

## ***Marine mammals, Sep - Nov 1992***

In Sep, off E Scotland and NE England, the number and frequency of cetacean sightings was quite low this year (TP, JS). A Minke Whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata* was recorded at 55°38'N, 01°11'W and 3 Porpoises *Phocoena phocoena* at 55°35'N, 0°32'W on 16 Sep, White-beaked Dolphins *Lagenorhynchus albirostris* were recorded thrice: 17 Sep 7 and 4 individuals off E Scotland (57°25'N, 0°36'W, 57°50'N, 0°50'W) and on 21 Sep another 8 individuals at 55°25'N, 0°12'W. Three unidentified dolphins were seen on the same day in the same area. BC reported many Killer Whales *Orcinus orca* and Pilot Whales *Globicephala melas* from the northern North Sea, late October-early November 1992 on board SCH-33, a commercial trawler. Killer Whale pods comprised 7 on 22 Oct, 4 on 23 Oct, 1 on 26 Oct, 30 on 29 Oct, 1 and 12 on 31 Oct, 10-15 on 2 Nov, 3 on 3 Nov, 15 on 4 Nov, while Pilot Whale pods were 15 on 31 Oct, 15 on 31 Oct, 80-250 on 1 Nov, 35 on 2 Nov, 25-30 and 30-150 on 3 Nov. Killer Whales were scavenging discards. All sightings were within 60°53'N-61°53'N, 0°33'W-1°34'E, an area just NE of Shetland. There were no cetaceans seen on the other offshore trips. A Sunfish *Mola mola* was seen at Camperduin on 26 Nov (NH).

Information from: NZG/Marine mammal database, B. Couperus, Nick v.d.Ham. T. Postma, J. Seys

CJC