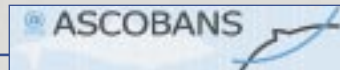


ASCOBANS - Year of the dolphin

Dolphins face many man-made threats, such as entanglement in fishing nets, marine pollution, prey depletion due to over fishing, illegal hunting and disturbance from noise. For some species, this could ultimately lead to extinction. Within the United Nations the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS) and two special Agreements concluded under its auspices, the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) are working to prevent this. In cooperation with the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) they have designated 2007 the Year of the Dolphin.



'Whales and dolphins of the North Sea'



Format:	19 x 26 cm
Number of pages:	120 pag.
Illustrations:	black and white, and color drawings, maps, pictures, etc.
Price:	€ 24,90
Availability:	December 2006

The publication 'Whales and dolphins of the North Sea' offers an up-to-date and extensive overview of the cetaceans that live or occasionally occur in the southern North Sea, especially in Dutch and Belgian waters. Readers will be surprised by the number of species observed in this area in past and present times, but also by the wealth of available information and the numerous interesting and sometimes amusing facts. The book contains numerous, often unpublished photographs and drawings.

Informative – Beautiful – Surprising

How to act when encountering marine mammals, especially cetaceans, at sea

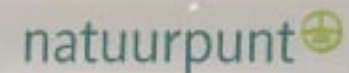
- Keep a distance of at least 100 meters between the ship and the cetaceans
- Never move a vessel towards a group of cetaceans, and do not split groups
- If the animals actively approach the vessel, do not change speed or course
- If doubtful about the intentions of the animals, stop the engine or put it in neutral gear
- Report sightings, including as much accompanying data as possible, by e-mail to dolphin@mumm.ac.be (for sightings in Belgian waters) or to kees.camphuysen@wx.nl (for sightings in Dutch waters); sightings outside these waters will be transferred to the relevant institute or body.



Stichting De Noordzee acts as a lawyer for the North Sea. It works for a clean and healthy marine environment, where flora, fauna and man can live together in a harmonious way.



Natuurpunt (Flemish partner of Birdlife International) is the society for nature and landscape in Flanders. It's devoted to work for the protection and conservation of the remaining natural values in Flanders.



For more information please visit www.noordzee.nl or www.birdlife.org



landbouw, natuur en
voedselkwaliteit



Minister voor de Noordzee
Ministre de la Mer du Nord



Dolphins and whales in the North Sea?

The waters and coasts of the southern North Sea have more to offer than wide sandy beaches, rolling waves and salty water. Its sea bottom, water column, water surface and skies above, offer many natural values. At sea you can regularly enjoy encounters with marine mammals. Indeed, this sometimes greyish water is home to a number of species of seals, dolphins and even whales. The cetaceans most commonly encountered in the southern North Sea are illustrated in this folder. To be able to better recognise them during encounters, we have included some identifying features. Take a dive, and learn to know them!

Harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*

Adult size: 1.4-1.9m
Group size: 1-3
Distribution: Common in the North Sea



Identifying features: smallest cetacean of the North Sea; short, blunt forehead, no beak, small triangular dorsal fin, back dark grey; inconspicuous, avoiding the vicinity of ships

Bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*

Adult size: 1.9-4.0m
Group size: 1-25
Distribution: English Channel, east coast of Scotland, occasionally in other areas in the North Sea



Identifying features: dark grey back, lighter sides, short but clear beak, dorsal fin tall and sickle shaped; very active, often bowriding and breaching

Minke whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

Adult size: 7.0-10.0m
Group size: 1-3
Distribution: western part of the English Channel, central and northern North Sea; during summer at the east coast of England



Identifying features: smallest baleen whale, dorsal fin relatively tall, and situated two-thirds towards the back of the body, large slender and pointed head, back dark grey to black, sides with grey areas, flippers with large white area on the dorsal side; sometimes very inquisitive, occasionally breaching

Common dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

Adult size: 1.7-2.4m
Group size: 10-1000
Distribution: Common in the Bay of Biscay and the western English Channel, occasionally in the North Sea, especially during summer months



Identifying features: slender torpedo shaped body, pronounced black beak often with white tip, high dorsal fin, hourglass pattern on sides with white, yellow, light grey and dark grey areas; very active and acrobatic, often bowriding and breaching

White-beaked dolphin *Lagenorhynchus albirostris*

Adult size: 2.5-3m
Group size: 6-50
Distribution: most common dolphin in the North Sea, also in the southern part



Identifying features: Very robust animal, short white or grey beak, high sickle-shaped dorsal fin, grey to white saddle-shaped area behind dorsal, white flanks; often bowriding and breaching

Long-finned pilot whale *Globicephala melas*

Adult size: 3.6-8m
Group size: 5-more than 100
Distribution: Bay of Biscay, English Channel, northern North Sea, occasionally in the southern North Sea



Identifying features: Back very dark, large bulbous forehead, very short beak, long flippers and large, low and rounded dorsal fin; rarely seeking the vicinity of ships

