

### **Seabirds at sea, Mar - May 1991**

The only trips conducted this period were on board MV *Navicula* and these were aimed at wintering concentrations of Common Scoters off the Dutch coast. Numbers were rather low this winter along the mainland coast and in the Delta area. A massive concentration of scoters was found off Schiermonnikoog which moved to Terschelling later on. Maximum numbers present in these concentrations were extremely difficult to assess, but roughly estimated at some 100,000 individuals off Schiermonnikoog in Jan/Feb 1991 (MFL, HO), and 40,000 off Terschelling in Mar-May (few birds stayed off Schiermonnikoog). Surveys in June off Terschelling learned that a considerable number of scoters was still present.

Some 16,000 Common Scoters were seen on 19 June (MFL).

There were no further ship-based surveys organised offshore until late May 1991 (see next issue). An extensive scheme is planned for June and July (Navicula and Tridens II).

**Information from:** M.F. Leopold (MFL), H. Offringa (HO).

**MFL**