



Common Dolphin Group

January 2024

UK summary



Activity Nov 2022 – Jan 2024



- OSPARS QSR indicators and thematic assessment published

<https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/quality-status-reports/qsr-2023/>

- SCANS estimates from the 2022 summer surveys published

https://www.tiho-hannover.de/fileadmin/57_79_terr_aqua_Wildtierforschung/79_Buesum/downloads/Berichte/20230928_SCANS-IV_Report_FINAL.pdf

- Aerial survey of the Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel planned Jan-March 2024
- POSEIDON aerial digital data collection in central North Sea and English Channel approaches
- Commitment to introduce iVMS for under 12 fleet in English waters
- Ongoing bycatch mitigation trials of net reflectors in the southwest
- JCDP data holdings growing, work is ongoing to engage with other data providers and development of data products

<https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/joint-cetacean-data-programme/>

- 2023 update to the Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership report for marine mammals – published online

<https://www.mccip.org.uk/marine-mammals>

- Marine Noise Registry has recently been developed and updated:

- Two new functionalities

Disturbance Tool (assess the potential noise disturbance footprint)

Cooperation Tool (facilitates collaboration to resolve potential for noise exceeding limits)

- Piling and UXO guidance are undergoing review and updates <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/marine-mammals-and-noise-mitigation/>
- Strandings: live mass stranding of common dolphins (8 animals) in Cornwall in August 2023, 7 refloated, one PME

Common dolphin: higher number of strandings seen in every month across England and Wales in 2023

Legislation updates



- **Fisheries Act 2020** – Joint Fisheries Statement; Fisheries Management Plans under development, current focus is harbour porpoise. Mandatory bycatch self-reporting introduced for all vessels
- **Environment Act 2021** – indicators under UKMS to be published in 2024, based heavily on OSPAR QSR, updated operational targets to reflect assessment outcomes
- **Bycatch Mitigation Initiative (BMI) (August 2022)** – plans to develop the implementation plans over the coming months to deliver against the BMI objectives
- **UK ‘Cetacean Strategy’ (working title)** – in development following consultation, aim for 2024 publication
- **UK Habitat Regulations assessments (Habs Directive)** – methodologies may differ slightly but aiming to remain as consistent as possible (based on 2019 reporting).