

CETACEANS AND PINNIPEDS, SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1989 (SOUTHERN NORTH SEA AND BEACHES ONLY)

Three trips on board MV Tridens in the western basin of the southern North Sea in September led to an exceptional number of sightings and species of cetaceans. Most dolphins were observed in

waters very rich in Herring *Clupea harengus*, well offshore the English east coast. Plotted on a map, the actual area with many cetaceans was quite small (see elsewhere in this issue). Exceptional records were Pilot Whales (19), Minke Whales (4) and Common Dolphins (50). Several trips were carried out in the German Bight, around Helgoland and north towards Skagen (N Denmark). Few cetaceans were recorded in these waters, and for comparison all are included in the below list. An extraordinary record during sea-watching was the Northern Bottlenose Whale, seen under fine conditions, on 15 November.

Minke Whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

26 09 07:20 1 54°39,3N 00°21,6E (off E England; KB, CJC)
 26 09 07:58 1 54°44,4N 00°11,8E (off E England; KB, CJC)
 26 09 11:55 1 54°55,2N 00°28,2W (off E England; KB, CJC)
 27 09 14:32 1 55°50,0N 01°29,7W (off NE England; KB, CJC)

Scattered records of solitary animals in areas rich of fish. The animals were obviously not impressed by the approaching vessel and could often be seen at close range.

Northern Bottlenose Whale *Hyperoodon ampullatus*

15 11 12:33 1 52°39,7N 04°37,5E (seawatch Bergen aan Zee, NvdH)

Pilot Whale *Globicephala melaena*

05 09 11:15 3 54°25,8N 00°07,2W (off E England; HO, PW)
 05 09 16:00 3 54°34,9N 00°22,5W (off E England; HO, PW)
 05 09 16:02 1 54°34,9N 00°22,5W (off E England; HO, PW)
 05 09 16:25 1 54°35,0N 00°29,5W (off E England; HO, PW)
 06 09 14:00 1 55°46,9N 01°10,7W (off E England; HO, PW)
 07 09 08:38 1 55°14,9N 00°10,0W (off E England; HO, PW)
 07 09 16:30 1 54°23,0N 00°29,7E (off E England; HO, PW)
 13 09 06:45 2 55°34,2N 01°29,2W (off E England; HO, PW)
 13 09 07:31 5 55°29,5N 01°30,3W (off E England; HO, PW)
 13 09 10:30 1 55°07,9N 01°09,7W (off E England; HO, PW)

Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

26 09 07:10 50 54°37,9N 00°24,2E (off E England; KB, CJC)

A foraging herd with a flock of Gannets feeding on the same spot. Acrobatic jumping and leaping in rows was alternated with swimming simultaneously in criss cross directions. A very rare sighting in this part of the southern North Sea!

White-beaked Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus albirostris*

05 09 10:45 3 54°24,6N 00°09,2W (off E England; HO, PW)
 05 09 15:30 6 54°34,8N 00°13,4W (off E England; HO, PW)
 06 09 16:15 3 55°49,1N 00°50,2W (off NE England; HO, PW)
 07 09 07:20 3 55°15,3N 00°34,1W (off NE England; HO, PW)
 07 09 08:07 9 55°14,9N 00°21,9W (off NE England; HO, PW)
 07 09 08:40 35 55°14,9N 00°10,0W (off NE England; HO, PW)
 07 09 10:15 3 55°01,5N 00°09,9W (off NE England; HO, PW)

07 09 10:35	4	54°57,4N	00°09,9W	(off E England; HO, PW)
07 09 11:35	3	54°48,4N	00°09,6W	(off E England; HO, PW)
07 09 13:05	2	54°45,1N	00°06,6W	(off E England; HO, PW)
13 09 15:10	7	54°40,2N	00°19,4W	(off E England; HO, PW)
13 09 15:40	14	54°36,1N	00°12,0W	(off E England; HO, PW)
13 09 16:00	9	54°34,6N	00°12,1W	(off E England; HO, PW)
13 09 16:00	6	54°34,6N	00°12,1W	(off E England; HO, PW)
13 09 16:05	5	54°34,6N	00°12,1W	(off E England; HO, PW)
26 09 13:38	2	55°00,5N	00°09,8W	(off E England; KB, CJC)
26 09 13:38	15	55°00,5N	00°09,8W	(off E England; KB, CJC)
26 09 13:45	4	55°01,6N	00°10,0W	(off E England; KB, CJC)
26 09 13:38	3	55°02,5N	00°10,1W	(off E England; KB, CJC)
27 09 15:00	5	55°54,8N	01°29,9W	(off NE England; KB, CJC)
04 10 15:59	4	54°04,0N	02°08,0E	(Outer Silver Pit; MFL, MG)
05 10 09:20	3	54°12,1N	07°28,7E	(off Helgoland; CJC, EVK)
24 10 13:25	2	53°43,6N	05°31,8E	(N off Terschelling; GK, EVK)

This was the only species frequently met with at the bow of the ship, riding for some minutes. Brilliant pictures were taken by Pim Wolf.

White-sided Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus acutus*

05 09 15:55	5	54°34,9N	00°18,4W	(off E England; HO, PW)
07 09 08:10	3	55°14,9N	00°21,9W	(off NE England; HO, PW)
07 09 08:30	1	55°14,9N	00°12,5W	(off NE England; HO, PW)
07 09 09:35	7	55°05,1N	00°09,8W	(off NE England; HO, PW)
13 09 15:35	2	54°36,8N	00°13,2W	(off E England; HO, PW)

Calves or immatures were seen in two cases. More and more sightings appear of this (in the North Sea) comparatively rare species.

White-sided/White beaked Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus* spp.

05 09 15:50	8	54°34,8N	00°16,0W	(off E England; HO, PW)
05 09 15:55	2	54°34,8N	00°18,4W	(off E England; HO, PW)
06 09 13:35	1	55°51,5N	01°09,6W	(off NE England; HO, PW)
07 09 10:10	3	55°02,6N	00°09,9W	(off NE England; HO, PW)
07 09 13:40	3	54°43,6N	00°12,2E	(off E England; HO, PW)

unidentified dolphins

05 09 09:05	3	54°17,1N	00°06,0E	(off E England; HO, PW)
06 09 13:09	2	55°54,4N	01°09,3W	(off NE England; HO, PW)
07 09 07:05	1	55°15,3N	00°39,8W	(off NE England; HO, PW)
26 09 14:40	2	55°04,2N	00°13,5W	(off E England; KB, CJC)
26 09 14:48	4	55°04,2N	00°13,5W	(off E England; KB, CJC)
06 10 10:25	1	55°23,6N	07°28,4E	(off SW Denmark; CJC)

Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*

05 09 09:20	8	54°17,4N	00°00,8E	(off E England; HO, PW)
05 09 10:12	1	54°18,1N	00°12,0W	(off E England; HO, PW)
05 09 10:18	3	54°19,9N	00°11,2W	(off E England; HO, PW)
05 09 15:30	4	54°34,8N	00°13,4W	(off E England; HO, PW)
07 09 07:22	2	55°15,3N	00°34,1W	(off NE England; HO, PW)

07 09 13:03 10 54°45,1N 00°06,6E (off E England; HO, PW)
 07 09 13:57 1 54°41,4N 00°17,2E (off E England; HO, PW)
 07 09 15:29 2 54°29,4N 00°30,1E (off E England; HO, PW)
 07 09 15:30 5 54°29,4N 00°30,1E (off E England; HO, PW)
 07 09 17:45 1 54°15,2N 00°39,9E (off E England; HO, PW)
 12 09 10:15 8 54°35,1N 01°18,3E (W Dogger Bank; HO, PW)
 13 09 07:08 10 55°32,6N 01°30,4W (off NE England; HO, PW)
 13 09 07:12 2 55°32,6N 01°30,4W (off NE England; HO, PW)
 13 09 16:15 4 54°30,4N 00°10,8W (off E England; HO, PW)
 13 09 16:25 2 54°27,0N 00°10,2W (off E England; HO, PW)
 17 09 - 1 old corpse washed ashore, Camperduin; NvdH)
 26 09 06:20 2 54°36,4N 00°33,6E (off E England; KB, CJC)
 26 09 06:26 3 54°35,8N 00°32,2E (off E England; KB, CJC)
 26 09 07:40 4 54°41,9N 00°16,5E (off E England; KB, CJC)
 26 09 17:20 1 55°15,3N 00°49,5W (off E England; KB, CJC)
 27 09 11:10 6 55°55,9N 01°08,7W (off NE England; KB, CJC)
 28 09 16:20 1 54°15,6N 00°01,5W (off E England; KB, CJC)
 05 10 12:15 1 54°15,9N 07°47,9E (off Helgoland; CJC)
 10 10 12:59 2 57°28,8N 08°47,5E (off Jutland, Denm.; CJC, EVK)
 30 11 1 53°27,5N 03°54,4E (K12 gas field; via PR)

unidentified seal *Phoca/Halichoerus*

13 09 1 dead specimen floating alongside the ship
 55°25,3N 01°28,2W (off NE England; PW, HO)

Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus*

13 09 1 55°34,4N 01°26,4W (male off NE England; PW, HO)
 13 09 5 55°34,2N 01°29,2W (off NE England; PW, HO)
 26 09 13:22 1 54°56,9N 00°09,6W (off E England; KB, CJC)
 27 09 14:00 4 55°46,4N 01°29,7W (off Farne Isles; KB, CJC)
 28 09 15:15 1 54°23,0N 00°10,6W (off E England; KB, CJC)

Names mentioned: Klaus Brass (KB), Kees Camphuysen (CJC), Nick van der Ham (NvdH), Guido Keijl (GK), Eduard Koopman (EVK), Henk Of-fringa (HO), Peter Reijnders (PR), Pim Wolf (PW)