

**SEABIRDS AT SEA, SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1988 (SHIP-BASED OBSERVATIONS
CvZ/DGW, NIOZ)**

Information was received from only five trips. The MV Holland (CvZ/DGW) was manned in the period 17/19 October and 7/10 November with trips along the Noord- and Zuid-Holland coast and north of the Wadden Isles. Of observations on board the MV Tridens (NIOZ) information on two trips was received: one along the Noord-Holland coast (17/19 October) and one to the Brown Bank (Zuid-Holland coast) and the Frisian Front (NW of Texel; 7/10 November). Finally the MV Aurelia (NIOZ) made one short trip on 13 October NW of Texel.

Only a few divers were seen, mainly close to the shore. The maximum number on a single trip was a group of four Red-throated Divers near the Wadden Isles (Vlieland) in October. Fulmars were only common far off the coast and mainly in the northern parts. There was quite a high proportion of coloured birds present (ca. 5%). Observations of Gannets (mainly adults) were spread out over the entire area. During the period of 17-19 October some migration of geese was noted (involving Brent, Barnacle and Grey-lag Geese). Only few scoters were seen.

Scattered records of Great and Arctic Skuas were received from October and November as well as one record of a Pomarine Skua. Along

the coast Little Gulls were regularly seen in October, while in the next month numbers markedly declined. Kittiwakes, common far offshore in October, came closer inshore during November. The main concentrations of auks (chiefly Guillemots) were found far offshore on the habitual places, like the Frisian Front.