

**SEABIRDS AT SEA, JUNE-AUGUST 1989 (SHIP-BASED OBSERVATIONS
CvZ/DGW, NIOZ)**

From the NIOZ offshore project, data were received from two trips which were actually carried out in May. One on board MV Tridens in the Danish North Sea area and one on the same ship south of the Dogger Bank. Three trips were made on board MV Holland (CvZ/DGW). The first from 20 to 22 June (Terschelling-Dogger Bank and back to waters off Zeeland), the second from 17 to 20 July (same area) and the third from 14 to 17 August (same area).

Fulmar densities were highest SE of the Dogger Bank and NW off Esbjerg (Denmark). Gannets were noticed in small numbers (mainly 2nd year birds) in both the coastal zone and further offshore. Manx and Sooty Shearwaters and the Storm Petrel were all recorded once. Off the Wadden Sea islands some flocks of Common Scoters were observed as late as July. Small flocks of migrant waders far from the shore in July and August.

The Great Skua was rather common in the offshore zone in July and August. Other species were seen in small numbers (including 3 Arctic, 2 Pomarine and 1 Long-tailed Skuas). Comparing this with coastal seawatching sites: the Arctic Skua is the most common species inshore seen during seawatching. The Great Skua is apparently more an offshore species. Large concentrations of Larus-gulls were recorded in coastal waters off Scheveningen (ca. 5,000 gulls) and between the islands Vlieland and Terschelling. Further offshore, a flock of 300 Kittiwakes was found foraging on small fish near the surface. The Lesser Black-backed Gull was the most

common species offshore, but it was almost completely absent in some locations, most notably in the Dogger Bank area. In coastal waters, foraging or migrating terns were seen throughout the summer. The Arctic Tern was the only species seen in offshore waters.

Auks (Guillemots) were seen in low numbers, mainly in August. The first adults with chick were spotted on 19 July. Two Puffins were observed near the Dogger Bank on 21 June.

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