

Agenda Item 8.1.1: Post-mortem and stranding schemes

Cetacean stranding along the French coasts in 2005

Submitted by: France



NOTE:

IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING THEIR OWN COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING



Cetacean stranding along the French coasts in 2005

**Observatory of Natural Patrimony
Action Plan for the Marine Mammals**



Summary of the cetacean stranding along the French coasts in 2005 and figures for the harbour porpoise

The national stranding network (RNE) managed by the CRMM, University of La Rochelle has in charge the collect of information and samples on the stranded marine mammals along the French coasts.

Each year a report is realised for a restitution to the members of the network and for the Ministry of the Ecology and the Sustainable Development. The spatial and temporal distributions of the stranding are described and compared to the previous years.

For the cetaceans, the year 2005 is characterised by a high number of stranded animals mainly along the Atlantic coasts with important phenomena of mortality (N = 481, 60% are common dolphins). As usual different picks of numerous stranding occurred during January and February. An unusual pick is noted in April with 164 animals (35% of the total annual number). This time-lag is probably linked to the weather conditions.

For the first time, in France and probably for the north coasts of Europe, an Atlantic spotted dolphin was found stranded in south Brittany.

Along the Channel coasts 94 individuals were recorded, the increase trend is confirmed and concern mainly the harbour porpoise (N = 59).

The figures given below is one example of the different analysis made with the data collected. The harbour porpoise have been chosen because of the significant increase in the number of animals stranded.



Figure 1 : Geographical distribution of harbour porpoise in 1996 along the French coasts

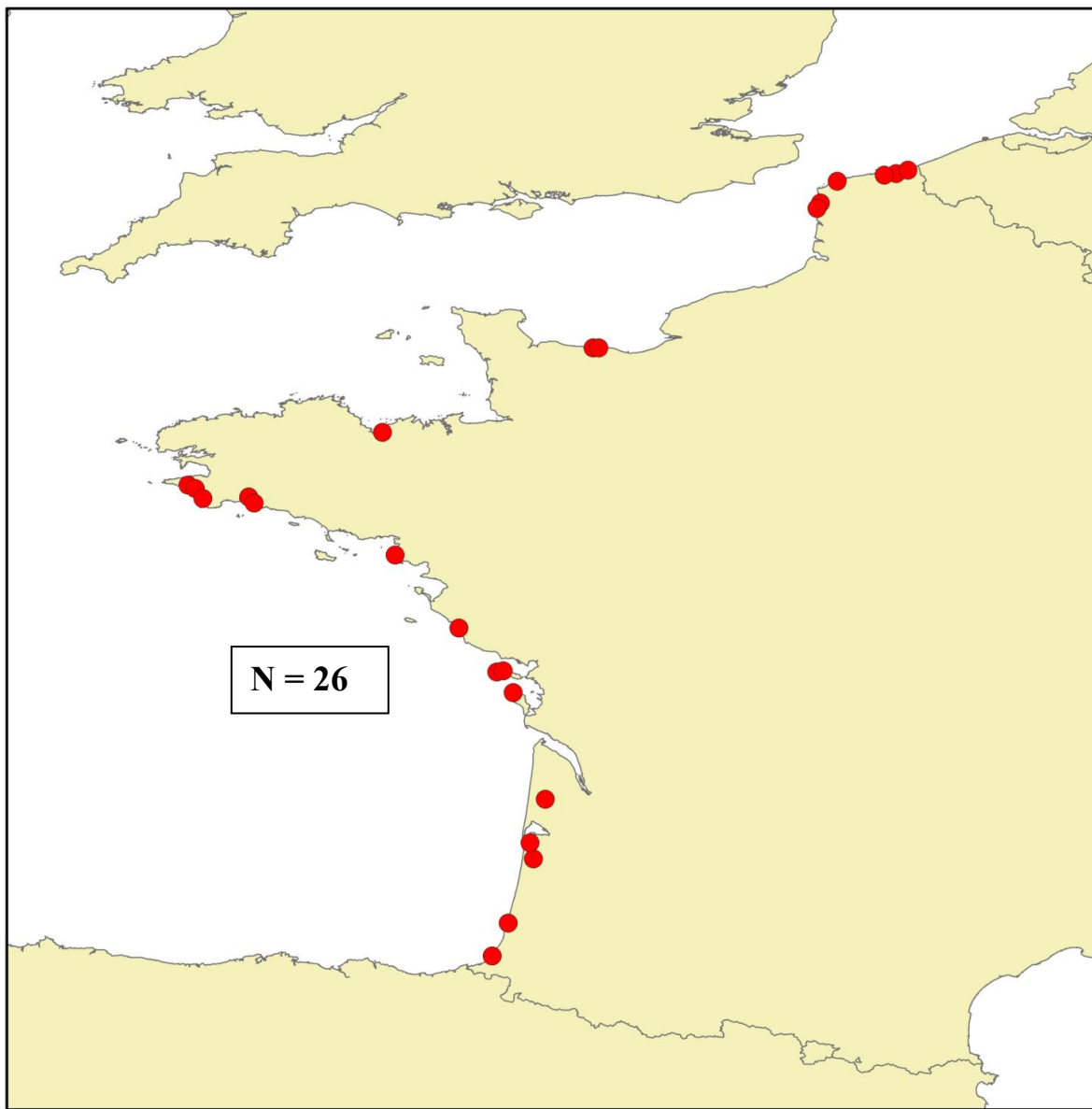


Figure 2 : Geographical distribution of harbour porpoise in 1997 along the French coasts

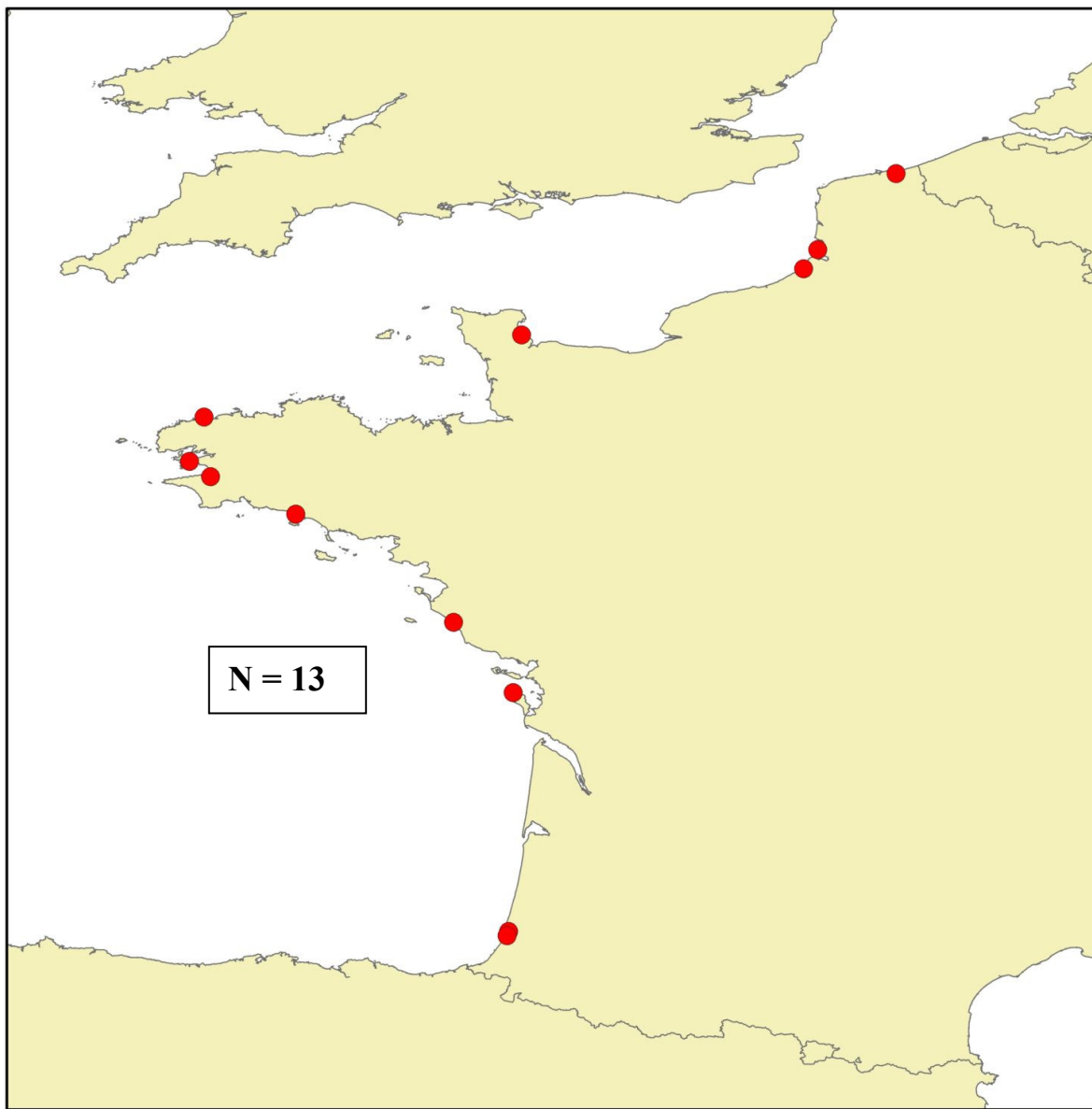


Figure 3 : Geographical distribution of harbour porpoise in 1998 along the French coasts

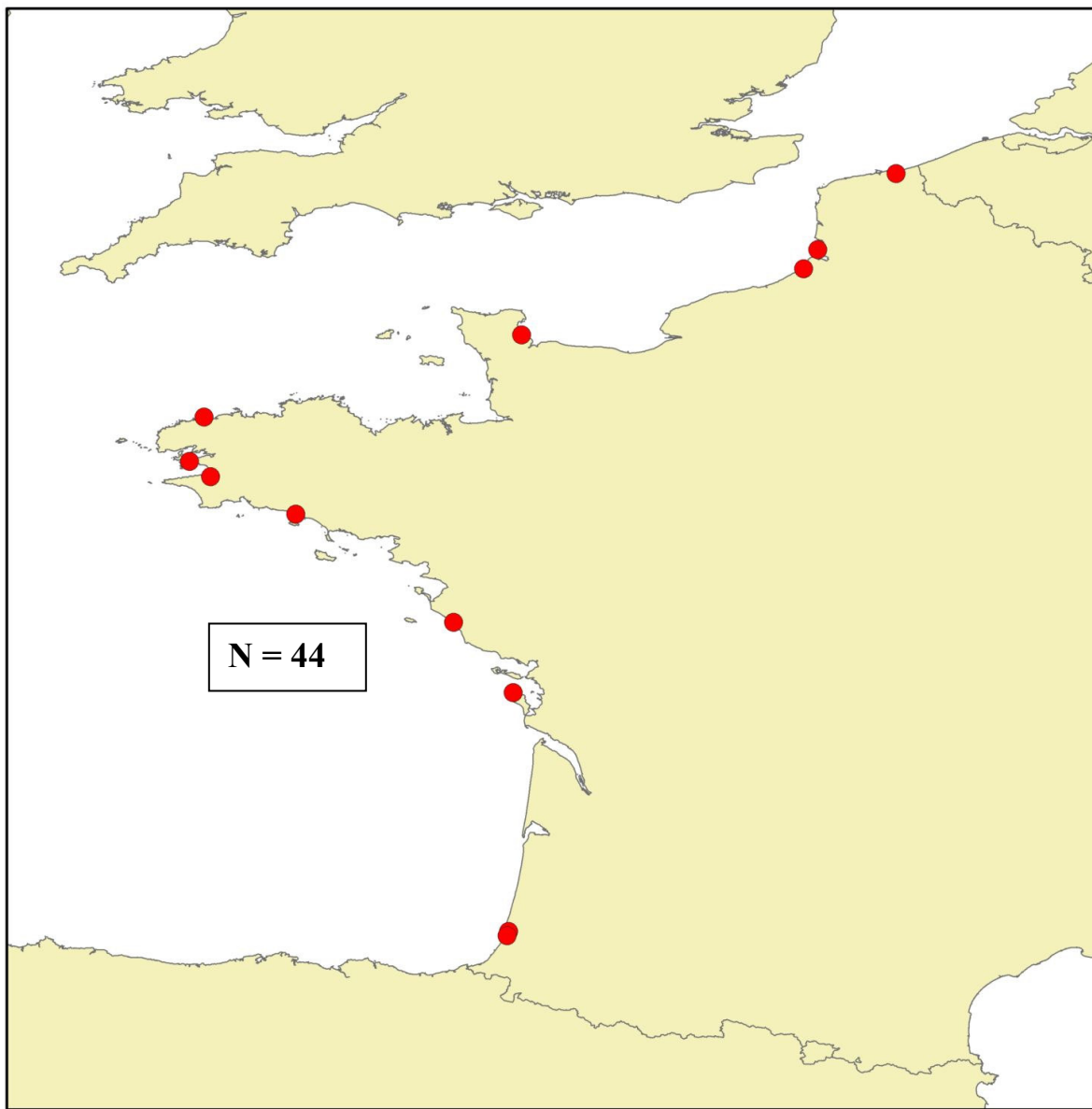


Figure 4 : Geographical distribution of harbour porpoise in 1999 along the French coasts

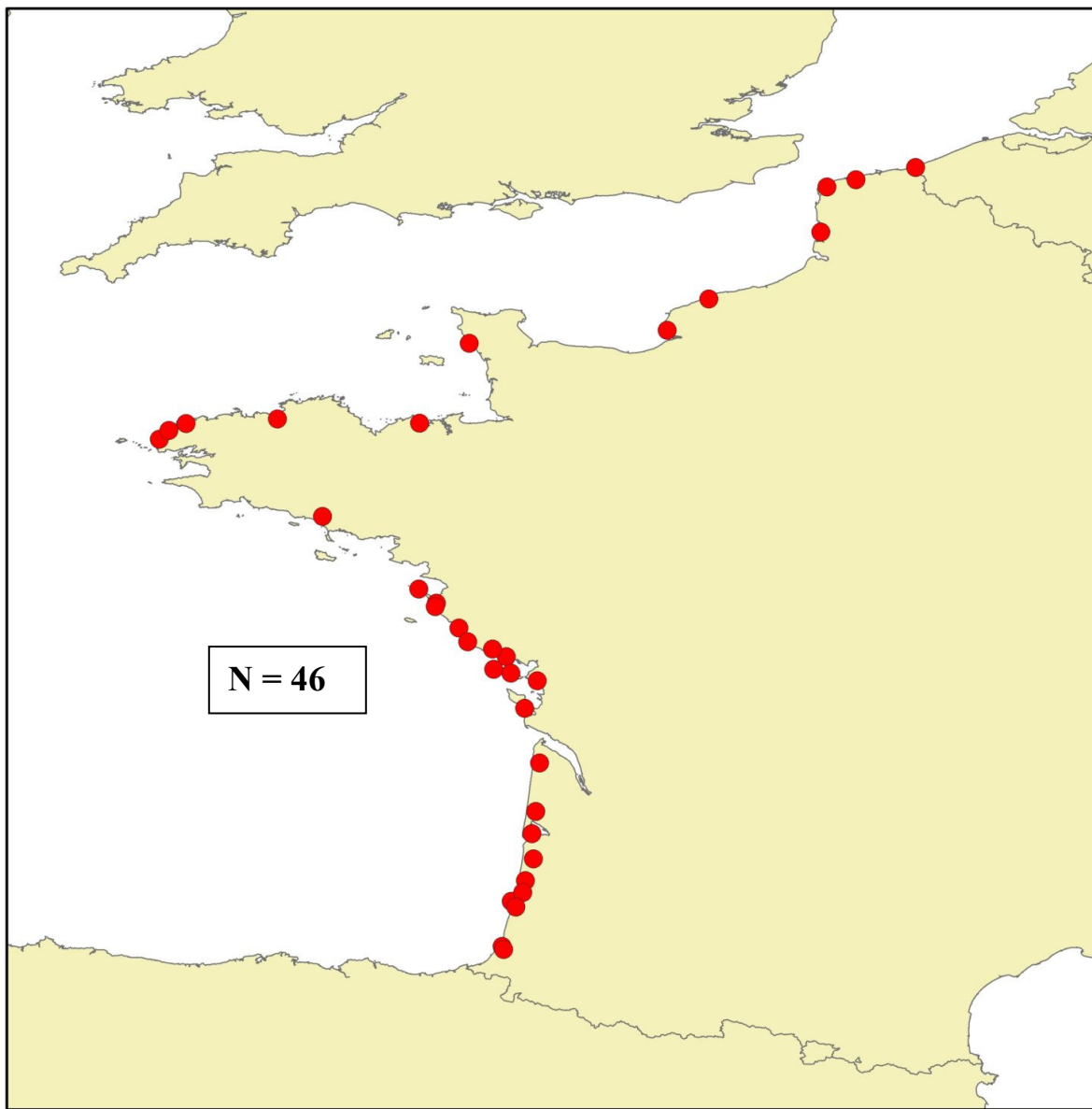


Figure 5 : Geographical distribution of harbour porpoise in 2000 along the French coasts

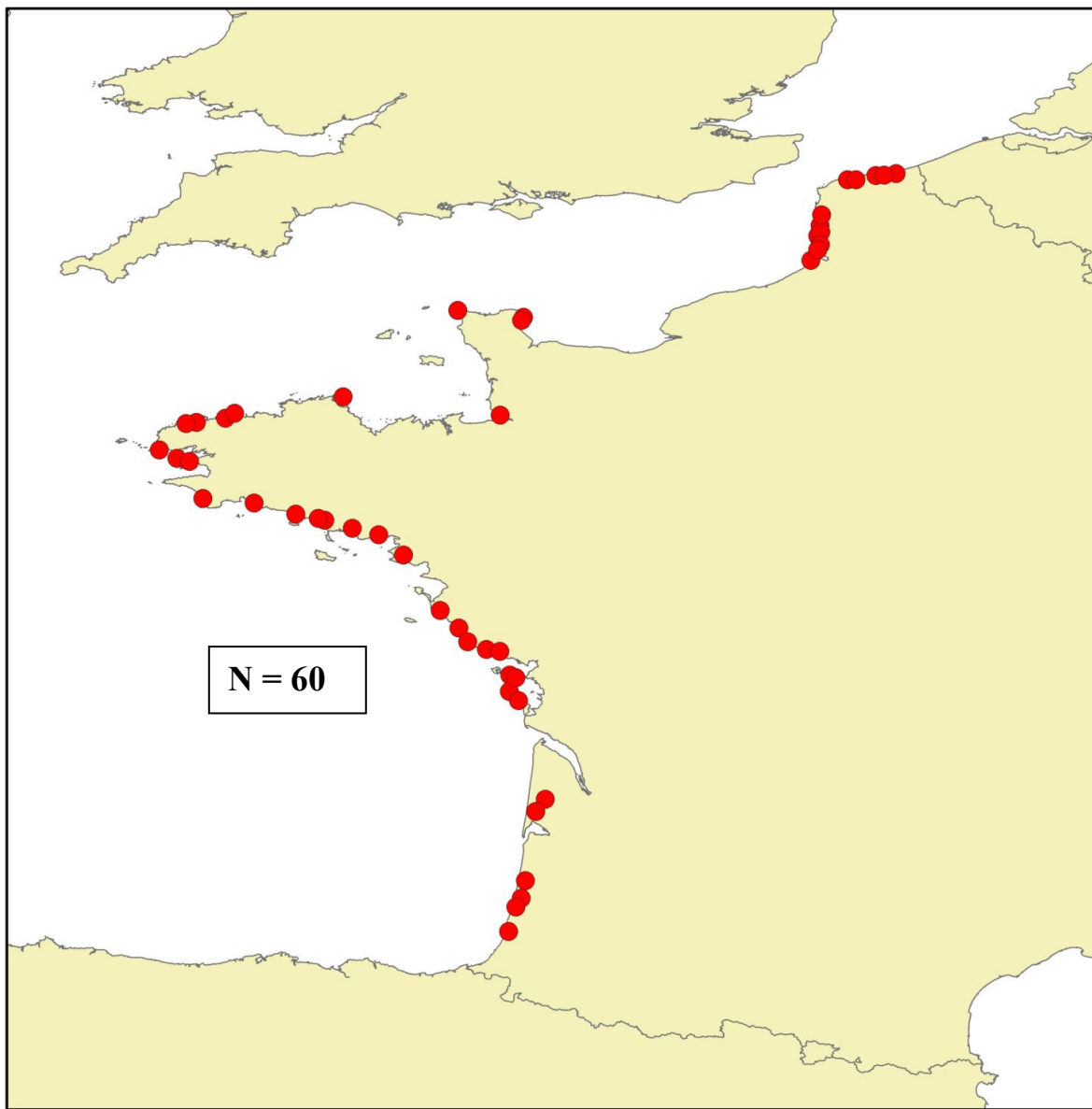


Figure 6 : Geographical distribution of harbour porpoise in 2001 along the French coasts

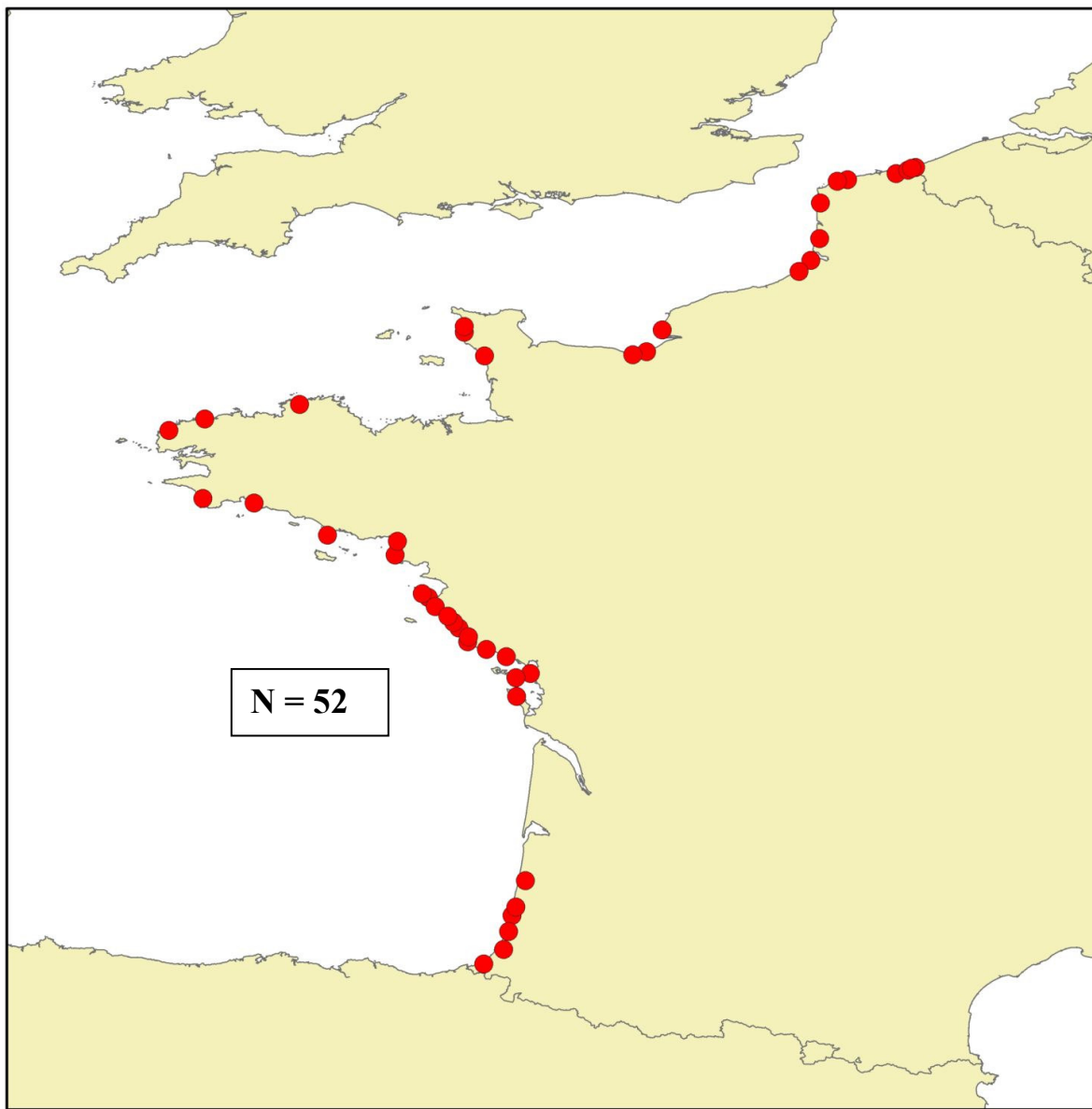


Figure 7 : Geographical distribution of harbour porpoise in 2002 along the French coasts

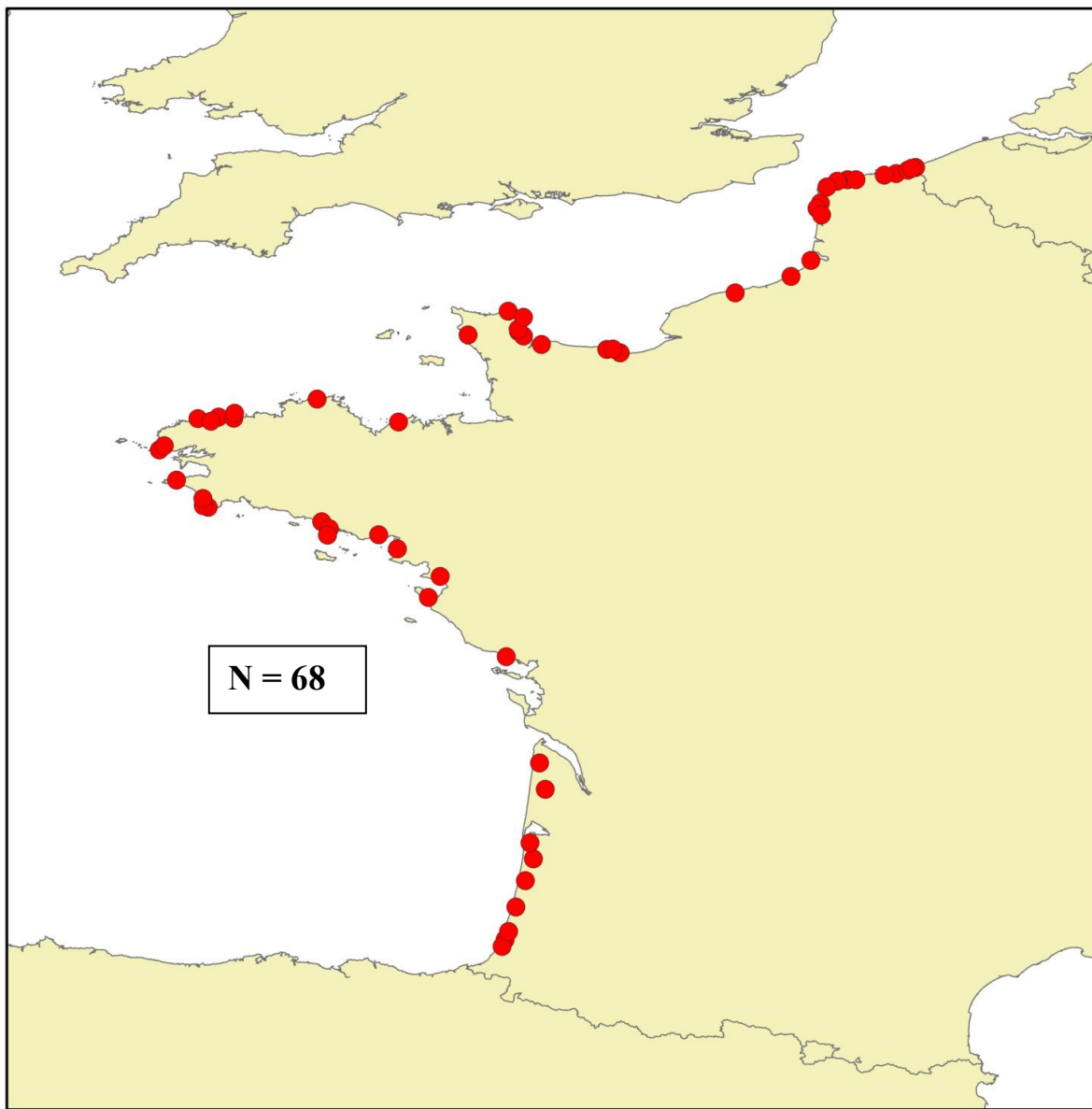


Figure 8 : Geographical distribution of harbour porpoise in 2003 along the French coasts

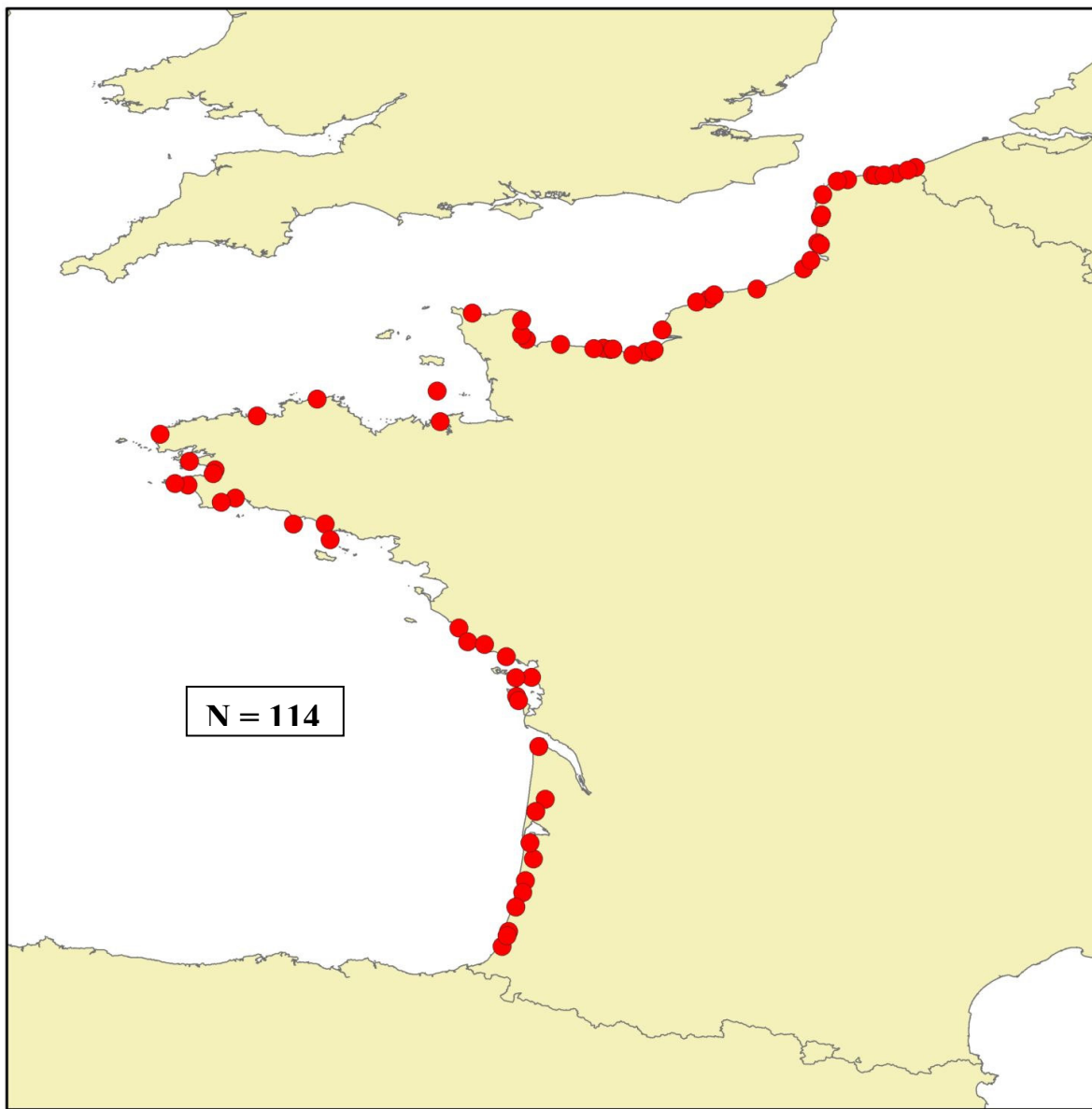


Figure 9 : Geographical distribution of harbour porpoise in 2004 along the French coasts

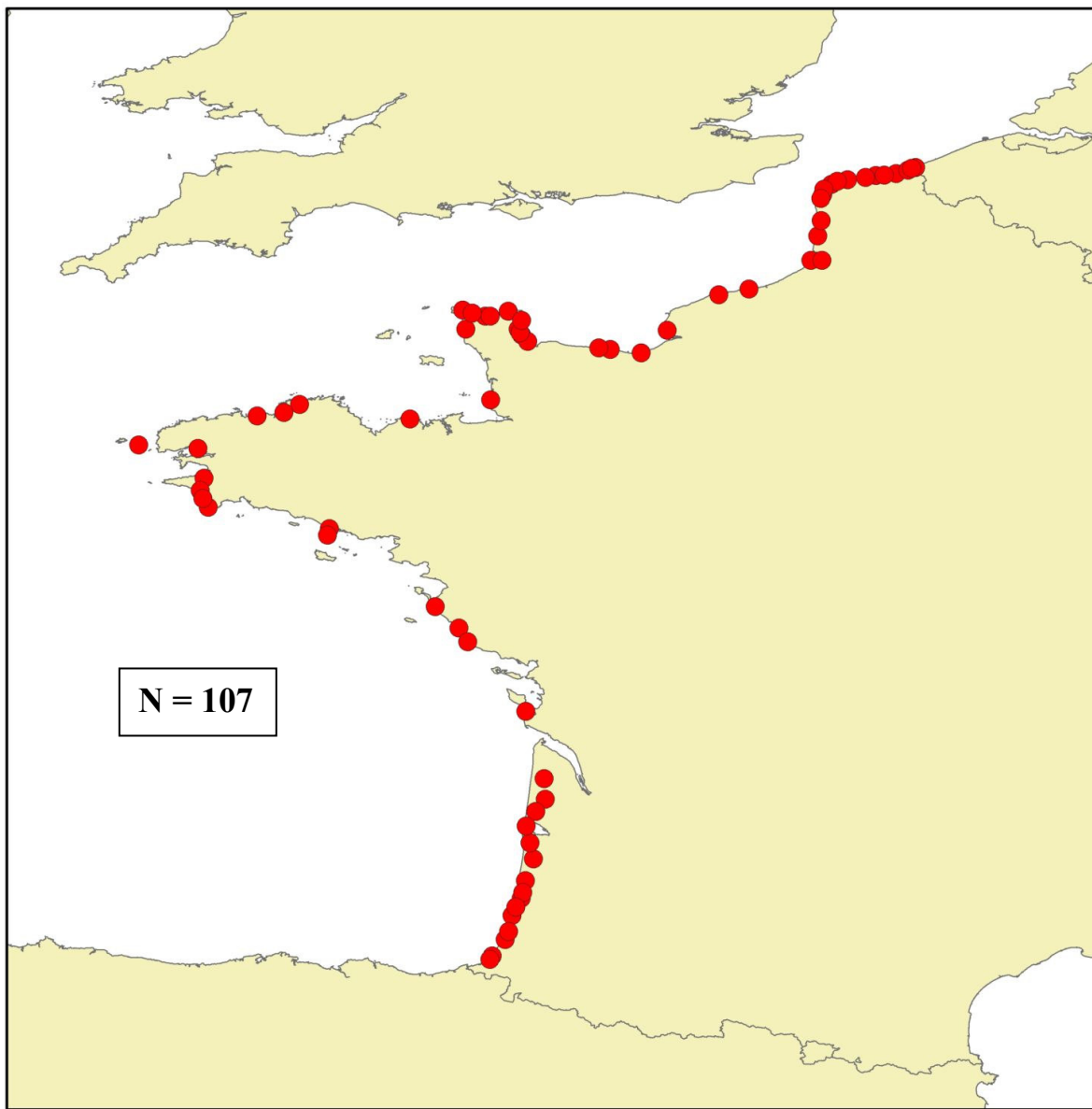


Figure 10 : Geographical distribution of harbour porpoise in 2005 along the French coasts

