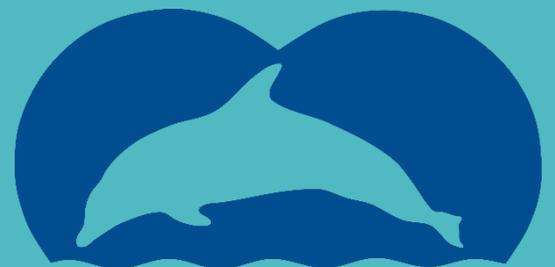


2020

Annual Report



Manx Whale and
Dolphin Watch

CETACEANS IN MANX WATERS IN 2020

Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch

Bryony Manley

“To conserve and protect whales, dolphins, and porpoises (cetaceans) in Manx waters through research and education.”

MWDW TEAM

The Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch team in 2020 was as follows:

Trustees and Core Team

Paul Cain – Chairman/Treasurer

Jen Adams – Secretary, Education and Outreach Manager

Bryony Manley – Trustee, Researcher

Tom Felce – Research and Science Support

Other Volunteers

Chris Kelly – IT and Website Support

Richard Coase – Boat Maintenance and Skipper

Roy Maddrell – Boat Maintenance Support

Yasmika – Visitor Centre and Events Volunteer

Dates of note – Isle of Man COVID-19 timeline:

- 23rd March 2020 – borders close
- 26th March 2020 – lockdown restrictions start
- Saturday 6th June – MWDW visitor centre re-opens
- 15th June – all lockdown restrictions end

SPECIES

Through the scientific studies of Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch we have established the regular presence of five species of cetacean in Manx waters.

Bottlenose dolphin – *Tursiops truncatus*

In 2020 there were a total of **159** sightings of bottlenose dolphins combined from boat-based, land-based, and public sightings.

Common dolphin (short-beaked) – *Delphinus delphis*

In 2020 there were a total of **6** sightings of common dolphins combined from boat-based, land-based, and public sightings.

Harbour porpoise – *Phocoena phocoena*

In 2020 there were a total of **174** sightings of harbor porpoise combined from boat-based, land-based, and public sightings.

Minke whale – *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

In 2020 there were a total of **38** sightings of minke whales combined from boat-based, land-based, and public sightings.

Risso's dolphin – *Grampus griseus*

In 2020 there were a total of **59** sightings of Risso's dolphins combined from boat-based, land-based, and public sightings.

BOAT BASED SURVEYS

Table 1: Boat-based survey effort and cetacean sightings during year

* Two sightings of Moonlight and Starlight, same known individuals were seen twice

Number of surveys	3
Dedicated	0
Opportunistic	3
Kilometers surveyed	244
Sea states 0 and 1	141
Sea states 2 and above	103
Number of sightings (individuals)	7 (12)
Bottlenose dolphin	2 (2*)
Common dolphin	0
Harbour porpoise	4 (9)
Minke whale	1 (1)
Risso's dolphin	0

Temporal distribution of boat surveys in 2020

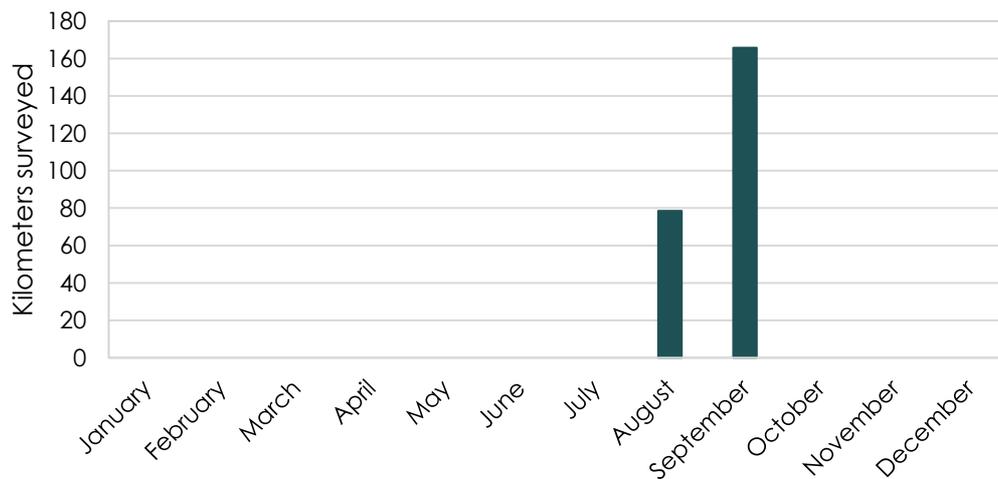


Figure 1: temporal distribution of the kilometers of boat-based surveying during 2020

LAND-BASED SURVEYS

Table 2: Land-based survey effort and cetacean sighting rate during 2020

Location	Hours of effort	No. of intervals	% cetacean +ve
Point of Ayre	0.75	3	0
Sartfield	2.25	9	11.1
Niarbyl	22	88	40.9
Calf East	14.5	58	44.8
Calf West	12.5	50	34
Sound (cross)	10.5	42	14.3
Lighthouse South	2.25	9	0
Upper Lighthouse	0.75	3	0
Marine Drive	16	64	31.3
Langness	1.25	5	0
Port St Mary	7.5	30	73.3
TOTAL	90.25	361	

Table 3: Number of cetacean positive intervals, different sightings, and number of different individuals of each species recorded during land-based surveys in 2020

Species	No. of +ve intervals	No. of different sightings	No. of individuals seen
Bottlenose dolphin	3	2	6
Common dolphin	0	0	0
Harbour porpoise	111	63	127
Minke whale	19	11	12
Risso's dolphin	27	6	26
TOTAL	160	82	171

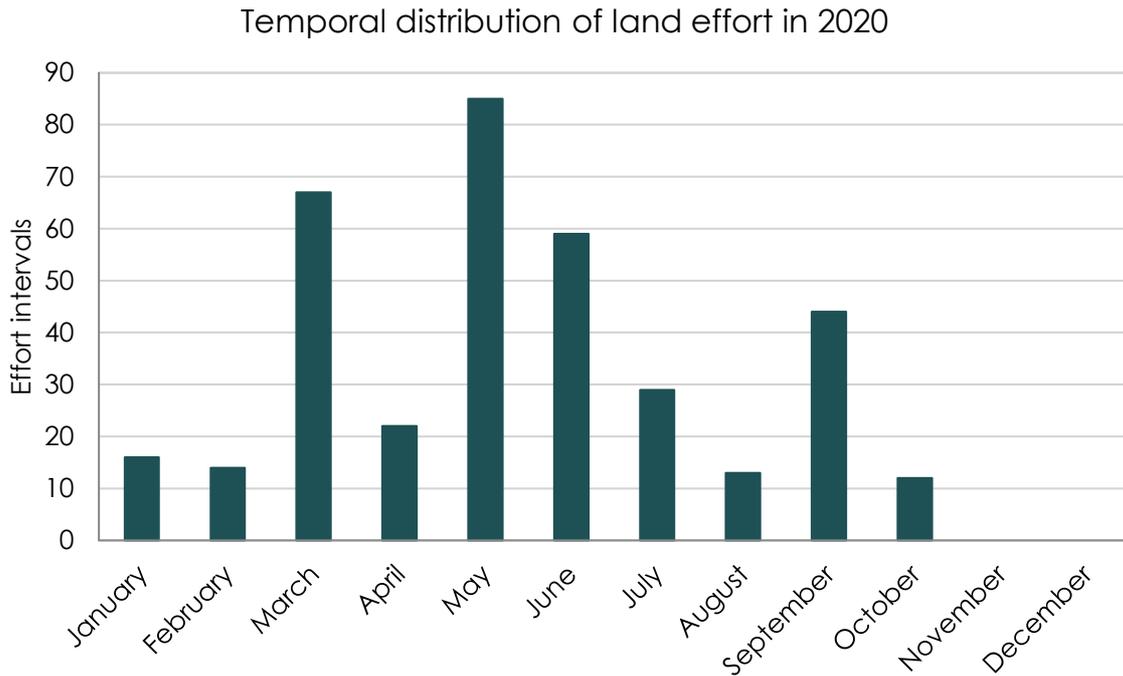


Figure 2: Temporal distribution of land-based effort intervals during 2020

PUBLIC SIGHTINGS

Table 4: Total number of opportunistic sightings, individuals and juveniles of each species observed during 2020

*78 sightings were of Moonlight and Starlight so removed from individual total

Species	No. of sightings	No. of individuals	No. of juveniles	% of total sightings
Bottlenose dolphin	155*	1144*	124*	55.6
Common dolphin	6	192	15	2.2
Harbour porpoise	59	182	19	21.1
Minke whale	18	22	1	6.5
Risso's dolphin	32	243	20	11.5
Unidentified small cetacean	4	7	0	1.4
Unidentified large cetacean	5	7	1	1.8
TOTAL	279	1797	180	

Figure 3: Distribution of public cetacean sightings during 2020

