

CETACEANS AND PINNIPEDS (DUTCH CONTINENTAL SHELF AND BEACHES ONLY)

Most of the marine mammals were sighted during ship-based surveys conducted for seabird counts. However, the largest herd of Harbour Porpoises, a pod of at least 17 individuals, was recorded during a sea-watch at Hondsbossche Zeewering on 14th January (SL, see elsewhere in this issue) and the largest group of dolphins was reported from an off-shore platform, some 30 unidentified dolphins at the Helder field on 16th February (KT).

Porpoises were observed close to the shore from ships on 30th November (3), 8th December, 18th, 19th and 27th January (see below). One Porpoise was found dead on Ameland on 19th December and another two were found alive here in March (PdJ, and newspaper reports). Harbour Porpoise sightings include:

30 Nov 87	1	53°12'N, 04°46'E, off Texel (MFL)
	2	53°30'N, 05°43'E, off Ameland (MFL)
08 Dec 87	1	53°27'N, 05°06'E, off Terschelling (CJC, JAF)
14 Jan 88	17	seawatching site Hondsbossche, Noord-Holland (SL)
18 Jan 88	1	52°48'N, 04°38'E, off Petten, Noord-Holland (MFL, PW)
19 Jan 88	1	52°03'N, 04°08'E, off Katwijk, Zuid-Holland (CJC)
27 Jan 88	1	53°35'N, 06°12'E, off Schiermonnikoog (MFL)
18 Feb 88	1	53°53'N, 06°37'E, off Borkum (MFL)
24 Feb 88	1	40 miles off Texel (MFL, JA)
02 Mar 88	1	55°38'N, 03°15'E, Dogger Bank (CJC)

Two White-beaked Dolphins were observed on 10th December, far south, on 51°23'N, 02°12'E (MFL) and the already mentioned pod of unidentified dolphins on 16th February were the only dolphins observed prior to March.

We will not report any Common Seals recorded within the Wadden Sea area, where they are numerous. On 19th December an immature was found dead near Renesse, Schouwen, being the 13th stranding for Zeeland in 1987 (HS2). On 20th January 7 Common Seals were seen lying on Hompels, Oude Roompot, off Neeltje Jans (Zeeland, CJC, MFL, PW). An unidentified seal was observed off Vlieland on 26th January (MFL), three Common Seals on 27th January off Schiermonnikoog (MFL). Another specimen off Schiermonnikoog on 16th February (AMN, LS) and finally a Common Seal on 18th February, some 30 miles off Rottumerplaat (JA, MFL).

Names mentioned: JA Johan Apperloo, CJC Kees Camphuysen, JAF Jan Andries van Franeker, PdJ Piet de Jong, SL Sander Lagerveld, MFL Nardik Leopold, AMN Anja van der Niet, LS Leo Stegeman, KT K.Timmer, PW Pim Wolf, HS2 Henk Zandstra (NMF Zeeland).

Important data from: CJC, MFL, AMN, HS2.