

Common dolphin strandings, CSIP (2025)



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Project Manager
UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme

CSIP Project Structure (current)



Strandings 1990-2025 (CSIP regions)

Species	Strandings
Harbour porpoise	8356
Short beaked common dolphin	4188
Long-finned pilot whale	216
Striped dolphin	202
Bottlenose dolphin	198
Minke whale	180
White beaked dolphin	133
Risso's dolphin	121
Sperm whale	56
Fin whale	58
Sowerby's beaked whale	39
Atlantic white-sided dolphin	37
Humpback whale	19
Northern bottlenose whale	18
Cuvier's beaked whale	12
Pygmy sperm whale	11
Sei whale	6
Killer whale	5
Blainville's beaked whale	3
Short-finned pilot whale	1
Dwarf sperm whale	1
Unknown cetacean	2206
TOTAL	16066



dead strandings
(n=3780; 90.2%)



entangled/at sea
(n=142; 3.4%)



live strandings
(n=266; 6.4%)

2025

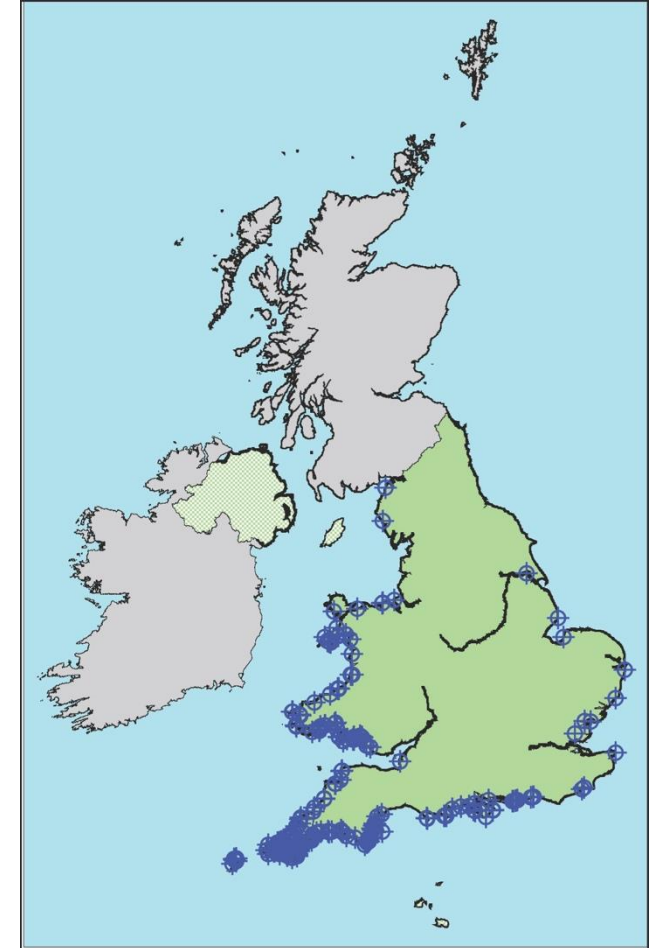
Dead strandings; n=189

Live strandings; n=13

Entangled/at sea; n=5

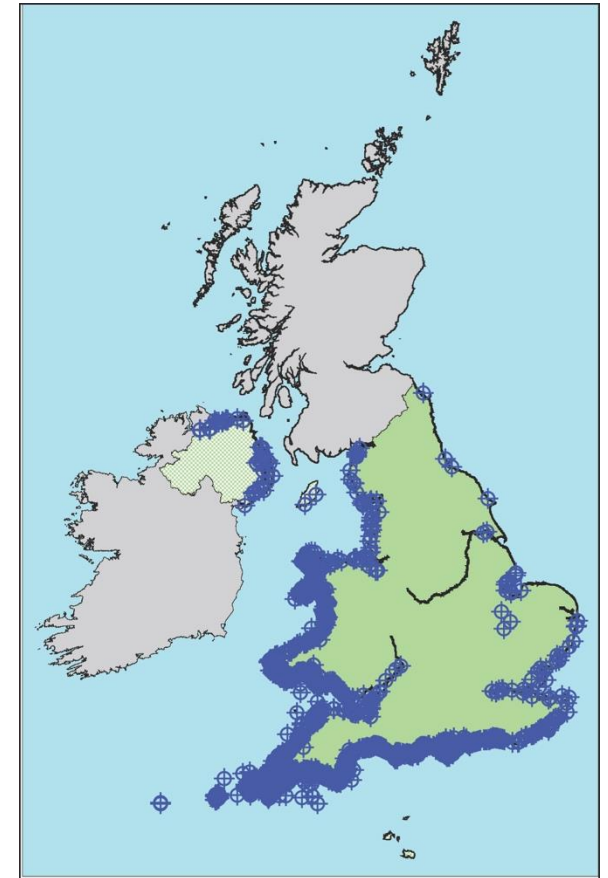
2025 common dolphin strandings (CSIP)

- 207 SBCD strandings
- 52 Males; 40 Females; 115 Unknown
- 47 necropsies





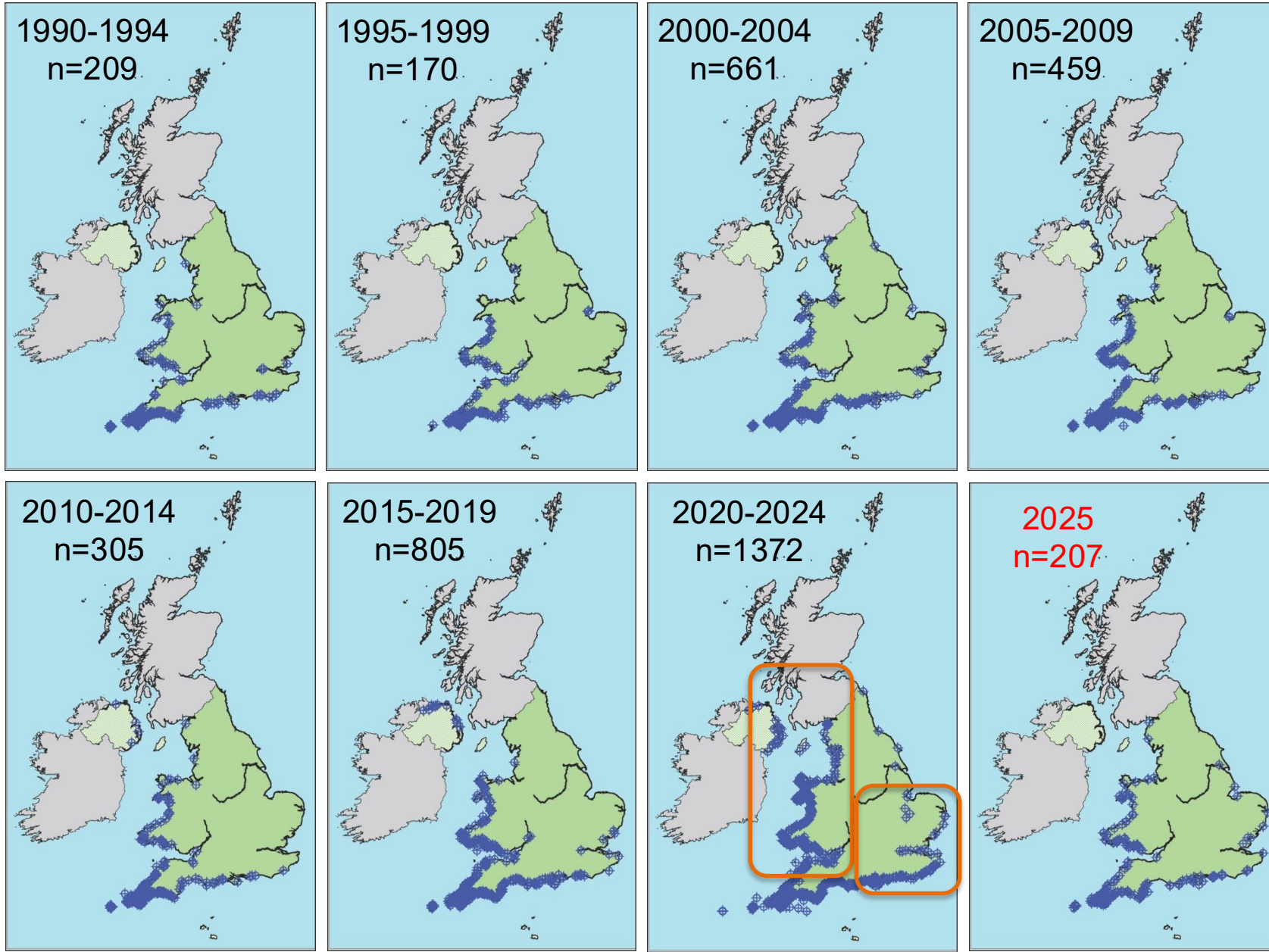
Common dolphin strandings (1990-2025)



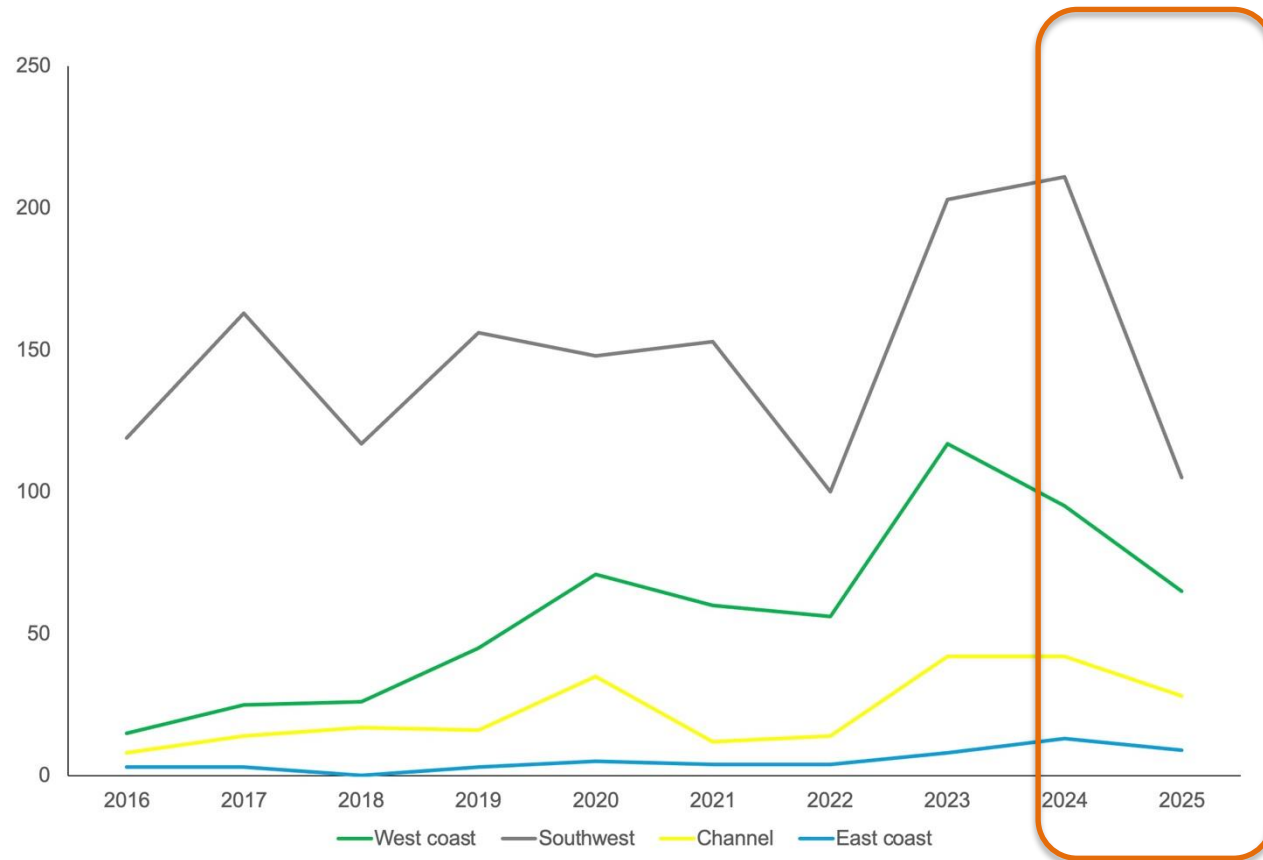
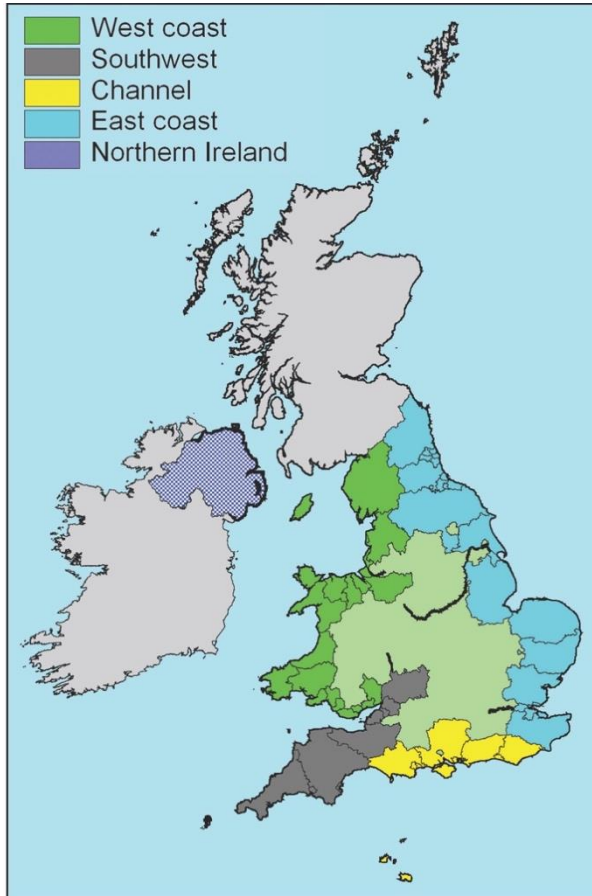
Common dolphin
1990-2025
n=4188

• Williamson, M.W., ten Doeschate, M.T.I., Deaville, R., Brownlow, A.C. and Taylor, N.L. (2021) Cetaceans as sentinels for informing climate change policy in UK waters *Marine Policy* 131 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2021.104634>

Common dolphin strandings (CSIP)



Regional trends (2016-2025)



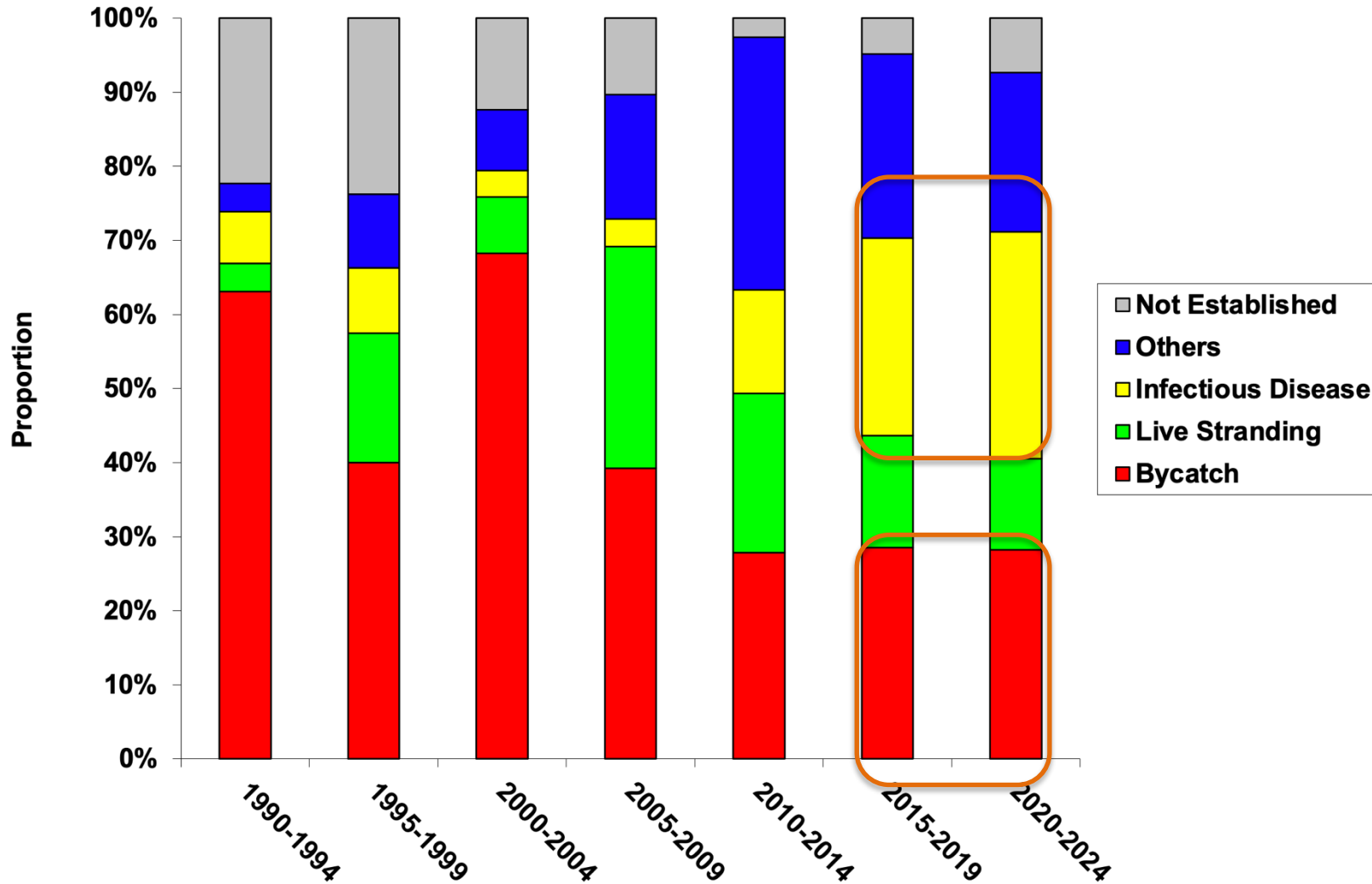
Causes of Death- stranded common dolphins 1990-2024 (CSIP area)

Cause of Death	No.
Bycatch	393
Infectious disease	141
Live stranding	127
Others	58
Starvation	52
Physical trauma (unknown)	26
Ship strike	15
Interspecific aggression	12
Gas Embolism	3
Not established	105
TOTAL	932



NB Excludes known by-caught animals (n=3)

CSIP CD causes of death (1990-2024)



2025- similar proportions to recent years...




<https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-025-07858-7>

Sea temperature and pollution are associated with infectious disease mortality in short-beaked common dolphins

 Check for updates

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Dolphins are dying from toxic chemicals banned since the 1980s

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are commonly found in the bodies of short-beaked common dolphins that get stranded on UK beaches, and are linked to the animals' risk of infectious diseases

By [Melissa Hobson](#)



Work presented during last year's meeting, investigating links between PCB concentrations, sea surface temperature and infectious disease in UK-stranded common dolphins, was published in *Nature Comms Biology* in April



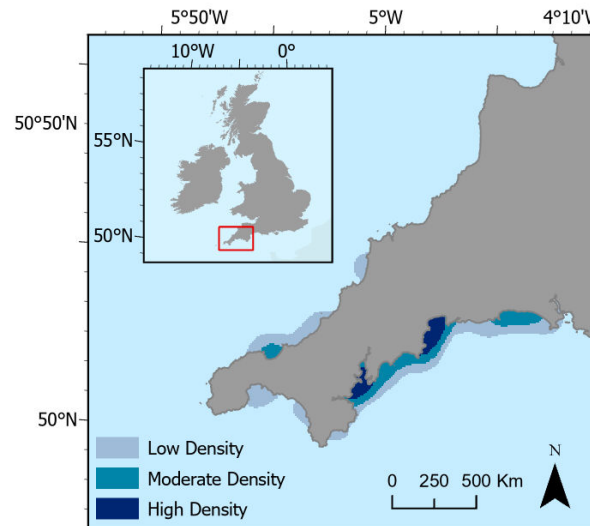
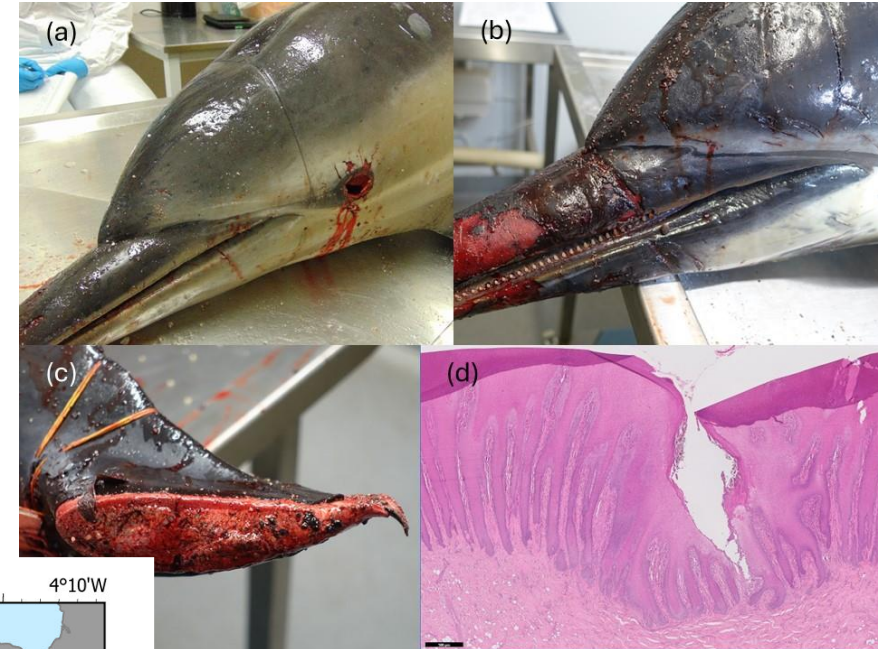
The accompanying data have been published in the British Ocean Data Centre



If you have any further questions or would like to discuss this research please contact Rosie Williams (Rosie.Williams@ioz.ac.uk)

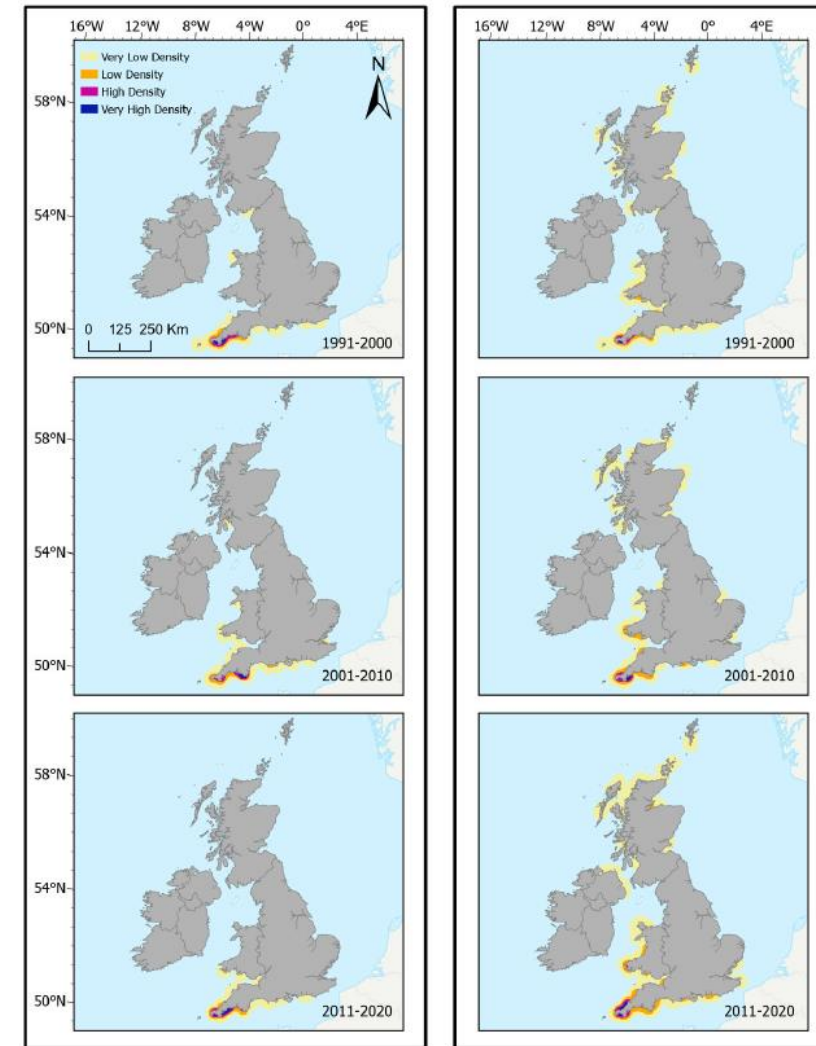
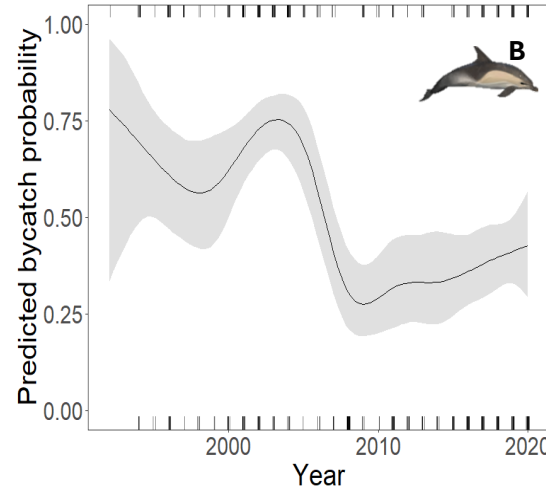
Cornwall common dolphin necropsies (2018-2024)- in prep

- Barnett, J.E.F. *et al.* Causes of death in short-beaked common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*) stranded in Cornwall, England (2018-2024) reveal the continued threat of bycatch (in prep).
- 175 CD necropsies in Cornwall, England between 2018-2024



30 year bycatch review (CSIP/SMASS strandings data, 1991-2020)- in prep

- Chadwick, H. *et al.* Cetacean bycatch in the United Kingdom: a 30-year review of necropsy data (1991-2020) (in prep)
- Includes 839 common dolphin necropsies, 342 diagnosed cases of bycatch



Grey seal interaction/predation

12:03 155 4G

Irish Whale and Dolphin Group
4h · 🌐

IWDG reflect on images taken today (Jan. 9th) by Dave O' Connor during a land based Effort Whale Watch off Howth Head, Co. Dublin of another grey seal interaction with a cetacean, this time a common dolphin. Full story <https://iwdg.ie/another-grey-seal-interaction-with-common-dolphin-for-east-coast-jan-9th-2026/>

#iwdg #wolfhoundtours #howthhead #irishwhaleanddolphinsgroup #greyseals #whalewatching #dolphinwatching



👍 141 🔍 20 ↻ 15

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Acknowledgments

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- **Live strandings-** British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR), RSPCA, CRRU
- **Collaborators-** Sea Mammal Research Unit, Cefas, ULPGC, UoE, UoN, UoL, Mordeun Institute, University of Aberdeen, National Museum of Scotland
- **Statutory Authorities-** Maritime and Coastguard Agency/Receiver of Wreck. Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage and Natural Resources Wales
- **NGO's-** WDC, Wildlife Trusts, Seawatch Foundation and HSI

