Common Dolphin Group
January 2024
UK summary
Activity Nov 2022 – Jan 2024

- OSPARS QSR indicators and thematic assessment published
- SCANS estimates from the 2022 summer surveys published
- 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
- 2023 update to the Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership report for marine mammals – published online
  [https://www.mccip.org.uk/marine-mammals](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/](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).