

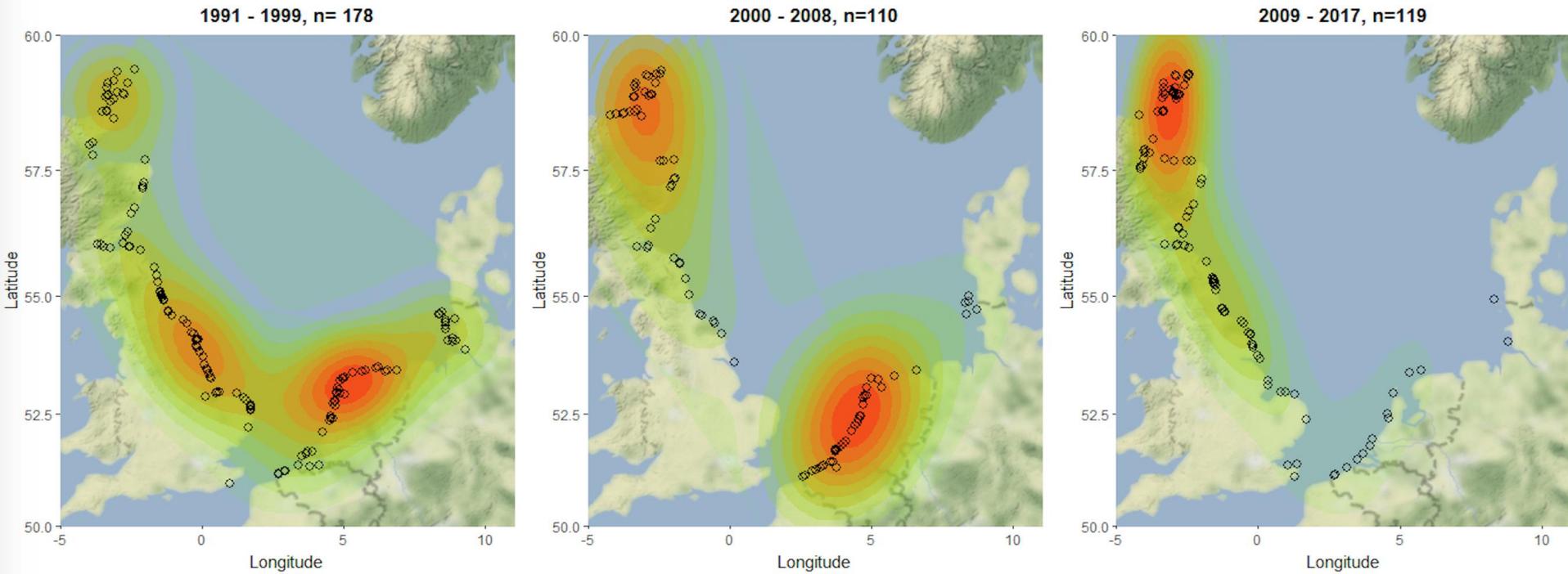
# THE WHITE-BEAKED DOLPHIN IN EUROPE: RESEARCH & CONSERVATION UPDATE



*Peter G.H. Evans*

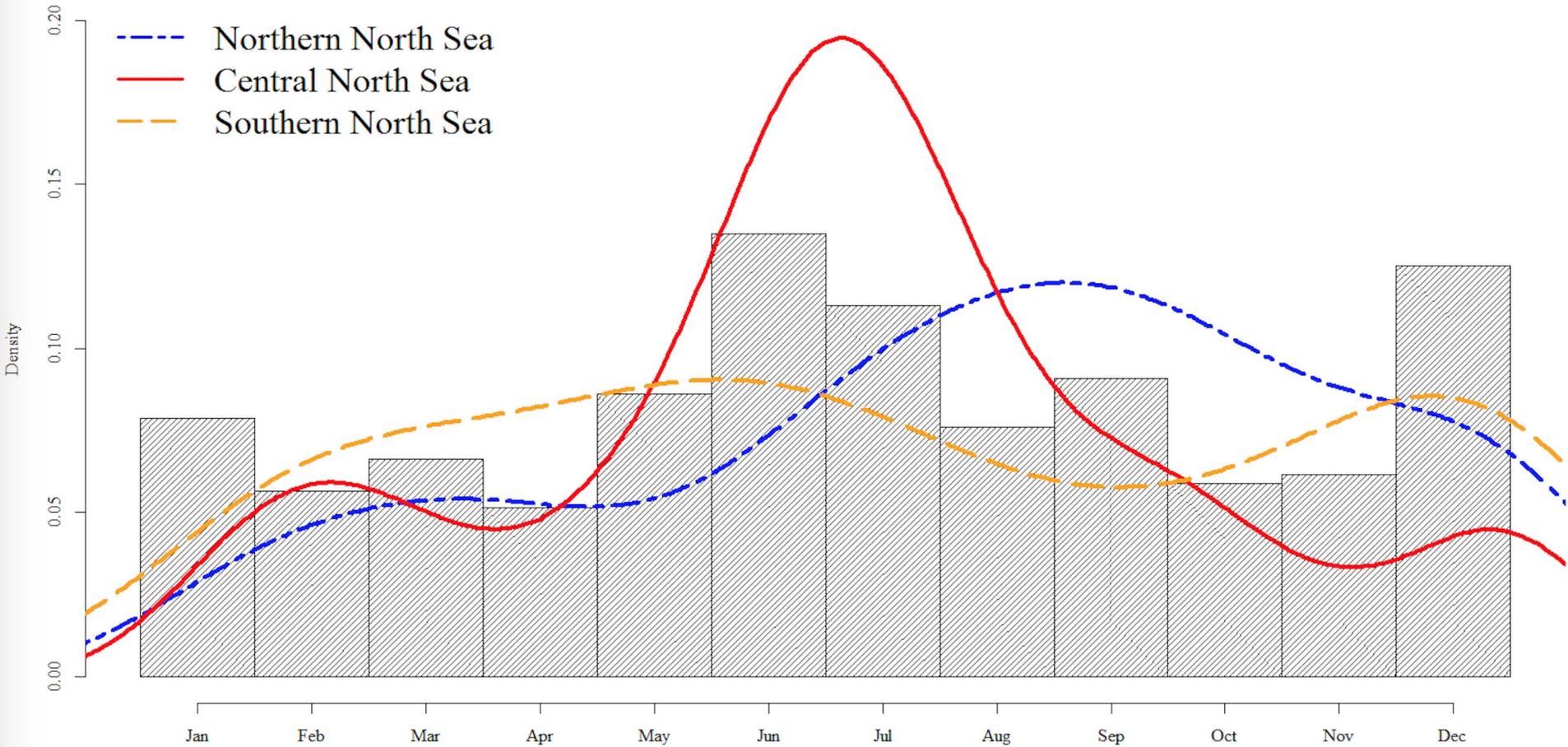
School of Ocean Sciences, University of Bangor & Sea Watch Foundation, UK

# White-beaked Dolphin Strandings in North Sea



Source: IJsseldijk *et al.*, 2018

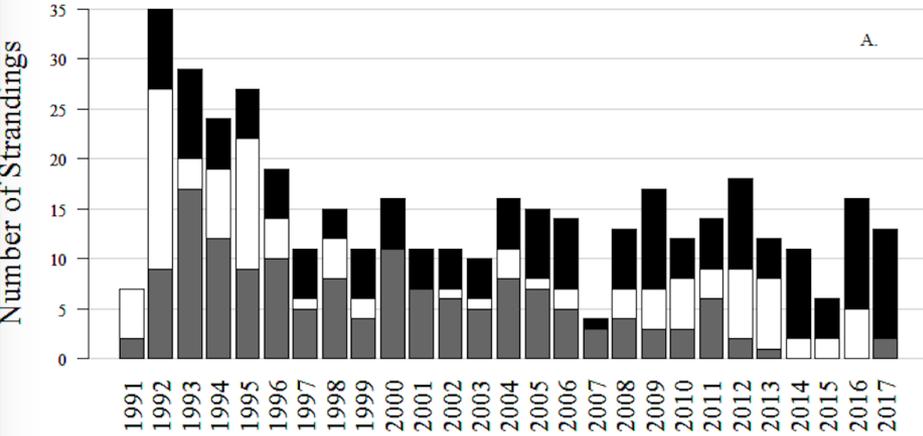
# White-beaked Dolphin Strandings in North Sea



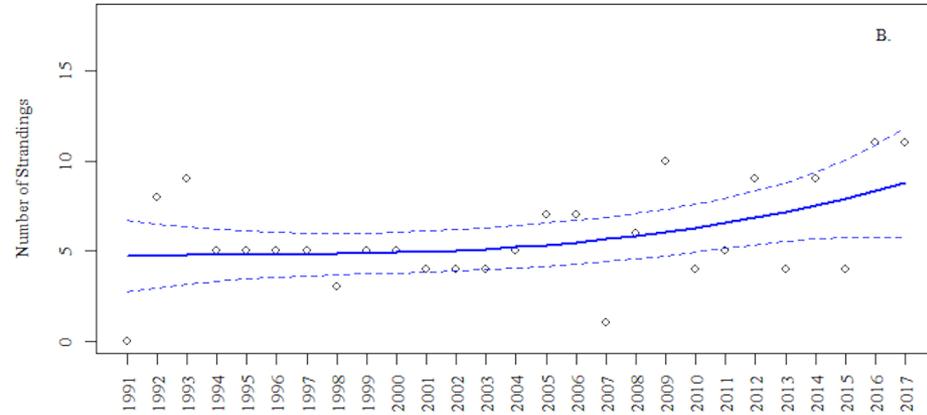
Source: IJsseldijk *et al.*, 2018

# White-beaked Dolphin Strandings in North Sea

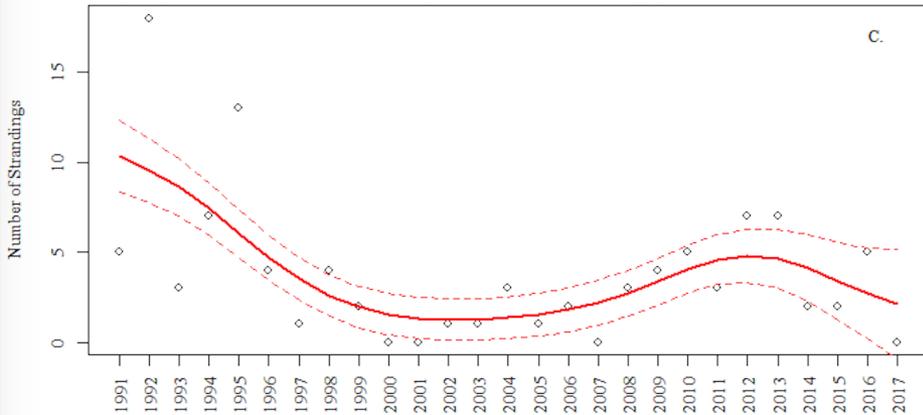
Total number of recorded strandings 1991 - 2017 - n = 407



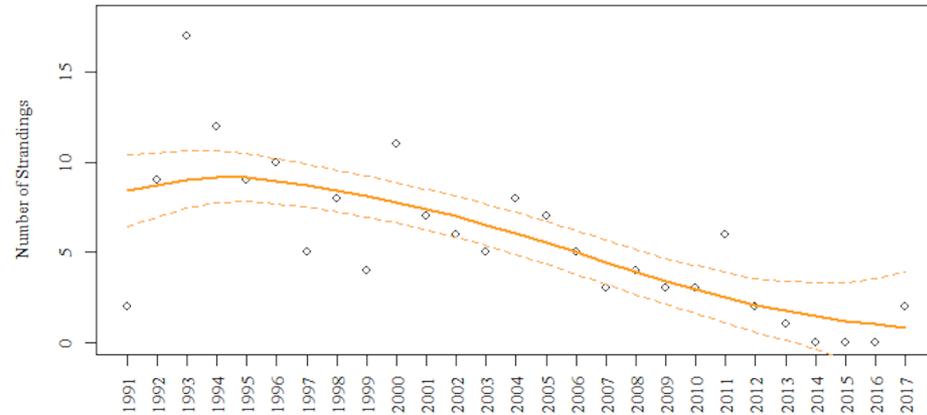
Northern North Sea coastline - n=155



Central North Sea coastline - n=103

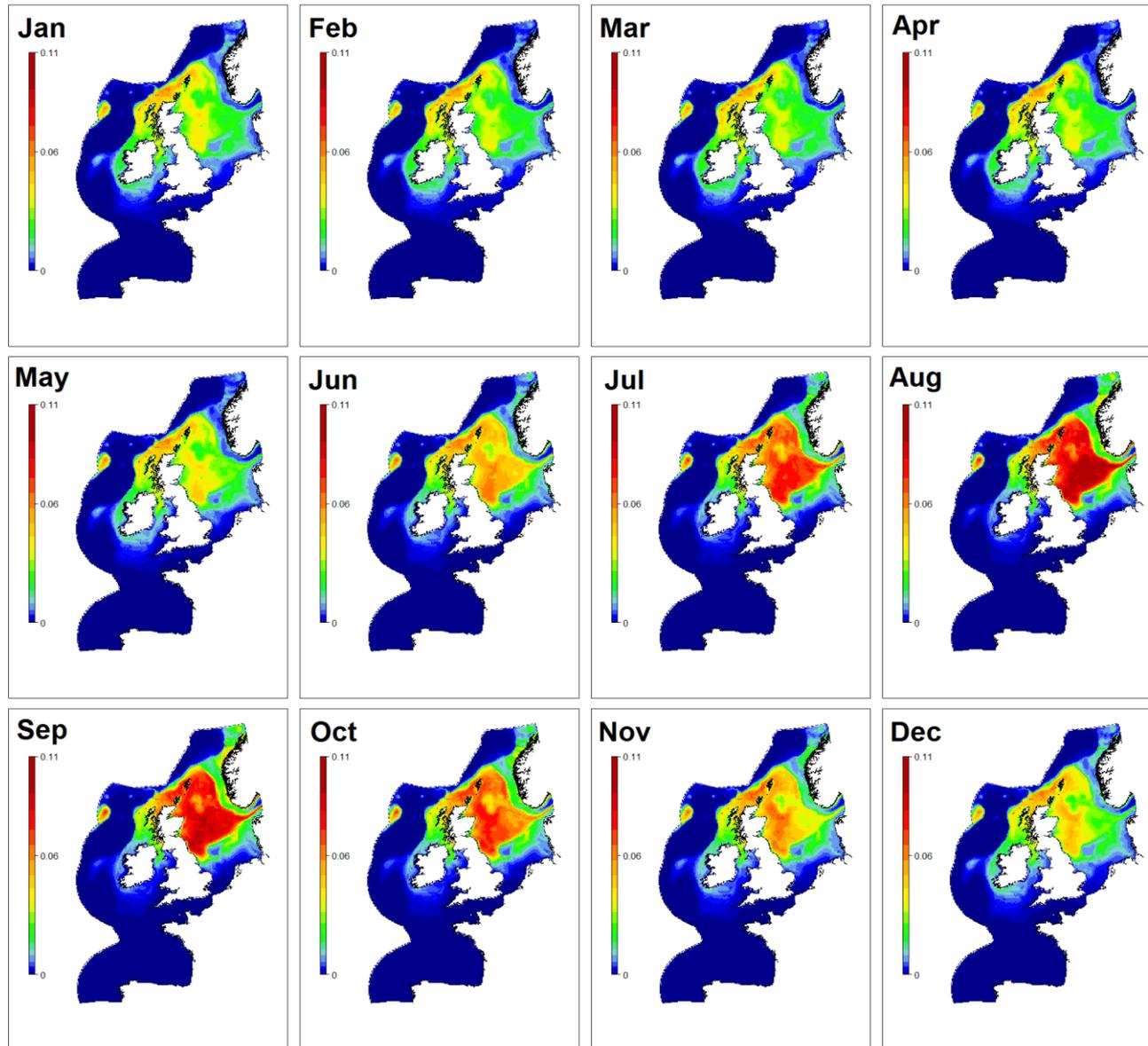


Southern North Sea coastline - n=149



Source: IJsseldijk *et al.*, 2018

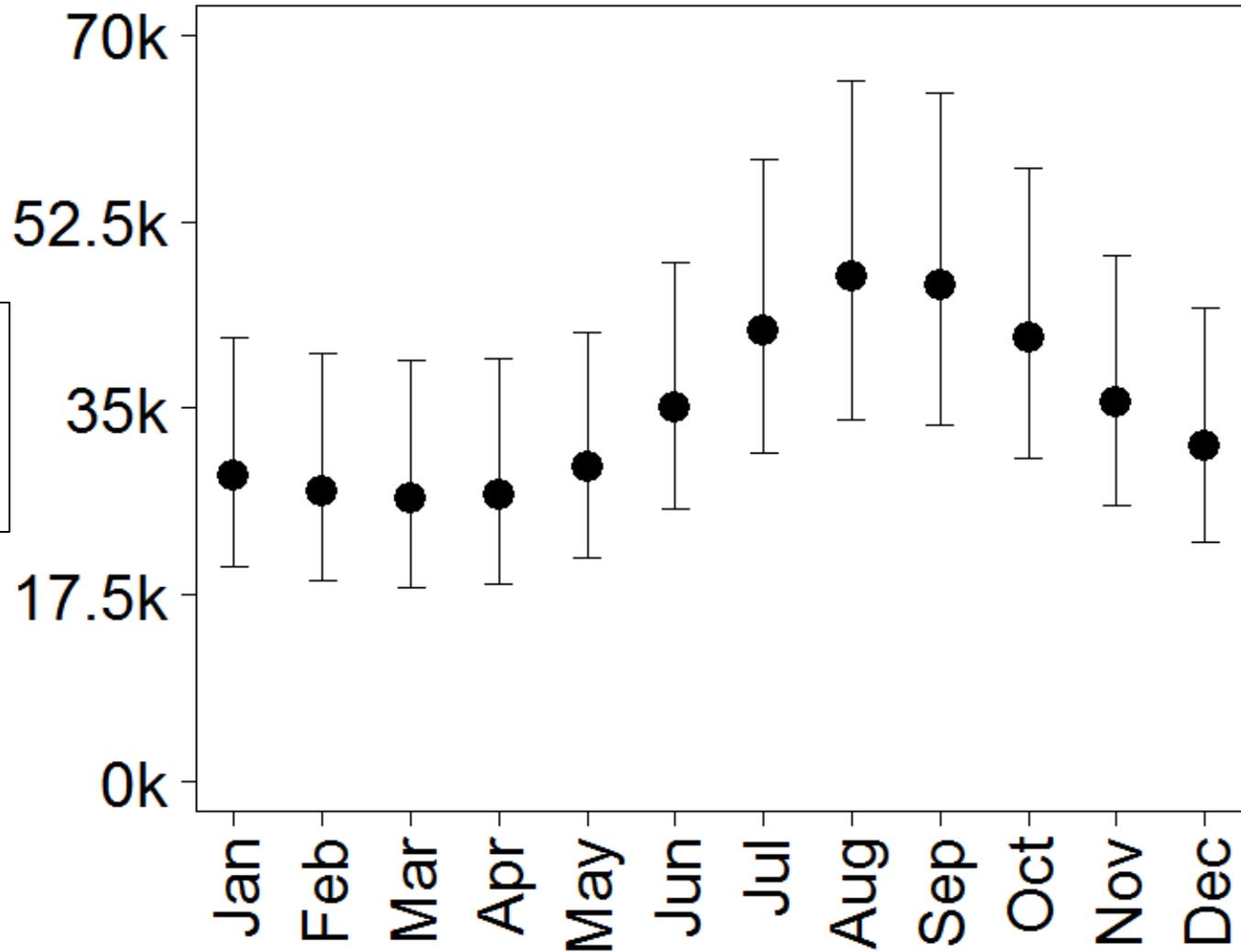
# White-beaked Dolphin monthly densities in NW Europe



Source: MERP Project



# WhitebeakedDolphin



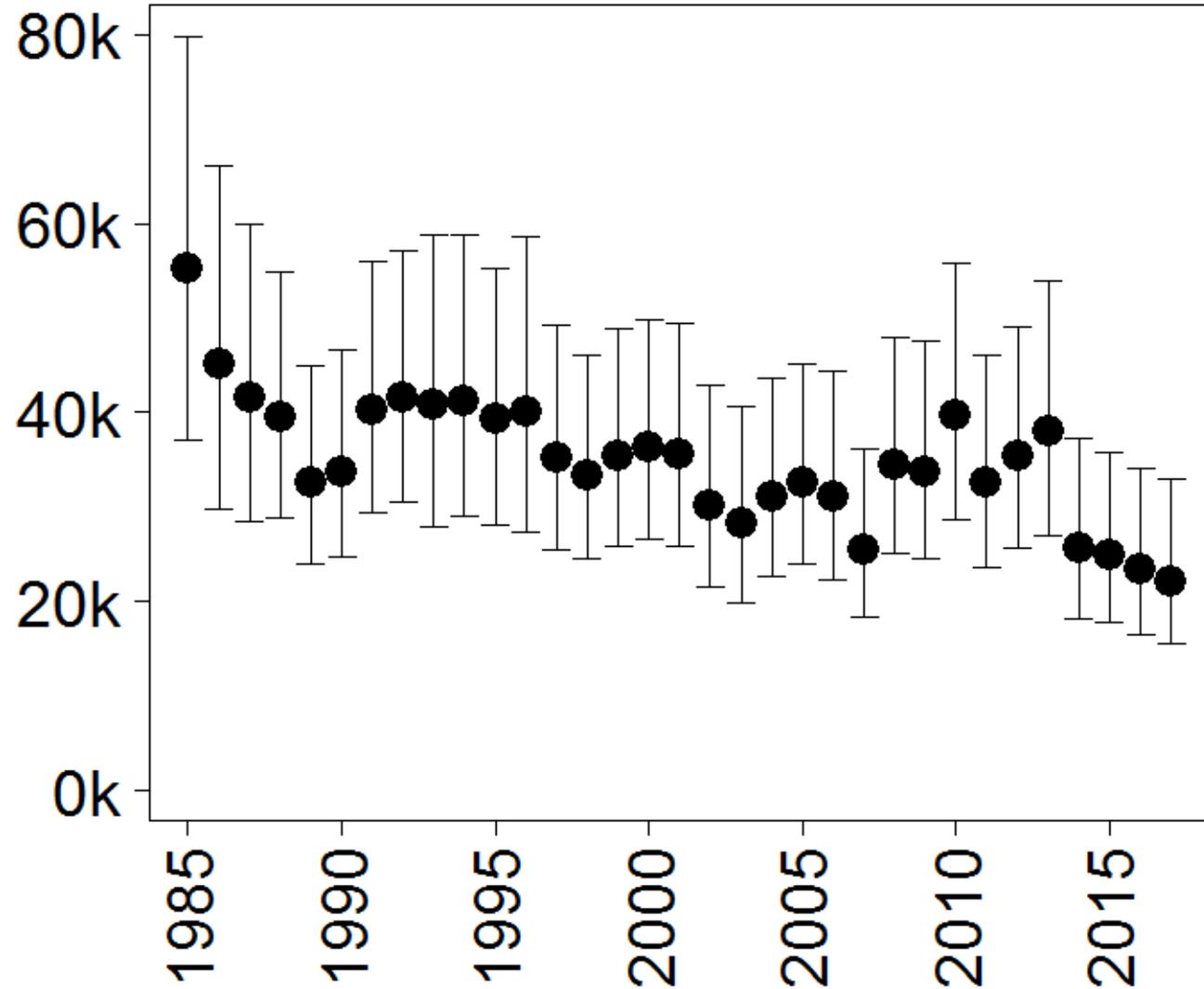
- Present year-round
- Late summer peak (Aug – Sep)

Source:  
MERP Project



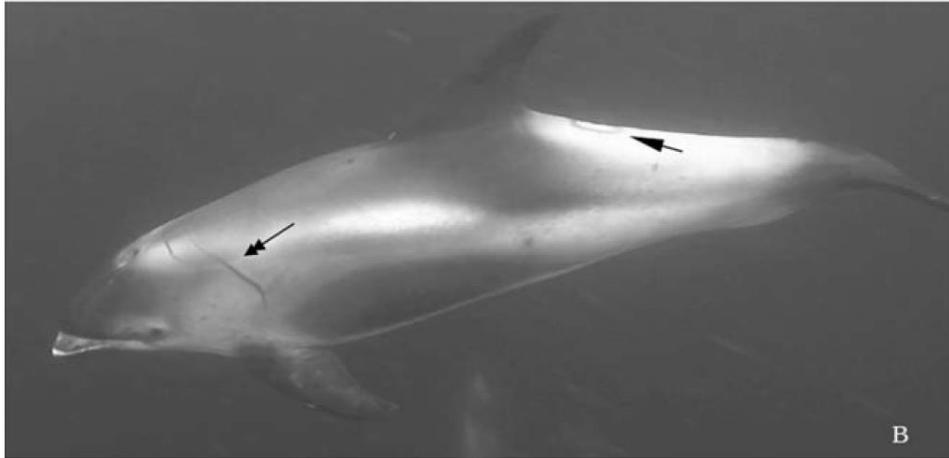
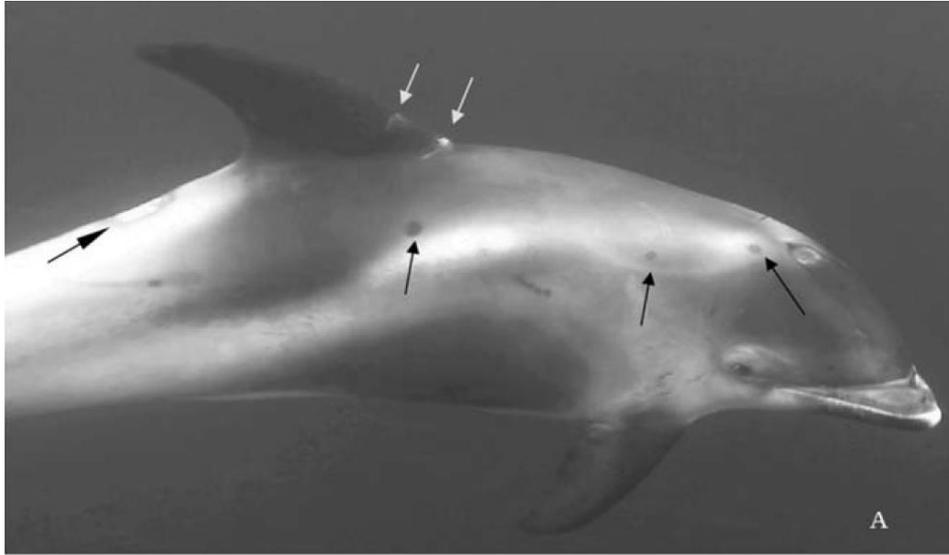
# Whitebeaked Dolphin

- Decline from c. 55,000 in mid-1980s to c. 25,000 in mid-2010s



Source:  
MERP Project

# Tattoo Skin Disease & Physical Traumata in White-beaked Dolphins in North Sea



Source: Van Bresseem *et al.*, 2018

# White-beaked Dolphin: National Reporting

1. Have any studies been undertaken in the past 5 years in your country on white-beaked dolphin population structure? If so, please summarise the findings and include a reference to any relevant publication.
2. Do you have any recent abundance estimates for your country's EEZ? If so, what is the estimate, its CV, 95% CI, the area, and date to which it applies?
3. Any new information on diet, life history (age at sexual maturity, inter-calf intervals, etc)? Please provide references.
4. Can you identify any specific human threats that you believe may be having a negative impact on the species? Summarise the evidence.
5. How many white-beaked dolphins are known to have been by-caught in each of the last five years? Please provide the information in tabular format.
6. How many strandings of white-beaked dolphins have you had in your country in each of the last five years? If necropsies have been undertaken, please give the statistics on causes of death.

# White-beaked Dolphin: Research Questions

- Better abundance estimates in the northern North Atlantic
- Further investigations of population structure
- Studies of life history parameters (ages & lengths at sexual maturity, reproductive rates, life spans) from stranded & bycaught animals
- Studies of diet through stomach contents, stable isotope and fatty acid analyses
- More contaminant studies
- Studies of likely effects of climate change