

Cetaceans, pinnipeds and other animals December 1990-March 1991

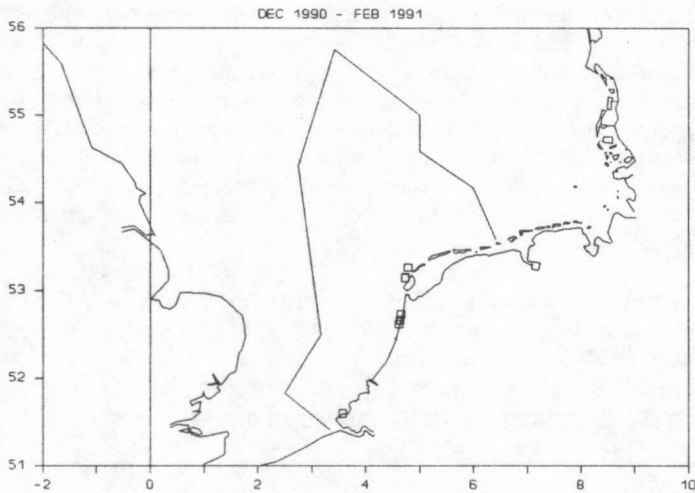
The number of cetaceans seen in these months was rather small. Even during the survey of MV Tridens, in the northern and northeastern North Sea, hardly any dolphins were encountered. The only sighting on this trip was a group of 4 White-beaked Dolphins *Lagenorhynchus albirostris* at 57°53,05'N, 01°34,18 W (1 Feb 1991; BC, AS). Some sightings of unidentified dolphins from aerial surveys are not yet available. Details will be published in Sula's next issue.

Zeeland's resident Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* is still present, but not in its summer haunt near Brouwersdam. It was reported to enter and leave the Oosterschelde frequently, as such living in waters which are much less accessible for tourists (SH, HB).

Harbour Porpoises *Phocoena phocoena* frequented Dutch coastal waters again in early December (3 and 7 Dec, single specimens, Camperduin NH). Further sightings include single specimens on 10 and 26 Dec at Camperduin (NH) and

on 11 Dec at Egmond aan Zee (WS). A couple was seen on 26 Dec at Camperduin (NH) and these animals deserve attention for they good be seen for a considerable period. Three sightings from Harbour Porpoises in January include pairs at Camperduin on 25 and 26 Jan (NH) and a single specimen seen from the beach at Roompot (Walcheren; PW). The couple seen on 25 Jan stayed some 25 minutes on the spot before heading S and one of the animals was clearly smaller than the other. A single specimen at Camperduin on 6 Feb and a pair at Bergen aan Zee on 25 Feb were the last porpoises to be seen from coastal sites this period. The only offshore records available for this period were couples spotted off Texel and Vlieland on 18 and 20 Feb 1991 (see map; HO, TP). All Porpoise sightings are mapped below.

HARBOUR PORPOISE PHOCOENA PHOCOENA



Grey Seals were seen on board MV Navicula: 1 on 30 Jan (HO, TP, MK; 51°14'N, 02°44'E), 10 on 5 Feb (HO, TP; 51°09'N, 02°39'E). An unidentified seal was spotted from this ship on 21 Jan (TG, HO, 53°20'N, 06°59'E).

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