

## Recent reports

### **Beached Bird Surveys, June - August 1990 (NSO)**

Summer surveys were scarce, as usual. Counts were received from the Frisian coast (Sexbierum-Koehool, DS, May and June) and the mainland coast Noord-Holland (St Maartenszee-Camperduin, Wbr, May-Aug). Eiders predominated the Frisian surveys, with very few casualties being oiled. The May surveys from Noord-Holland failed to report any oiled birds. Fulmar (3), Bar-tailed Godwit (2) and Herring Gulls (9) were found this month on the 8km stretch. June produced more birds, including 5 Fulmars, 1 Gannet, 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and 13 Herring Gulls. One Fulmar was oiled, the Gannet and a Herring Gull were found entangled in nylon thread. The July surveys produced three more cases of entanglement in nylon thread (1 Oystercatcher, 2 Herring Gulls). Two more Fulmars, a Gannet, some more Herring Gulls, a Black-headed Gull, a Common Gull and the first two Kittiwakes were reported. Two birds (Herring Gull and Kittiwake) were oiled. In August there were 1 Fulmar, 2 Gannets (both entangled in nylon), Lesser Black-backed and Herring Gulls (unoiled, 1 Herring Gull entangled in nylon thread) and the first juvenile Kittiwake.

Strandings of plastic pellets were recorded on 7th and 10th of June and on 6th July in Noord-Holland, on 10th August a considerable quantity of paraffine washed ashore (Wbr). Significant oiling of the beach in Zuid-Holland (more precisely south of Den Haag) was reported in early September (GG). Of some 1000 Herring Gulls on the beach and on breakwaters nearly one-third became oil-fouled, mainly on head and neck.

Most oil samples, taken in February, March, and April 1990 along the Dutch coast have now been analysed. Remarkably enough, most samples contained heavy fuel oil (of ships) and very few different types were recorded. Four samples were found to include the very toxic Dodecylphenol and a check of the NSO lists of corpses from the same period made sure that a substantial discharge of Dodecylphenol off the mainland coast, late February 1990, has been responsible for quite a few dead birds (CJC, BSH).

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