report was received of 35 bottlenose dolphins moving west across Poole Bay. Groups of between 3 and 15 bottlenose dolphins were seen around the Dorset coast throughout July, ranging from Hengistbury Head in the east, to Anvil Point in the west. The pod of approximately 20 animals that appears to have been semi-resident in West Bay this year was sighted on two occasions. Two unidentified large whales (thought to be minke whales) were recorded mid-Channel between Alderney and Poole late in July. We also received two reports of a single harbour porpoise in Poole Bay in late July and early August.

Devon: Report from Gavin Black, Devon Wildlife Trust

July and August

10.07.2004	10 small unidentified cetaceans	Thatcher Rock, Tor Bay	alive
18.07.2004	5 harbour porpoises	Drake Island, Plymouth. 75m SE of island	alive
21.07.2004	6 bottlenose dolphins	Plymouth Sound. Between Breakwater and Drake Island	alive
21.07.2004	c. 14 small unidentified cetaceans	Portland Bill. 6 miles off	alive
22.07.2004	4-5 small unidentified cetaceans	10 miles east of Dartmouth.	alive
24.07.2004	5-6 bottlenose dolphins	Paignton, Torbay	alive
25.07.2004	4 small unidentified cetacean	Off Brixham Breakwater, Tor Bay	alive
26.07.2004	10 bottlenose dolphins	Mouth of Salcombe-Kingsbridge estuary	alive
27.07.2004	8 small unidentified cetaceans	Outside Torquay Harbour, Tor Bay	alive
29.07.2004	4 small unidentified cetaceans	Off Elberry Cove, Tor Bay	alive
30.07.2004	5 bottlenose dolphins	Tor Bay	alive
30.07.2004	1 unidentified large cetacean	Off Berry Head, South Devon	alive
31.07.2004	12 bottlenose dolphins	Tor Bay	alive
01.08.2004	8-10 white-beaked dolphins	Lyme Bay, midway between Weymouth and Dartmouth	alive

01.08.2004	4-6 bottlenose dolphins	Morte Point, North Devon	alive
03.08.2004	Pod of bottlenose dolphin	Tor Bay	alive
04.08.2004	7 bottlenose dolphins	Orcombe Rocks, Exmouth	alive
05.08.2004	Pod of small unidentified cetaceans	Sidmouth Beach	alive
05.08.2004	6 bottlenose dolphins	100m off Dawlish town beach, Teignbridge	alive
05.08.2004	10+ bottlenose dolphins	Between Babbacombe and Teignmouth.	alive
06.08.2004	10 bottlenose dolphins	Between Paignton and Torquay, Tor Bay.	alive
07.08.2004	3 small unidentified cetaceans	Near buoy with yellow flag, Livermead Head, Tor Bay	alive
07.08.2004	9 harbour porpoises	Sexton's Burrow, Watermouth, North Devon.	alive
07.08.2004	10 harbour porpoises	Sexton's Burrow, Watermouth, North Devon.	alive
08.08.2004	1 harbour porpoise	Beesands, South Hams	stranding
09.08.2004	15-20 bottlenose dolphins	Paignton/Torquay area of Tor Bay	alive
09.08.2004	1 small unidentified cetacean	Nr Waterside Caravan Park, Goodrington, Tor Bay	alive
10.08.2004	4 small unidentified cetaceans	Paignton, Tor Bay	alive
13.08.2004	4 small unidentified cetaceans	Tor Bay	alive
15.08.2004	c. 20 small unidentified cetaceans	Between Teignmouth and Babbacombe.	alive
23.08.2004	5-6 bottlenose dolphins	Paignton, Tor Bay	alive
25.08.2004	6 bottlenose dolphins	Centre of Tor Bay	alive
25.08.2004	1 harbour porpoise	Torcross	stranding
25.08.2004	5 bottlenose dolphins	0.5 mile south of Imperial Hotel, Torquay.	alive
26.08.2004	1 bottlenose dolphin	Nr Watermouth Cove, North Devon	alive
29.08.2004	8+ small unidentified cetaceans	Outside marina wall, Torquay, Tor Bay.	alive
29.08.2004	8 small unidentified cetaceans	Brixham, outside Tor Bay.	alive
31.08.2004	7-12 long-finned pilot whales	1.5 miles south of Mewstone, Wembury, South Devon.	alive
31.08.2004	4 long-finned pilot whales	North of Hands Deep, NW of Eddystone Reef.	alive

Cornwall: Report mainly from David Ball, Silver Dolphin Centre, Porthleven

July and August

04.07.2004	Pod of Risso's dolphins	St Marys, Isles of Scilly	alive
05.07.2004	5 bottlenose dolphins	Godrevy Point heading west towards St Ives	alive
05.07.2004	c. 200 common dolphins	8 miles off Black Head	alive
14.07.2004	c. 100 harbour porpoises	Cape Cornwall to Lands End	alive
18.07.2004	5 Risso's dolphins	Porthgwarra	alive
09.08.2004	50+ common dolphins	Porth Hellick, St Mary's , Isles of Scilly	alive
13.08.2004	50 common dolphins	Gwennap Head	alive
14.08.2004	9 common dolphins	Lizard Point	alive
24.08.2004	4 bottlenose dolphins	Dennis Head, Helford River	alive
26.08.2004	20-30 common dolphins	150 metres off Coverack	alive
28.08.2004	12 common dolphins	15 miles west of Newquay at c. 15:00	alive
29.08.2004	15-20 white-beaked dolphins	4 miles south of Falmouth	alive
30.08.2004	6 long-finned pilot whales	2 miles off St Anthonys Hd, Falmouth	alive
31.08.2004	3 unidentified dolphins	St Ives Bay	alive
31.08.2004	30-50 common dolphins	Falmouth Bay	alive
31.08.2004	7-12 long-finned pilot whales	North west of Eddystone Reef, Plymouth	alive

Channel Islands: Report from Jersey by Bertram Bree

19th July, a group of four or more bottlenose dolphins feeding from 06:30 until at least 07:00 BST, about 500 metres east of Horn Rock in Grouville Bay on the southern tip of the Banc du Chateau. Also many gannets, terns, and hundreds of shags, in the same area in general, were also feeding. Weather flat calm and sunny.

19th July was a great day for bottlenose dolphin observations in front of our house in Grouville Bay as I saw them around 06:00 BST and at 16:30 they were still there but this time I counted at least 20 individuals together feeding in the same area around Horn rock in Grouville Bay in front of our house. Many adults were jumping in the air and about two young much smaller. These were great observations from our house by my French biologist guests through my 30x magnification telescope. That put a big smile on their faces!

24th July at approx 12:30 BST, a pod of 4 or 5 dolphins was observed from a vessel, swimming about a mile south of Portelet. We stayed with them for about 10 minutes until they appeared to turn toward Ouaisne and we lost sight of them. Observer: Richard Chapman.

31st July at St Aubin's fort in St Aubin's Bay at about 14:00 BST until at least 15:00, six dolphins probably bottlenose dolphins including young playing on the surface according to a local contact.

8th August, three bottlenose dolphins were seen feeding between 12:30 BST and 12:45 BST around l'Avarison. Two large adults and a smaller individual all along side each other the smaller one jumping in the air. The area is two km off La Rocque point in an area that is uncovered at low water.

10th August at 11:30 BST, there were six bottlenose dolphins in a tightly packed group heading from the Giffard buoy to the Horn beacon in Grouville Bay seen from my house and going north towards the Banc du Chateau a good feeding area.

10th August between 17:00 and 17:30 BST there were still three or more bottlenose dolphins in Grouville Bay feeding amongst Gannets between the Roads buoy moving south to Horn rock on the south of the Banc du Chateau. The strange thing is they appeared to be going against the current which is a regular phenomenon in neap tides like this one with small tidal movements.

14th August, at 17:45 to 18:00 BST in Grouville Bay at least six bottlenose dolphins feeding with 50+ gannet, 50+ shag and 20+ sandwich tern and a few common tern, feeding intensively jumping in the air around l'Avarison rock (or Little Seymour as it is called in English), at around high tide with one individual at least breaking away from group to head north towards Cochon buoy and further north still probably towards Banc du Chateau (or Castle Bank as it is called in English) off Gorey. Perhaps still present after 18.00 BST.

15th August, between 12:10 and 12:30 BST eight bottlenose dolphins off mussel beds by Giffard buoy, heading south at speed towards la Noire beacon, they are 200 metres from the shore, as it is now roughly low water, and they are heading towards l'Avarison. Sighted from shore at Le Hurel, La Rocque where I make most of my observations.

Channel Islands: Other reports from Jersey from Nick Jouault and Carol Hansford

17th July 3 bottlenose dolphins was seen at Gorey Fairway Buoy – Horn Rock area (49°10.0 N, 2°0.0 W) at 16:00 for c. 45 mins. One had 3 scars close together on the dorsal fin (propeller scar?). The dolphins were playing on bow of catamaran while under sail. Left briefly to play with ferry and then returned. Observer: Dave Yetram

19th July 1 bottlenose dolphin was seen at 49°15.0 N, 2°10.0 W at 09:15. Observer: Carol Hansford

19th July 20 bottlenose dolphins (including 4 young) were seen at 49°10.0 N, 2°0.0 W, at 15:00. Two large individuals with sickle shaped fin had distinctive serrated trailing edge, one with notches in trailing edge. One smaller individual with marble patch on flank, another smaller one with scars on fin and 7cm circular mark in front of fin, many others with different scarring, etc. The dolphins were very inquisitive and playful, three putting on a display with fantastic leaps together, others leaping individually, one standing on tail, upside down swimming and barrel rolling. We left them after half an hour. Viewed from RIB, all taking turns on the bow. Observer: Dave Yetram

20th July 13 bottlenose dolphins were seen at 49°13.50 N, 2°2.0 W, at 08:00. One adult with a diagonal scar across dorsal fin from leading edge and small nick in trailing edge. Two separate sightings at La Coupe, ten south including some young, two of which were spinning, and three north two hours later, both adults. Observer: Mick Dryden

28th July 7 bottlenose dolphins were seen passing by Sorrel Point towards Greve De Lecq (49°15.0 N, 2°10.0 W) at 18:00. Two split off from the main group and headed north-west towards the Paternosters. Observer: Tim Liddiard

30th July 6 bottlenose dolphins remained with a group of sea kayakers for about 45 minutes as we headed north away from Chausey (48°55.0 N, 1°55.0 W) at 06:00. Observer: Kevin Mansell

30th July. 8 probable bottlenose dolphins were seen at 49°10.0 N, 2°15.0 W, at 12:00. Observer: Philip Clyde-Smith

31st July 2 bottlenose dolphins came up alongside a sea kayak off Greve de Lecq (49°15.0 N, 2°15.0 W) at 15:00. Observer: Kevin Mansell

1st August 6 bottlenose dolphins were seen close to shore in St Ouen's Bay (49°12.50 N, 2°15.0 W) at 09:00 - catching fish, perhaps mullet. Headed towards Rocco Tower. Observer: Tim Liddiard

1st August 4 bottlenose dolphins were observed heading east about 50 metres off Pt La Moye (49°10.0 N 2°15.0 W) at 10:00. Observer: Kevin Mansell

3rd August 7 bottlenose dolphins in St Aubin's Bay at 07:00, swam out past Noirmont (49°7.50 N, 2°10.0 W). Observer: Michael Dryden

5th August 30 bottlenose dolphins observed mainly feeding in St Aubins Bay (49°10.0 N, 2°10.0 W) at 13:00. After approx half hour, they headed off towards Elizabeth Castle in 3 different groups. Observer: Carol Hansford

7th August 5 bottlenose dolphins observed from the Victor Hugo at 06:30 halfway between St Helier and Carteret (49°12.50 N, 1°50.0 W) on the Victor Hugo. We saw 3 leap out of the water some distance from the boat, then two leapt out of the water quite close. Observer: John M. Noel.

14th August 4 bottlenose dolphins were observed at 15:00 from a sea kayak in the tidal race just to the south of Grand Rousse (49°17.50 N, 2°0.0 W). Observer: Kevin Mansell.

15th August 100+ common dolphins (15-20 young) observed 7.5 miles SW of Corbiere. They were mainly feeding and some were playing, leaping and also playing at bow of boat. Observer: Bob.

23rd August 5 bottlenose dolphins diverted briefly to boat near Violet Buoy at 14:45. Adult and juvenile leapt together clear of water when alongside. Observer: Dave Yetram

28th August 20 bottlenose dolphins were swimming/playing around the boat {6.5m} for around ten minutes at 16:00, at 48°57.50 N, 2°5.0 W Observer: Anon.

Channel Islands: Report from Guernsey by Martin Gavet

14th August Approx 6 long-finned pilot whales observed from the vessel MARQUISE II, 3 miles SSW of St. Martin's Point, Guernsey. They were heading towards Moulin Huet. Observer: L Cadell-Smith

28th August 2 dolphin sp. (length 6', blackish on top) seen from the vessel ILE DE PARADIS at 10:30, swimming in a NE direction 100 yards off the "Berons" east of Sark. Observer: Len Marquis

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