

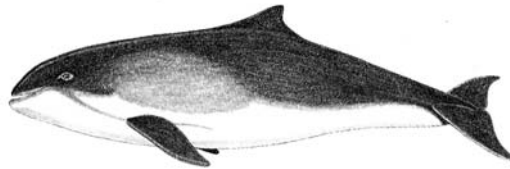


# Marine Environmental Monitoring

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## Marine Mammal & Marine Turtle Strandings (Welsh Coast) Annual Report 2005

R.S.Penrose. February 2006



**Marine  
Environmental  
Monitoring**



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## CONTENTS

	Page
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	5
<b>2 MATERIALS AND METHODS</b>	5
2.1 Live Animals.	6
2.2 Dead Animals.	6
<b>3 RESULTS</b>	7
3.1 Marine Mammals.	7
3.2 Bottlenose Dolphin Attacks.	11
3.3 Unusual Occurrences.	12
3.4 Live Strandings.	15
<b>4 OTHER MARINE ANIMALS REPORTED TO THE NETWORK</b>	16
4.1 Marine Turtles.	16
<b>5 SAMPLES</b>	17
<b>6 FUNDING</b>	17
<b>7 PUBLICITY</b>	17
<b>8 TRAINING</b>	18
<b>9 EQUIPMENT</b>	19
<b>10 TRAVEL</b>	19
<b>11 ADMINISTRATION</b>	19
<b>12 CAUSE OF DEATH</b>	19
<b>13 LIST OF SCIENTIFIC NAMES USED IN THIS REPORT</b>	20
<b>14 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	21
<b>15 APPENDICES</b>	21

<b>List of Figures.</b>	page
<b>Figure 1.</b> Reported harbour porpoise strandings on the Welsh coast.	9
<b>Figure 2.</b> Harbour porpoise strandings by month.	9
<b>Figure 3.</b> Reported grey seal mortality on the Welsh coast.	10
<b>Figure 4.</b> Grey seal mortality by month.	10
<b>Figure 5.</b> Stranding locations of the 17 porpoises killed by bottlenose dolphins in 2005.	11

#### **List of Plates.**

<b>Plate 1.</b> SW2005/038 being supported by RSPCA Inspectors in the WMLR inflatable pool.	12
<b>Plate 2.</b> SW2005/68b string of vertebrae found at Solva, Pembrokeshire.	13
<b>Plate 3.</b> SW2005/181 before being winched across the bay.	13
<b>Plate 4.</b> Mouth of SW2005/193 showing missing and badly worn teeth.	14
<b>Plate 5.</b> Harbour porpoise found at Borth with cross cut in blubber.	14
<b>Plate 6.</b> Tag returned from Firth of Clyde.	15
<b>Plate 7.</b> Parasite burden in the stomach of common dolphin SW2005/140.	15
<b>Plate 8.</b> The site being cleared following the examination of SW2005/181.	16
<b>Plate 9.</b> SW2005/282 Common dolphin at Red Wharf Bay before release.	16

#### **List of Tables.**

<b>Table 1.</b> 2005 Total number of reported marine mammal strandings (Welsh Coast).	7
<b>Table 2.</b> 2005 Number of live cetacean strandings (Welsh Coast).	7
<b>Table 3.</b> 2005 Number of animals suitable for <i>post-mortem</i> examination.	8
<b>Table 4.</b> 2005 Number of animals decomposed / disposed of. (Welsh Coast).	8
<b>Table 5.</b> Cause of death.	20
<b>Table 6.</b> List of scientific names used in this report.	20

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

In 1990, the ‘Collaborative UK Marine Mammal Strandings Project’ was initiated and part-funded by the UK Department of the Environment (now Defra). The project involves detailed pathological and other investigations of stranded marine mammal carcasses (mostly cetacean) from UK waters. It forms part of the Department's international obligations towards conservation agreements, including the ‘Agreement on the conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas’ (ASCOBANS). The UK Defra contract is held by the Natural History Museum (NHM), with research being co-ordinated in England and Wales by the Institute of Zoology (IOZ) now known as the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) in Scotland. A number of other organisations are involved with the collaboration which includes Marine Environmental Monitoring (MEM), the Centre for Environmental Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), the University College Cork and the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland. *Post-mortem* examinations of Welsh strandings are carried out by the Department of Veterinary Pathology, University of Liverpool and the Zoological Society of London. In addition to pathological and related investigations, a range of frozen and fixed material, collected *post-mortem*, are currently archived at the Zoological Society. As from 2001, marine turtles have been included within the project and dead carcasses have been routinely collected wherever possible for *post-mortem* examination.

Records of live and dead marine mammal strandings together with sightings and strandings of live and dead marine turtles are kept by the Welsh Strandings Co-ordinator. Cetacean records are passed to the Natural History Museum in London for correlation. Since 1913, cetacean records have been, and continue to be kept, by the NHM, in co-operation with the Receiver of Wrecks and HM Coastguard.

Funding towards this project in Wales has been provided by the Welsh Assembly Government through the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and Defra through the Natural History Museum and Zoological Society of London. Support of certain items of equipment has been provided by the Environment Agency.

## **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

A 24 hour Strandings Answerphone (**01348 875000**), is interrogated at regular intervals. A message requests callers to leave details of the stranding and location, along with their name and contact phone number, so they can be reached if confirmation of details are required. (If the stranding is a live stranding then a message on an answer-phone informs the caller to contact the RSPCA immediately. see 2.1)

A network of volunteers, rangers, wardens, coastal officers, harbour masters etc. has been formed who can be contacted by the Strandings Co-ordinator to confirm the stranding, assess its condition and secure the animal from the effects of the tide, predation etc. until it can be dealt with. In recent years the use of digital cameras has vastly improved the quality of reporting as species, sex, and condition of carcass and in some cases even the cause of death can be ascertained from the e-mailed image.

The following criteria are applied: -

## **2.1 Live Animals**

(Condition code 1)<sup>1</sup>

In 1994 the Marine Animal Rescue Coalition (MARC) was formed. This consists of all the major animal welfare and conservation bodies involved with marine mammals in the UK. It has been agreed that in the case of a live stranding the first point of call would be the RSPCA as they support a manned 24-hour emergency phone. The RSPCA would then contact the relevant organisations, Marine Environmental Monitoring etc.

## **2.2 Dead Animals**

(Condition code 2a extremely fresh as if just died)<sup>1</sup>

(Condition code 2b slight decomposition)<sup>1</sup>

The animal is retrieved using a 4-wheel drive vehicle and trailer. Health and safety precautions are followed with the animal being handled only with gloved hands. It is then taken immediately for *post-mortem* examination.

(Condition code 3 moderate decomposition)<sup>1</sup>

The animal is retrieved using a 4-wheel drive vehicle and trailer. Health and safety precautions are followed with the animal being handled only with gloved hands. Preferably it is taken immediately for *post-mortem* examination. Storage at +4<sup>0</sup> Celsius is permissible for a maximum of 1 week.

(Condition code 4 advanced decomposition)<sup>1</sup>

(Condition code 5 mummified carcass)<sup>1</sup>

Species identified, basic measurements and 6 teeth taken from the lower jaw if possible. Health and safety precautions being observed. Local council then contacted for safe disposal of remains.

All live and dead stranded cetaceans are reported to the NHM and are allocated a “SW” number. During the recent Phocine Distemper epizootic the “SS” numbers normally allocated to seals had been replaced by a “PDV” prefix, this will now revert back to “SS” as the epizootic has run its course. Dead marine turtles are reported to MEM and allocated a “T” number. Records of all strandings in Wales are kept by the Strandings Co-ordinator and passed on to the NHM and ZSL on a regular basis. Copies of *post-mortem* examination reports are sent from the Strandings Co-ordinator to the finder and others associated with the relevant stranding.

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<sup>1</sup> Body condition based on the Zoological Society of London condition code.

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1 Marine Mammals

Table 1.

<b>2005 Total number of reported marine mammal strandings (Welsh Coast).</b>													
<b>Species</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	<b>TOTAL</b>
Bottlenose dolphin	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Common dolphin	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	<b>8</b>
Harbour porpoise	5	4	6	2	12	22	17	12	13	9	4	3	<b>109</b>
Long finned pilot whale	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Striped dolphin	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Cetacean sp. Indet.	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	<b>4</b>
<b>Total cetaceans</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>125</b>
Grey seal	2	0	2	1	3	4	1	10	10	25	2	3	<b>63</b>
Common seal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total animals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>189</b>

Table 2.

<b>2005 Number of live cetacean strandings (Welsh Coast).</b>													
<b>Species</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	<b>TOTAL</b>
Common dolphin	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	<b>2</b>
Harbour porpoise	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Long finned pilot whale	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Striped dolphin	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total animals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>

Of the 125 cetacean strandings 4% were found live stranded (5 animals). Under *post-mortem* examination a larger number were determined as having live stranded.



**Table 3.**

<b>2005 Number of animals suitable for <i>post-mortem</i> examination.</b>													
<b>Species</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	<b>TOTAL</b>
Common dolphin	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Harbour porpoise	1	1	2	2	4	5	4	1	5	2	0	1	<b>28</b>
Long finned pilot whale	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Striped dolphin	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total cetaceans</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>32</b>
Grey seal	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Total animals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>

Of the 125 cetacean strandings, 25.6% (32 animals) were suitable for *post-mortem* examination.

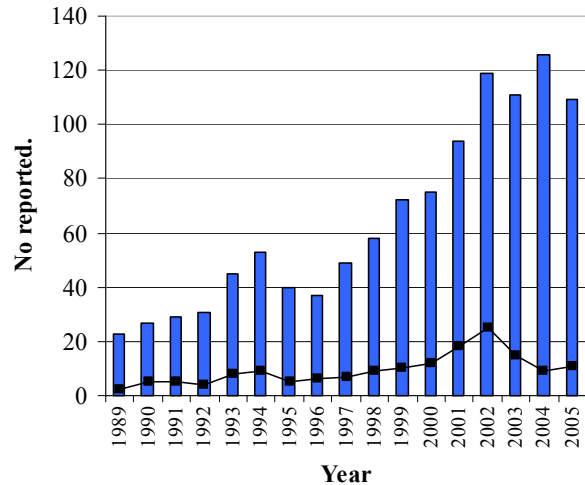
**Table 4.**

<b>2005 Number of animals decomposed / disposed of. (Welsh Coast).</b>													
<b>Species</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	<b>TOTAL</b>
Bottlenose dolphin	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Common dolphin	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	<b>5</b>
Harbour porpoise	3	2	1	0	7	14	9	9	8	6	1	0	<b>60</b>
<b>Total cetaceans</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>67</b>
Grey seal	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	8	6	24	2	3	<b>45</b>
<b>Total animals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>112</b>

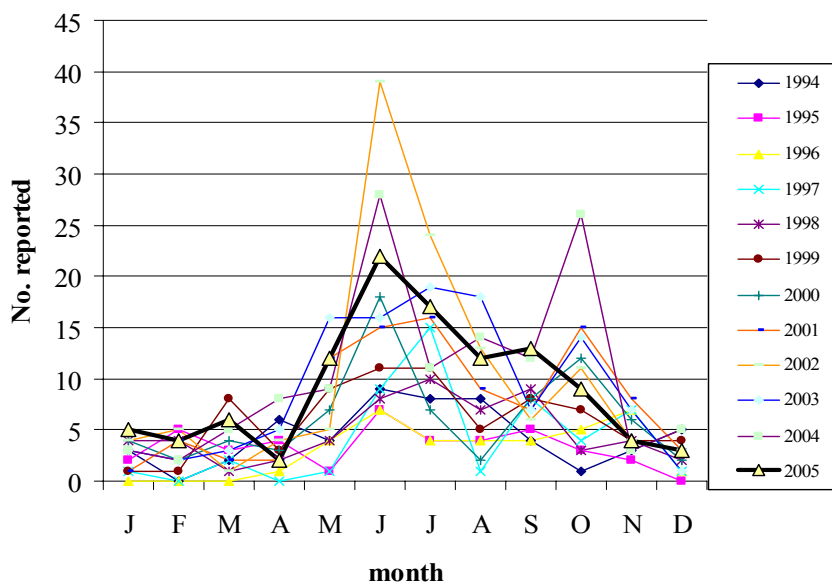
Of the 189 strandings, 59.25% (112 animals) were decomposed and the relevant local council contacted for safe disposal of remains. The remaining 22.7% (43 animals) were confirmed reports but, were unable to be retrieved or disposed of due to various reasons. i.e. no access to stranding, washed away, retrospective report or were found alive and returned to the sea.

**Harbour porpoise** (*Phocoena phocoena*) were the most frequently reported cetacean stranding during 2005. Numbers had shown a steady increase until recent years as shown in **Figure 1**. The black line shown running through the bar chart indicates harbour porpoise neonates<sup>2</sup> recovered in each year. This line has roughly mimicked and followed the totals for each year however, 2004 shows a marked decline in neonates compared to the reported total of porpoises for that year. No explanation can be offered at this time for this sudden change but it will be interesting to see what the next few years show.

**Figure 2.** shows porpoise strandings by month.



**Figure 1.** Reported harbour porpoise strandings on the Welsh coast.



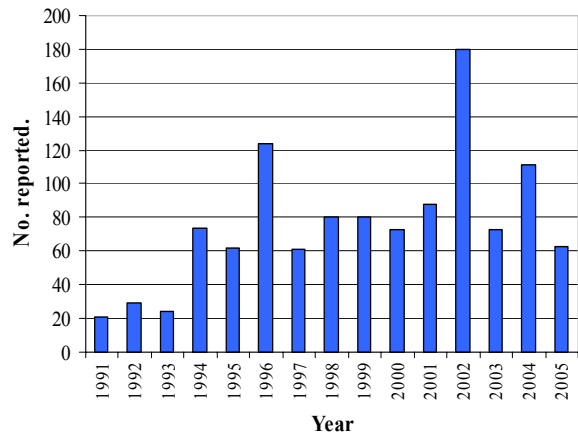
**Figure 2.** Harbour porpoise strandings by month.

<sup>2</sup> Neonate harbour porpoise classified as having a straight overall measurement from tip of upper jaw to tail notch of less than 0.90 metres. (Lockyer 1995).

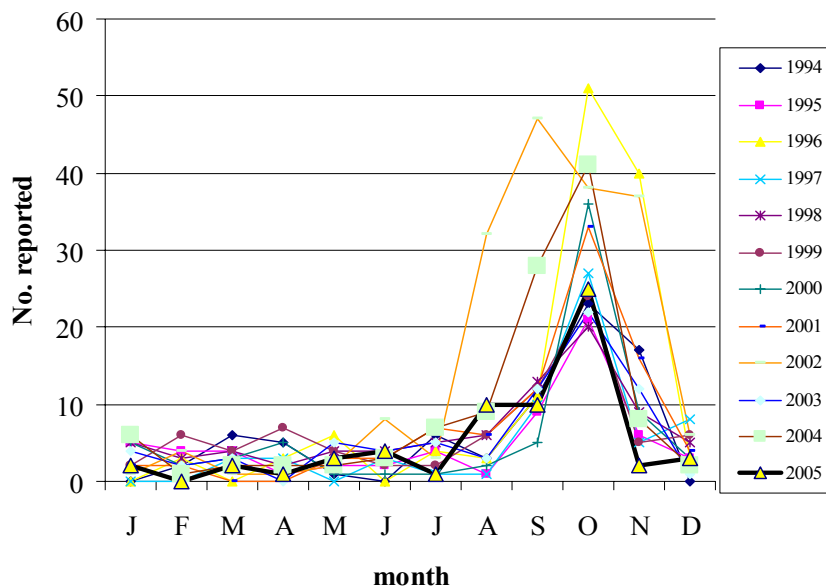
**Atlantic grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*)** mortality reported to the project was back down to expected levels given the favourable weather conditions during the pupping season September – November.

Previous highs shown in **Figure 3.** are 2004, due to severe weather during the pupping season and 1996, 2002. In both these years 1996, 2002 there was a high public effort in reporting as 1996 followed the Sea Empress Oil Spill (SEOS) and 2002 was the Phocine Distemper Virus (PDV) epizootic.

Both these years also include data from the Pembrokeshire Islands which has not been recorded in other years. Animals retrieved for full *post-mortem* examination post SEOS and during the PDV epizootic showed no evidence that either of these events had any effect on the Welsh grey seal population.



**Figure 3.** Reported grey seal mortality on the Welsh coast.



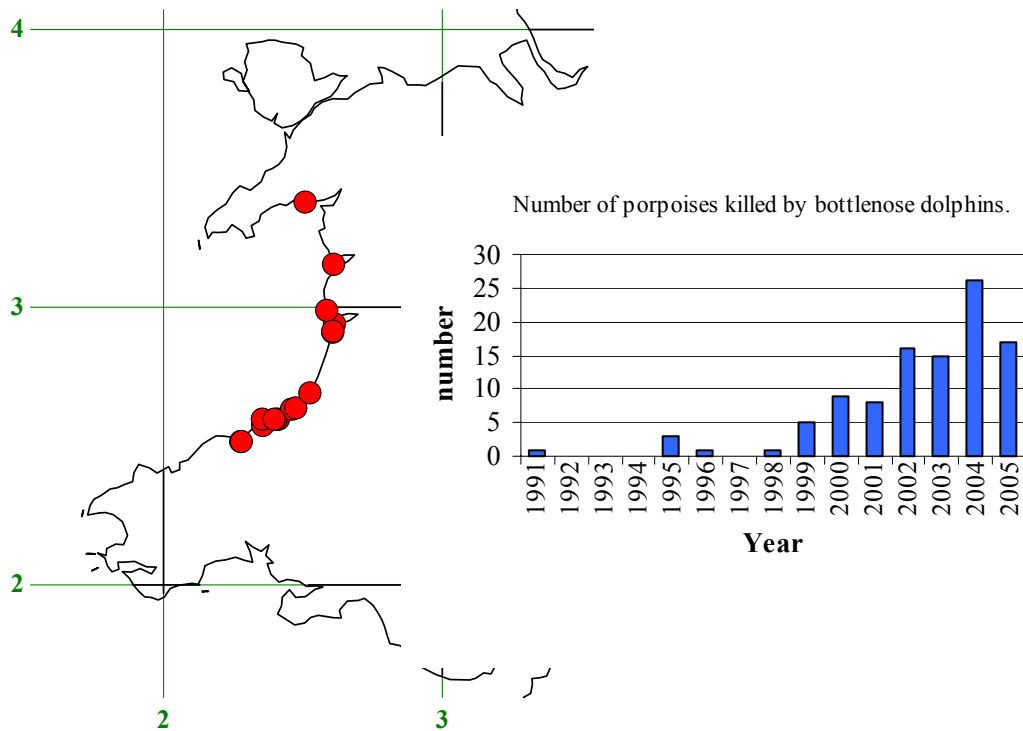
**Figure 4.** Grey seal mortality by month.

One live **Common seal (*Phoca vitulina*)** pup was found on Cwmttydu beach, Ceredigion on the 20th August and was taken to the Welsh Marine Life Rescue centre for rehabilitation. The animal unfortunately died in early October and was examined *post-mortem* at WMLR, the cause of death was given as pneumonia.

### 3.2 Bottlenose Dolphin Attacks.

Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) that had died of injuries consistent with attack by one or more bottlenose dolphin (Jepson & Baker 1998), continued to be found through 2005.

Numbers of harbour porpoise carcasses reported to the project, identified as being “killed by bottlenose dolphins”, were significantly less than the previous total recorded in 2004. The stranding locations for these animals are plotted in **Figure 5**.



**Figure 5.** Stranding location of the 17 porpoises killed by bottlenose dolphins in 2005.

The general geographical distribution of each record is plotted on the map above. Although the map is generated directly from the data stored, it should be regarded as showing distribution of animals rather than giving absolute counts. While the co-ordinate system and the mapping software can theoretically differentiate between points as close as one metre apart, even with separations of 100 metres, at the scale at which this map is presented, some symbols may appear to overlap completely.

### 3.3 Unusual Occurrences.

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**SW2005/026a** A small whale was reported on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February approximately 1.5 miles off Llandudno, Gwynedd entangled and trailing fishing gear. RSPCA ACO Mark Roberts with the help of the RNLI Llandudno inshore lifeboat managed to cut the majority of the trailing gear from the animal allowing it to swim away. A positive identification of species was not possible but it was thought it was either a minke whale or a small fin whale. The cut gear included buoys which were marked from Co Donegal in North West Ireland.

On the first report of this animal a request for the whale disentanglement kit was sent to IFAW, but unfortunately the kit was not available as it was outside the UK. Discussions are now taking place within the Marine Animal Rescue Coalition with the intention of purchasing disentanglement kits to be permanently based in the UK.

**SW2005/038** was reported as a 'live-stranded' porpoise but it was found on arrival to be a striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleolba*). The stranding was on mudflats at Llanelli, Carmarthenshire on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Police, Coastguard, RSPCA and members of the Welsh Marine Life Rescue (WMLR) were all in attendance. The animal was moved to the WMLR temporary pool set up near-by where the animal could be kept wet and assessed by a local veterinarian. After many hours supporting the animal in the pool the dolphin showed no improvement and it was



**Plate 1.** SW2005/038 being supported by RSPCA Inspectors in the WMLR inflatable pool.

reluctantly agreed to euthanize the animal, however the dolphin died before the drug could be administered. The carcass was taken to the Zoological Society of London for a full *post-mortem* examination where the cause of death was given as 'live-stranding'.

**SW2005/74** and **SW2005/75** On the 16<sup>th</sup> March an adult porpoise and calf (possibly mother and calf) were reported, by RSPCA Inspector Phil Lewis, feeding near the blue steel bridge on the River Dee. The animals were a long way up-river from the open sea but appeared to be healthy and had unrestricted access to return down stream. In consultation with Phil it was decided to leave the animals where they were as they were not trapped and a catching or herding operation may result in unduly stressing or separation of the pair. As the site became known, numbers of people gathered to view the pair and it was thought this would monitor the situation and if any problems developed they would soon be reported.

Unfortunately, 11 days later, the calf **SW2005/74** was reported dead on the 27<sup>th</sup> March in a dike within the steel works at Conners Quay. The carcass was collected by the RSPCA and delivered for *post-mortem* examination where the cause of death was given as 'Starvation/hypothermia associated with severe purulent arthritis of the atlanto-occipital joint'. The next day 28<sup>th</sup> March an adult porpoise **SW2005/75** live-stranded at Flint approximately 3.5 miles down-river from the calf location and it is believed this to be the adult of the adult/calf pair. Several attempts at re-floating were carried out by the RSPCA but due to the state of low tide the animal kept re-stranding. Again with consultation with Phil Lewis RSPCA, the animal appeared fit and healthy so with the help of the RNLI, the animal was released 5 miles off Rhyl. No further info.

**SW2005/68b** was a string of vertebrae discovered in a small cove near Solva in Pembrokeshire. A series of photographs were taken and sent to Richard Sabin, curator of mammals at the Natural History Museum in London where identification of species was attempted by comparison with specimens held in the collection. The resulting assessment thought it to be a minke whale. Could this possibly be the final resting place of the entangled minke whale SW2003/311 sighted in Cardigan Bay, August 2003?



**Plate 2.** SW2005/68b string of vertebrae found at Solva, Pembrokeshire

**SW2005/181** was a 'live-stranded' female long-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*) reported at Porth Lisky bay near St Davids, Pembrokeshire on the 6<sup>th</sup> July. The animal was dead on my arrival and in danger of being taken by the incoming tide. Through kind permission of the local farmer the project Land Rover was carefully manoeuvred down a narrow track and onto the beach where a long winch was set-up to bring the carcass across the bay and up the beach safely beyond the high-water mark.



**Plate 3.** SW2005/181 before being winched across the bay.

Photo by: Lyndon Lomax.

At 4.62 metres the carcass was too large to move from the beach and transport to London so a *post-mortem* examination was arranged to take place by pathologists from ZSL the next day at the stranding site. Many teeth were missing from the mouth of the pilot whale and the remaining teeth were cracked and worn. This together with other age related changes identified on *post-mortem* indicated that this was an old animal. Cause of death was given as 'live-stranding/old age'. We are extremely grateful to St Davids Aux. Coastguard, National Trust, Farmers Mr & Mrs Davies, Paul Newman and Pembrokeshire County Council for assistance with this stranding and prompt disposal of remains.

**SW2005/193** was a 3.1 metre female bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) reported stranded at Ynyslas, Ceredigion on the 20<sup>th</sup> July. Unfortunately the carcass was in a state of moderate to advanced decomposition so not suitable for a full *post-mortem* examination. Basic samples were taken at the strandings site by the Strandings Co-ordinator and the carcass was opened up in an attempt to retrieve any stomach contents but no contents were found. Many teeth were missing or were badly worn so it is possible this was an old animal.



**Plate 4.** Mouth of SW2005/193 showing missing and badly worn teeth.

A second female bottlenose dolphin **SW2005/209** stranded at Gronant Dunes, Denbighshire on the 13<sup>th</sup> August. Unfortunately this animal was also in a state of advanced decomposition. Samples of skin & blubber were taken by Emily Dicks. These two animals represented the total of bottlenose dolphins reported stranded through 2005.

**SS2005/106** was a dead female Atlantic grey seal reported at Rhossili Bay on the Gower by Swansea Coastguard on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August. The carcass was tagged with an orange tag stating 'Inform London Zoo' and with number '61475'.

Tag return details from the RSPCA at Eastwinch showed this animal to be 'Eve', taken for rehabilitation in September 2004 and released on the Gower in February 2005. The animal was not examined due to decomposition.

**SW2005/240** was reported as a 'live-stranded' harbour porpoise at Borth, Ceredigion on the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> September with possibly a second animal at Ynyslas a short distance further north. Phil Lewis RSPCA, Janet Baxter and Phil Hughes, Friends of Cardigan Bay and Darren White, Welsh Marine Life Rescue all turned out in pitch black conditions with strong winds and horizontal driving rain. On my arrival the Borth animal had been found but was dead and had been for several hours. The blubber on the right flank/ventral surface was cut in what appeared to be a cross. The *post-mortem* examination suggested this to be caused by human activity *post-mortem*.



**Plate 5.** Harbour porpoise found at Borth with cross cut in blubber.

A search of Ynyslas and around into the Dovey Estuary was undertaken for the second animal by the Strandings Co-ordinator on the quad-bike in extremely unpleasant conditions but nothing was found. The staff at the CCW Ynyslas visitor centre were contacted the next day to see if anything had washed in but nothing had been found.

In December I was contacted by Dr Peter Evans who had received a communication from a fisherman who claims to have recovered a tag from a dolphin in the Firth of Clyde, Scotland. The tag was yellow plastic with the words 'Welsh dolphin' and the number '066'. Enquiries have been made on the Welsh coast and further afield concerning the tagging of this and possibly other animals but no further information has been gleaned at this time. Enquiries are still continuing.



Plate 6. Tag returned from the Firth of Clyde.

### 3.4 Live Strandings.

**SW2005/038** was reported as a 'live-stranded' harbour porpoise but on arrival it was found to be a striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleolba*). The animal was transferred to a temporary pool but died later the same day. (see p.12. SW2005/038).

**SW2005/075** was a harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) found 'live-stranded' at Flint in north Wales on the 28<sup>th</sup> March. Due to the state of tide the animal was released 5 miles offshore by the RNLI. (see p.12. SW2005/075).

**SW2005/140** was a 2.10 metre male common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) reported 'live-stranded' by the RSPCA on the 4<sup>th</sup> June at Llangennith on the Gower, Swansea. The animal had died while I was in transit to the stranding site but the carcass was prevented from washing away by the Aux. Coastguard who managed to get a rope around the tailstock. The animal was delivered to ZSL for *post-mortem* examination where the cause of death was determined as 'live-stranding'.



Plate 7. Parasite burden in the stomach of common dolphin SW2005/140.



**SW2005/181** was a 4.62 metre female long-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*) reported live-stranded at Porth Lisky, St Davids, Pembrokeshire on the 6<sup>th</sup> July. The animal had died before I arrived. (see p.13. SW2005/181).

Thanks are due to the National Trust who permitted the *post-mortem* examination to take place at the stranding site and to Pembrokeshire County Council for swift disposal of remains.



**Plate 8.** The site being cleared following the examination of SW2005/181.

**SW2005/282** was a male common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) c1.5 metres long, reported live-stranded at Red Wharf Bay, Anglesey. Gwynedd County Council SAC Officer and Marine Mammal Medic, Alison Hargrave was in attendance together with the RSPCA, Coastguard, Emily Meilleur, Phil Lewis and a local Veterinarian. The animal was thought to be in good condition and eventually released 2 miles offshore with the help of the Moelfre RNLI. No further info.



**Plate 9.** SW2005/282 Common dolphin at Red Wharf Bay before release.

Photo by: Emily Meilleur

#### **4. OTHER MARINE ANIMALS REPORTED TO THE NETWORK.**

##### **4.1 Marine Turtles.**

Around the coast of Wales, 6 marine turtles were reported to the network. These were 5 sightings of leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and 1 sighting of an unidentified hardshell species, these are listed below.

**T2005/04** was a live unidentified hardshell turtle sighted off Aberdovey/Tywyn, Gwynedd on the 9<sup>th</sup> July.

**T2005/13** was a live leatherback turtle sighted from Aberdaron beach, Gwynedd on the 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**T2005/34** was a live leatherback turtle sighted from the cliff top at Strumble Head, Pembrokeshire on the 30<sup>th</sup> August.

**T2005/39** was a dead leatherback turtle sighted 2 miles off Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire on the 11<sup>th</sup> September.

**T2005/59** was a live leatherback turtle sighted from a yacht on passage from Ireland to Pembrokeshire on the 20<sup>th</sup> September.

**T2005/60** was a live leatherback turtle sighted from the research vessel 'Noctiluca' in Carmarthen Bay on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

## **5. SAMPLES.**

The normal procedure for the taking of samples is from fresh animals that have been taken for *post-mortem* examination.

Samples of skin, blubber, muscle and PCF, were taken from the bottlenose dolphin SW2005/193 and archived at MEM. Skin & blubber were sampled by Emily Dicks from the bottlenose dolphin SW2005/209.

Samples of muscle have continued to be taken by the Strandings Co-ordinator from animals which had not been taken for *post-mortem* examination and would normally have been disposed of. These samples have been stored at  $-20^{\circ}$  C for later radionuclide comparisons with samples taken in Ireland. Since 1998 skin has also been collected from these cetacean carcasses and archived at  $-20^{\circ}$  C, hopefully for later DNA analysis.

## **6. FUNDING.**

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)/ Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) contract continued until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004. A short term contract has been issued by Defra while a decision is being made on the continuation of the project by WAG/Defra.

Defra, through the Zoological Society, London, continued to cover transportation costs and the Environment Agency also maintained support of a high-powered microscope through 2005.

## **7. PUBLICITY.**

The Strandings Web-site has been maintained to provide details of both the 'Collaborative UK & Celtic Strandings Projects'. Although this is intended primarily for Wales, key contact details are given for England, Scotland and Ireland. The pages can be viewed at [www.strandings.com/](http://www.strandings.com/) and I would be grateful for any comments on the Web-site and any further links to other sites that may be of interest.

A 'Seal' and 'Turtle' page have been created on the site and related information and annual reports will be posted here. Seals: [www.strandings.com/Seals.html](http://www.strandings.com/Seals.html)

Turtles: [www.strandings.com/Turtlepage.html](http://www.strandings.com/Turtlepage.html) Posters and leaflets produced to increase awareness of the project have continued to be distributed throughout the coast of Wales. Turtle Codes have also been distributed throughout the Welsh coast.

## 8. TRAINING.

A British Divers Marine Mammal Medic Course was organised at the Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre in New Quay, Ceredigion on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

This included instruction on how to assess the body condition of stranded dolphins and seals to help with the decision process of whether or not to re-float. Safe handling of these animals both for the animal and the handler were demonstrated.



A replica dolphin, seal and pilot whale are used to demonstrate on, the latter is filled with water to replicate the weight of the small whale.



Instruction on how to manoeuvre a 2 ton stranded small whale in shallow water, turn it away from the beach and take it to deeper water using inflatable pontoons was given. Two sets of pontoons are now based in Wales, one set with WMLR in south west Wales and the other with the RSPCA in the north.

More than twenty participants attended the course ranging from local authority officers to private individuals. Each participant receives a comprehensive BDMLR 'Marine Mammal Medic Handbook' which provides details of all aspects normally encountered in UK strandings. It is hoped to repeat this course at various locations on the Welsh coast on a fairly regular basis to increase people's awareness and increase the marine mammal medic base of helpers in Wales.



## **9. EQUIPMENT.**

The Strandings telephone was found not to be recording on the 15<sup>th</sup> August and was repaired on 16<sup>th</sup> August.

The main trailer underwent an extensive service on the 14<sup>th</sup> October replacing the overrun brakes and cables on all four wheels and renewing the hinges on the loading ramp.

## **10. TRAVEL.**

In excess of 11,000 miles were covered on the project in retrieval and transportation of animals in 2005.

The European Cetacean Society conference in La Rochelle in April and the Society of Marine Mammalogy conference in San Diego in December were attended.

## **11. ADMINISTRATION.**

In excess of 74 copies of *post-mortem* examination reports were posted out to finders and associated interested parties concerning each relevant stranding.

## **12. CAUSE OF DEATH.**

The provisional causes of death for the 32 cetaceans found in a suitable condition for necropsy are given in **Table 5**. These carcasses underwent a full *post-mortem* examination at either Liverpool University or the Zoological Society of London (ZSL).

Please note these are provisional causes of death, and may change when additional laboratory analyses have been conducted.

**Table 5.**

SW Number	Family/Genus	Species	County	Locality	Cause of Death
SW2005/011	Phocoena	phocoena	Anglesey	Rhoscolyn	Pneumonia
SW2005/025	Delphinus	delphis	Gwynedd	Dinas Dinlle	Live stranding
SW2005/034	Phocoena	phocoena	Gwynedd	Criccieth	Live stranding
SW2005/038	Stenella	coeruleoalba	Camrathenshire	Llanelli	Live stranding
SW2005/071	Phocoena	phocoena	Conwy	Penrhyn	Starvation and/or hypothermia.
SW2005/074	Phocoena	phocoena	Flintshire	Connors Quay	Starvation and/or hypothermia.
SW2005/107	Phocoena	phocoena	Gwynedd	Tal-y-bont	Starvation and/or hypothermia.
SW2005/108	Phocoena	phocoena	Ceredigion	Ynyslas	Asphyxiation on mass of worms in trachea.
SW2005/118	Phocoena	phocoena	Ceredigion	Castell Bach	Physical trauma (bottlenose dolphin attack)
SW2005/123	Phocoena	phocoena	Gwynedd	Aberdaron	Pneumonia associated with nematode damage.
SW2005/126	Phocoena	phocoena	Camrathenshire	Pendine	Physical trauma
SW2005/132	Phocoena	phocoena	Ceredigion	Ynyslas	Physical trauma (bottlenose dolphin attack)
SW2005/137	Phocoena	phocoena	Pembrokeshire	Ramsey Island	Starvation/hypothermia
SW2005/140	Delphinus	delphis	Swansea	Llangennith	Live stranding
SW2005/150	Phocoena	phocoena	Camrathenshire	Pembrey	Live stranding
SW2005/154	Phocoena	phocoena	Ceredigion	Mwnt	Live stranding poss. result of bottlenose dolphin attack.
SW2005/155	Phocoena	phocoena	Ceredigion	Cei Bach	Physical trauma (bottlenose dolphin attack)
SW2005/162	Phocoena	phocoena	Gwynedd	Barmouth	Live stranding following bottlenose dolphin attack.
SW2005/172	Phocoena	phocoena	Camrathenshire	Pwll	Physical trauma
SW2005/181	Globicephala	melas	Pembrokeshire	Porth Lisky	Live stranding
SW2005/182	Phocoena	phocoena	Neath Port Talbot	Port Talbot	Not established due to decomposition.
SW2005/184	Phocoena	phocoena	Gwynedd	Nefyn	Bycatch
SW2005/195	Phocoena	phocoena	Ceredigion	Borth	Not established due to decomposition.
SW2005/204	Phocoena	phocoena	Bridgend	Porthcawl	Starvation
SW2005/236	Phocoena	phocoena	Ceredigion	At sea off New Quay	Physical trauma (bottlenose dolphin attack)
SW2005/240	Phocoena	phocoena	Ceredigion	Borth	Physical trauma
SW2005/241	Phocoena	phocoena	Ceredigion	New Quay	Physical trauma (bottlenose dolphin attack)
SW2005/242	Phocoena	phocoena	Ceredigion	Borth	Not established
SW2005/243	Phocoena	phocoena	Ceredigion	Tresaith	Physical trauma (bottlenose dolphin attack)
SW2005/251	Phocoena	phocoena	Swansea	Rhossili Beach	Physical trauma (possible bycatch)
SW2005/260	Phocoena	phocoena	Gwynedd	Barmouth	Physical trauma (boat strike?).
SW2005/285	Phocoena	phocoena	Pembrokeshire	Fishguard	Heavy burden of parasites.

A further ten porpoises that were deemed unsuitable for full *post-mortem* examination due to their state of decomposition and not listed above, were identified as being killed by bottlenose dolphins on investigation by the Strandings Co-ordinator at their stranding location. This brings the total number of porpoises killed by bottlenose dolphin to 17 for 2005.

### **13. LIST OF SCIENTIFIC NAMES USED IN THIS REPORT.**

**Table 6.**

Common name.	Scientific name.
Bottle-nose dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
Common dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>
Common seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>
Grey seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>
Leatherback turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
Long-finned pilot whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>
Striped dolphin	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>

#### **14. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.**

Robin Pratt, Ray and Jemma Lerwill for providing support and base of operations at Fishguard.

Gerry Jones, Paul Newman, Lin Gander, Sal Shipley, Dave Kendall, Emily Dicks, George Stoye, Nia Jones, and Dr John Goold for their support with the project and help in retrieving animals.

Strandings Network volunteers, too numerous to mention for their help confirming, reporting and securing animals for collection.

Welsh Assembly Government/ Countryside Council for Wales & Defra for providing funds towards the project.

#### **15. APPENDICES.**

Appendix 1. Cetacean stranding data for 2005.

Appendix 2. Seal data 2005.

ID	SW Number	PM	Family/Genus	species	Sex	Length	Condition	Date	County	Locality	Grid	Reported by	Comment
1317	SW2005/001a		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.25	slight decomposition	06-Jan-05	Bridgond	Kenfig NNR	SS786797	Sian Lewis	LA disposed of.
1318	SW2005/007		Delphinus	delphis	M	2.00	advanced decomposition	13-Jan-05	Ceredigion	Borth	SN607910	Michael Mann	Carcass tagged, LA informed for disposal.
1319	SW2005/008		Delphinus	delphis	F	1.80	advanced decomposition	14-Jan-05	Pembrokeshire	Traethllyn Beach	SM802319		Carcass tagged, LA informed for disposal, lower jaw taken. Highly unlikely carcass will be moved due to difficult access.
1320	SW2005/011	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.38	fresh	16-Jan-05	Anglesey	Rhoscolyn	SH273751	Emily Dicks	
1321	SW2005/013		Phocoena	phocoena	?	1.22	advanced decomposition	18-Jan-05	Cardiff	Penarth	ST189705	Cathy Sienda	LA informed for disposal.
1322	SW2005/014		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	?	18-Jan-05	Pembrokeshire	Marloes	SM785072	Jane Warr	Reported as having head chopped off. Nothing found next day by Skomer MNNR team.
1323	SW2005/020		Phocoena	phocoena	?	1.5	?	24-Jan-05	Ceredigion	Borth	SN607910	Tamlin Watson	Nothing found at location given. Re-reported 1st Feb passed straight to LA for disposal.
1324	SW2005/025	Y	Delphinus	delphis	M	1.71	fresh	31-Jan-05	Gwynedd	Dinas Dinlle	SH434566	David Fletcher	
1325	SW2005/027		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.02	mod/advanced decomposition	04-Feb-05	Anglesey	Porth Cwyfan	SH338684	Peter Owens	Nia Jones investigated. LA informed for disposal.
1326	SW2005/031		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	?	12-Feb-05	Anglesey	Traeth y Gribin	SH294825	Jane Prosser	George Stoye contacted, nothing found next day.
1327	SW2005/033		Phocoena	phocoena	?	0.92	advanced decomposition	17-Feb-05	Gwynedd	Dinas Dinlle	SH434566	NHM	Pwllheli H.M. contacted. Carcass buried on beach.
1328	SW2005/034	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.13	fresh	18-Feb-05	Gwynedd	Criccieth	SH496376	Portmadoc H.M.	Picked up from Portmadoc Harbour Masters Office and delivered to Dr John Baker by Nia Jones.
1329	SW2005/038	Y	Stenella	coerulealba	F	1.53	live	23-Feb-05	Llanelli	Carmarthenshire	SS502985	Swansea C.G.	Animal found on sand bank some distance from shore. Removed to temporary pool, fed but died later same day.
1332	SW2005/058		Phocoena	phocoena	?	1.22	?	12-Mar-05	Pembrokeshire	Newport	SN053404	Helen Redfern	Reported with scavenger damage around head. Nothing found.
1333	SW2005/063a		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	?	19-Mar-05	Gwynedd	Criccieth	SH500375	Chris Hall	Retrospective report 23rd March 2005 received at Welsh Mammal Conference.
1334	SW2005/068b		Cetacean	sp. Indet.	?	?	skeletal remains	22-Mar-05	Pembrokeshire	nr Solva	SM801234	Cliff Benson	String of vertebrae only.
1335	SW2005/071	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.18	slight decomposition	24-Mar-05	Gwynedd	Penrhyn	SH823818	Sion Roberts CCW	Nia Jones contacted for retrieval. Stored frozen at Bangor Uni for Dr J. Goold.
1336	SW2005/073		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.30	mod/advanced decomposition	25-Mar-05	Pembrokeshire	Newport	SN058394	Richard Vaughn	Nothing found Saturday 26th March. Carcass found 13th April, skin, muscle and scapula taken. Tagged and LA informed for disposal.
1337	SW2005/074	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.06	fresh	27-Mar-05	Clwd	Conners Quay	SJ322689	Wii Gelvin RSPCA	First seen alive with adult porpoise 16th March 2005.
1338	SW2005/075		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	live	28-Mar-05	Flintshire	Flint	SJ251736	Wii Gelvin RSPCA	Possibly the mother of SW2005/74. Condition reported as good so re-float advised. Animal released 5 miles off Rhyl by RNLi.
1339	SW2005/107	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.09	fresh	19-Apr-05	Gwynedd	Tal-y-bont	SH584206	Caer Daniel Caravan Park	Retrieved by Barmouth HM staff to Barmouth Harbour.
1340	SW2005/108	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.07	fresh	19-Apr-05	Ceredigion	Ynyslas	SN604934	Janet Baxter	Retrieved by Janet Baxter to home, collected 20th April.
1341	SW2005/118	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.04	fresh	08-May-05	Ceredigion	Castell Bach	SN359578	Bob Morris	Retrieved with the help of Bruce Cardwell NT and Steve Hartley.
1342	SW2005/123	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.53	fresh	12-May-05	Gwynedd	Aberdaron	SH172262	Ken Fitzpatrick HM	Retrieved to Pwllheli HM office by maritime staff, collected and delivered to Dr Baker by Gerry Jones..
1343	SW2005/126	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.05	fresh	19-May-05	Carmarthenshire	MOD Pendine	SN245074	Range Control	Heavily scavenged around head and neck.
1344	SW2005/128		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	25-May-05	Corwy	Deganwy	SH773809	Tony Flynn	Nia Jones/George Stoye contacted. Animal reported to LA for disposal on their advice.
1345	SW2005/129		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	26-May-05	Pembrokeshire	Marloes	SM785072	John Williams	Kate Lock CCW contacted. Animal reported to LA for disposal on her advice.
1346	SW2005/130		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	moderate decomposition	26-May-05	Gwynedd	Shell Island	SH554250	Asa Owen HM	Retrieved by Asa and Sal Shipley to cold-store at Tywyn. Disposed of due to decomposition.
1347	SW2005/131		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	26-May-05	Neath Port Talbot	Corus Steel Works	SS760871	E.A.	LA informed.
1348	SW2005/132T	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.01	moderate decomposition	27-May-05	Ceredigion	Ynyslas	SN613940	Visitor Centre	
1349	SW2005/133T		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.06	advanced decomposition	30-May-05	Gwynedd	Tywyn	SN583992	Sal Shipley	Skin, muscle and teeth taken by Sal, LA informed for disposal.
1350	SW2005/134T		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	31-May-05	Bridgend	Pink Bay	SS796790	Sally Thurlow	Carcass tagged by Kenfig NR staff, LA informed for disposal.
1351	SW2005/135T		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.23	advanced decomposition	31-May-05	Gwynedd	Tywyn	SN588977	Sal Shipley	Skin, muscle and teeth taken by Sal, LA informed for disposal.
1352	SW2005/136T		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.10	moderate decomposition	01-Jun-05	Ceredigion	Borth	SN607910	Miford Haven C.G.	Skin, muscle and teeth taken, LA informed for disposal.
1359	SW2005/137b		Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	advanced decomposition	02-Jun-05	Newport	Goldcliff	ST368821	Tony Pickup	Retro report 9th June.
1353	SW2005/137T	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	M	0.71	fresh	02-Jun-05	Pembrokeshire	Ramsey Island	SM699231	Simon Avery RSPB	Picked up from St Justinians
1354	SW2005/138T		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.45	advanced decomposition	03-Jun-05	Gwynedd	Black Rock Sands	SH508378	Portmadoc H.M.	Skin, muscle and teeth taken, LA informed for disposal.
1355	SW2005/139T		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	03-Jun-05	Gwynedd	Aberdaron	SH175261	Mrs Ward	LA informed for disposal.
1356	SW2005/140T	Y	Delphinus	delphis	M	?	live	04-Jun-05	Swansea	Llangennith	SS405910	Neal Manning RSPB	Animal dead on my arrival.
1357	SW2005/141T		Phocoena	phocoena	?	1.65	advanced decomposition	04-Jun-05	Gwynedd	Dinas Dinlle	SH431598	David Fletcher	LA informed for disposal.
1358	SW2005/142T		Phocoena	phocoena	?	1.22	advanced decomposition	04-Jun-05	Gwynedd	Tal-y-bont	SH584206	Glyn Jones Barmouth H.M.	LA informed for disposal.
1359	SW2005/143T		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	moderate decomposition	05-Jun-05	Gwynedd	Tal-y-bont	SH584206	Glyn Jones Barmouth H.M.	Recovered by Sal Shipley for examination but later disposed of due to decomposition.
1360	SW2005/144T		Phocoena	phocoena	?	1.12	advanced decomposition	05-Jun-05	Ceredigion	Ynyslas	SN604933	Janet Baxter	Samples taken, tagged and recovered to central point for LA collection.
1361	SW2005/145T		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	?	05-Jun-05	Pembrokeshire	Caer Fai	SM760240	Cindy	Investigated by Robin Pratt, nothing found.
1362	SW2005/146T		Delphinus	delphis	M	2.05	advanced decomposition	06-Jun-05	Ceredigion	Ynyslas	SN607912	Member of Public	Samples taken, tagged and recovered to central point for LA collection.
1363	SW2005/147T		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.13	advanced decomposition	06-Jun-05	Ceredigion	Ynyslas	SN605922		Found whilst searching for SW2005/144T & 146T. Samples taken, tagged and recovered to central point for LA collection.
1364	SW2005/150	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.43	slight decomposition	09-Jun-05	Carmarthenshire	Pembrey	SN378019	Wyn Parry, Park Ranger	
1365	SW2005/153		Delphinus	delphis	?	1.62	advanced decomposition	12-Jun-05	Ceredigion	Mwnt	SN194519	Jane Mansfield	Genital area eaten away. Samples taken, tagged and National Trust contacted for disposal.
1366	SW2005/154	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	0.79	fresh	13-Jun-05	Ceredigion	Mwnt	SN194519		Found whilst attending SW2005/153.
1367	SW2005/155	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.32	moderate decomposition	13-Jun-05	Ceredigion	Cei Bach	SN412596	Mr May	
1368	SW2005/156		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.20	advanced decomposition	13-Jun-05	Ceredigion	Llanina	SN404597	Steve Hartley	Samples taken, tagged and recovered to central point for LA collection.
1370	SW2005/157		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	14-Jun-05	Swansea	Llangennith	SS405910	Anhardar Davies EA	David Smith Swansea CC to investigate.
1371	SW2005/159		Phocoena	phocoena	M	?	advanced decomposition	15-Jun-05	Gwynedd	Criccieth	SH500375	MOP	LA to disposed of.
1372	SW2005/162	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.56	fresh	20-Jun-05	Gwynedd	Barmouth	SH610154	Glyn Jones Barmouth H.M.	Retrieved and delivered to Dr John Baker by George Stoye.
1373	SW2005/162a		Phocoena	phocoena	M	0.81	moderate decomposition	22-Jun-05	Gwynedd	Tywyn	SH575011	Sal Shipley	Skin, muscle and scapula taken by Sal, LA informed for disposal.
1374	SW2005/167		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.22	advanced decomposition	28-Jun-05	Vale of Glamorgan	Burry outer harbour	ST129664	Swansea C.G.	Reported as decomposed animal with tail missing, LA to dispose of.
1375	SW2005/168		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	28-Jun-05	Ceredigion	Aberarth	SN475637	Hanna Nuutila	Skeletal remains.
1376	SW2005/169		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	?	28-Jun-05	Ceredigion	Aberystwyth	SN582819	Hanna Nuutila	Nothing found.
1379	SW2005/170a		Phocoena	phocoena	?	0.76	moderate decomposition	29-May-05	Denbighshire	Prestatyn	SJ085844	Dr Tolliday	Retro report.
1377	SW2005/172	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	M	?	moderate decomposition	01-Jul-05	Carmarthenshire	Pwll	SN459001	Deborah Osborne	
1378	SW2005/174a		Phocoena	phocoena	M	?	?	02-Jul-05	Swansea	Oxwich	SS525874	Vernon Jones	Unable to attend.
1380	SW2005/177		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	?	04-Jul-05	Gwynedd	Hells Mouth	SH274267	Nia Jones	Nothing found the next day by search by Pwllheli HM.
1381	SW2005/178		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	04-Jul-05	Gwynedd	Tal-y-bont	SH584206	Caer Daniel Caravan Park	LA informed for disposal.
1382	SW2005/179		Phocoena	phocoena	?	0.74	advanced decomposition	05-Jul-05	Swansea	Rhossili Beach	SS412910	Swansea C.G.	LA informed for disposal.
1384	SW2005/180		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.10	moderate decomposition	06-Jul-05	Gwynedd	Tywyn	SN583993	Sal Shipley	Skin, muscle and teeth taken by Sal, LA informed for disposal.
1385	SW2005/181	Y	Globicephala	melas	F	4.63	fresh	06-Jul-05	Pembrokeshire	Porth Lisky	SM730237	Richard Abbott RSPCA	Post-mortem examination carried out on beach by Rob Deaville and Matt Perkins ZSL.
1387	SW2005/182	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	moderate decomposition	07-Jul-05	Neath Port Talbot	Port Talbot	SS741898	Joanna	Collected by Rob Deaville and Matt Perkins ZSL on return journey to London.

ID	SW Number	PM	Family/Genus	species	Sex	Length	Condition	Date	County	Locality	Grid	Reported by	Comment
1388	SW2005/183		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	?	08-Jul-05	Gwynedd	Tywyn	SN582987	Richard Vaughn	Nothing found by Sal Shiple.
1389	SW2005/184	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.63	fresh	09-Jul-05	Gwynedd	Nefyn	SH307412	Phil Lewis RSPCA	Reported as live but found dead by RSPCA, delivered to John Baker for pme by Phil Lewis.
1390	SW2005/188		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	?	15-Jul-05	Pembrokeshire	Witches Cauldron	SN102452	Sarah Waddell	Nothing found but confirmed sighting of carcass at sea further down the coast by cliff path walkers.
1391	SW2005/189		Phocoena	phocoena	?	0.87	advanced decomposition	19-Jul-05	Ceredigion	Ynyslas	SN603942	Maria Ward CCW	Skin & muscle taken, carcass too badly scavenged to determine sex. Removed to LA depot.
1392	SW2005/190		Phocoena	phocoena	?	0.97	advanced decomposition	19-Jul-05	Ceredigion	Ynyslas	SN605921		Found whilst searching for SW2005/189, carcass too badly scavenged to determine sex. Removed to LA depot.
1393	SW2005/191		Phocoena	phocoena	F	0.97	advanced decomposition	19-Jul-05	Ceredigion	Ynyslas	SN606919		Found whilst searching for SW2005/189. Removed to LA depot.
1394	SW2005/192		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.06	advanced decomposition	19-Jul-05	Ceredigion	Ynyslas	SN607912		Found whilst searching for SW2005/189. Removed to LA depot.
1395	SW2005/193	Y	Tursiops	truncatus	F	3.10	mod/advanced decomposition	20-Jul-05	Ceredigion	Ynyslas	SN605926	Janet Baxter	Skin, blubber, muscle and PCF taken. No stomach contents. Head removed. LA informed for disposal.
1396	SW2005/195	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	M	?	moderate decomposition	23-Jul-05	Ceredigion	Borth	SN607891	Milford Haven C.G.	
1397	SW2005/196		Phocoena	phocoena	F	0.83	mod/advanced decomposition	23-Jul-05	Ceredigion	Llanrhystud	SN532700	Howard Parry	Skin, muscle and scapula taken. Carcass tagged and LA informed for disposal.
1398	SW2005/197		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.56	advanced decomposition	23-Jul-05	Gwynedd	Tywyn	SN585988	Sal Shiple	Skin, muscle and teeth taken by Sal, LA informed for disposal. Bnd kill.
1399	SW2005/204	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	M	?	mod/advanced decomposition	06-Aug-05	Bridgend	Porthcawl	SS819761	Swansea C.G.	
1400	SW2005/209		Tursiops	truncatus	F	3.18	mod/advanced decomposition	13-Aug-05	Denbighshire	Gronant Dunes	SJ080845	Kate Burgess	Skin & blubber taken by Emily Dicks. LA informed for disposal.
1401	SW2005/212a		Phocoena	phocoena	?	1.70	advanced decomposition	14-Aug-05	Bridgend	Kenfig NNR	SS786797	Kenfig NNR Wardens	Carcass incinerated.
1402	SW2005/212b		Phocoena	phocoena	?	1.00	advanced decomposition	14-Aug-05	Bridgend	Kenfig NNR	SS786797	Kenfig NNR Wardens	Carcass incinerated.
1403	SW2005/213a		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.05	advanced decomposition	19-Aug-05	Ceredigion	Aberaeron	SN459632	Blair Browne	Skin, muscle and scapula taken. Carcass tagged and LA informed for disposal.
1404	SW2005/213b		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.57	advanced decomposition	20-Aug-05	Ceredigion	Ynyslas	SN635942	Claire CCW warden	Carcass in estuary. Skin, muscle and teeth taken. Carcass removed to LA depot for disposal.
1406	SW2005/213c		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	21-Aug-05	Ceredigion	Wallog	SN591857	Mick Green	
1405	SW2005/214a		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.63	advanced decomposition	20-Aug-05	Gwynedd	Llwyngwll	SH592103	Sal Shiple	Skin, muscle and teeth taken. Carcass tagged and LA informed for disposal.
1407	SW2005/215		Cetacean	sp. Indet.	?	?	?	21-Aug-05	Swansea	Penclawdd	SS547959	Jill Woolstenholm	Carcass seen floating past entangled in fishing gear.
1408	SW2005/217		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.22	advanced decomposition	22-Aug-05	Ceredigion	Aberarth	SN475637	Jean Bryant	Skin, muscle and teeth taken. Carcass removed by LA informed.
1409	SW2005/220		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	?	23-Aug-05	Gwynedd	Tal-y-bont	SH581212	Paul at 'Dolphin Rescue'	Barmouth HM contacted, nothing found.
1410	SW2005/221		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.57	advanced decomposition	24-Aug-05	Gwynedd	Tywyn	SN583992	Sal Shiple	Skin, muscle and teeth taken. Carcass tagged and LA informed for disposal.
1411	SW2005/223		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	25-Aug-05	Ceredigion	Llangranog	SN310541	Ceredigion CC	Rear half of badly decomposed neonate held at LA depot for inspection.
1412	SW2005/224a		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.64	advanced decomposition	26-Aug-05	Gwynedd	Black Rock Sands	SH508378	Portmadoc H.M.	Digital image sent, carcass removed for disposal.
1413	SW2005/229		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	07-Sep-05	Anglesey	Lligny Beach	SH495875	Car Park Owner	Carcass buried on beach.
1414	SW2005/230		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.45	moderate decomposition	07-Sep-05	Gwynedd	Aberdovey	SN612957	Sal Shiple	Skin, muscle and teeth taken. Carcass tagged and LA informed for disposal.
1415	SW2005/232		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.55	advanced decomposition	12-Sep-05	Ceredigion	Tresaith	SN277516	Steve Hartley	Skin, muscle and teeth taken. Carcass tagged and LA informed for disposal.
1416	SW2005/233		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.14	mod/advanced decomposition	16-Sep-05	Ceredigion	Cwmtudy	SN356574	Jean Bryant	Skin, muscle and teeth taken. Carcass tagged and LA informed for disposal.
1417	SW2005/234		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.54	advanced decomposition	18-Sep-05	Ceredigion	Aberaeron	SN451625	Aberaeron HM	Skin, and muscle taken, no teeth. Carcass tagged and LA informed for disposal.
1418	SW2005/236	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	slight decomposition	20-Sep-05	Ceredigion	At sea off New Quay	SN354597	Steve Hartley	
1419	SW2005/237		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.43	advanced decomposition	21-Sep-05	Gwynedd	Bennar Beach	SH575221	Michael Bailey	Skin, muscle and teeth taken. Carcass tagged and removed to LA depot in Barmouth for disposal.
1420	SW2005/239		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.25	mod/advanced decomposition	24-Sep-05	Ceredigion	New Quay	SN397596	Sarah Perry	Skin, muscle and teeth taken. Carcass removed to LA depot for disposal.
1421	SW2005/240	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	slight decomposition	27-Sep-05	Ceredigion	Borth	SN607913	Carl Allen	Reported as 'live-stranding'. Carcass found had been dead several days.
1422	SW2005/241	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	moderate decomposition	28-Sep-05	Ceredigion	New Quay	SN397596	Annalisa	
1423	SW2005/242	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	moderate decomposition	28-Sep-05	Ceredigion	Borth	SN607904	Mr Harris	Retrieved on way to Liverpool.
1424	SW2005/243	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	M	?	moderate decomposition	29-Sep-05	Ceredigion	Tresaith	SN279516		Retrieved on return from Liverpool.
1425	SW2005/243a		Phocoena	phocoena	?	1.00	mod/advanced decomposition	30-Sep-05	Anglesey	Newborough Warren	SH416624	Monica Jones CCW	Carcass to be disposed of.
1426	SW2005/246		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	04-Oct-05	Gwynedd	Black Rock Sands	SH508378	Mike Jenkins	LA informed for disposal.
1428	SW2005/251	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	M	?	moderate decomposition	11-Oct-05	Swansea	Rhossili Beach	SS412910	NT	
1429	SW2005/252		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	?	13-Oct-05	Pembrokeshire	Amroth	SN182070	EA	Carcass taken by tide. Description indicated it to be a calf.
1430	SW2005/253		Delphinus	delphis	M	1.76	moderate decomposition	13-Oct-05	Carmarthenshire	Pendine	SN274071	Range Control	Carcass heavily scavenged. LA informed for disposal. Head taken.
1431	SW2005/255		Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	advanced decomposition	17-Oct-05	Neath Port Talbot	Port Talbot	SS741898	Matt Perkins ZSL	Skin, muscle and teeth taken. Carcass at LA depot.
1432	SW2005/259		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.45	mod/advanced decomposition	24-Oct-05	Ceredigion	Llanrhystud	SN525691	Jenny Hide	Skin, muscle and teeth taken. LA informed for disposal.
1433	SW2005/260	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	M	?	moderate decomposition	25-Oct-05	Gwynedd	Barmouth	SH585203	Glyn Jones Barmouth H.M.	Carcass found by slipway at Sunnysands caravan park, removed to Fishguard cold-store.
1434	SW2005/261		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.50	moderate decomposition	25-Oct-05	Gwynedd	Black Rock Sands	SH508378	Malcolm Humphreys	Carcass to be disposed of.
1435	SW2005/262		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.45	mod/advanced decomposition	27-Oct-05	Ceredigion	Borth	SN607904	Mick Green	Skin, muscle and teeth taken, lactating. Removed to LA depot for disposal.
1436	SW2005/264		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	?	31-Oct-05	Gwynedd	Llanbedrog	SH333314	Michael Lemey	Pwllheli HM contacted to investigate.
1437	SW2005/273		Phocoena	phocoena	?	c 1.90	advanced decomposition	13-Nov-05	Anglesey	Porth Cwyfan	SH336684	Ivor Rees	Headless carcass.
1438	SW2005/274		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	slight/moderate decomposition	13-Nov-05	Anglesey	Porth Treacastell	SH333707	Ivor Rees	Search by Nia Jones the next day found nothing, presumably taken by the tide.
1439	SW2005/277		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	?	17-Nov-05	Newport	Beachley	ST555909	Denise Cumley	Under the old Severn bridge. Report via Steve Isaac WDCCS.
1441	SW2005/279a		Phocoena	phocoena	?	c. 4'	advanced decomposition	20-Nov-05	Pembrokeshire	Frainslake Sands	SR888980	Lin Ferrand Ranger.	Retrospective report. Reported 2nd Dec. but first seen 20th Nov.
1440	SW2005/282		Delphinus	delphis	M	c. 1.50	live	29-Nov-05	Anglesey	Red Wharf Bay	SH543810	Phil Lewis RSPCA	Taken 2 miles offshore by RNLI and released.
1442	SW2005/285	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.31	slight decomposition	04-Dec-05	Pembrokeshire	Fishguard	SM951374	Cliff Benson	
1443	SW2005/290		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	?	19-Dec-05	Swansea	Great Tor	SS530874		Nothing found, presumed washed away.
1444	SW2005/292		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	?	26-Dec-05	Anglesey	Porth China	SH338685	Molly Nebert CCW	Carcass to be disposed of.
1445	SW2005/293		Cetacean	sp. Indet.	?	?	?	28-Dec-05	Pembrokeshire	Dinas Head	SN002415		Reported as dead dolphin/porpoise floating past Dinas Head. No action taken.
1446	SW2005/298		Cetacean	sp. Indet.	?	?	?	31-Dec-05	Pembrokeshire	Newgale	SM854203	Cliff Benson	Nothing found 2nd Jan 2006.



## Appendix 2.

SS_No	pm	species	Sex	ad-tip to h	Condition	Date	County	Locality	Grid_ref	reported by	Comment
SS2005/001	Y	Halichoerus grypus	F	juv	fresh	08-Jan-05	Ceredigion	Cwmytydu	SN356574	Jean Bryant	
SS2005/008		Halichoerus grypus	?			28-Jan-05	Gwynedd	Dinas Dinlle	SH430585		
SS2005/011		Halichoerus grypus	?	adult		07-Mar-05	Flintshire	Talacre	SJ136844		
SS2005/023		Halichoerus grypus	?			21-Mar-05	Pembrokeshire	Amroth	SN174072	Ken Evans E.A.	
SS2005/028		Halichoerus grypus	?			28-Apr-05	Gwynedd	Dinas Dinlle	SH430585	Robert Salford	L A informed for disposal
SS2005/029		Halichoerus grypus	?			08-May-05	Ceredigion	Borth	SN607895		Nothing found.
SS2005/037		Halichoerus grypus	?			26-May-05	Vale of Glamorgan	Llantwit Major	SS953674		
SS2005/038	Y	Halichoerus grypus	M	1.07	fresh	31-May-05	Pembrokeshire	Abercastle	SM853334	Terry Leadbetter	Taken to Oak vets Haverfordwest and euthanised.
SS2005/043		Halichoerus grypus	F			08-Jun-05	Pembrokeshire	Barafundle	SR992950	Mark Hicks	Found in back of cave.
SS2005/056		Halichoerus grypus	?	pup	advanced decomposition	13-Jun-05	Ceredigion	Mwnt	SN194517	Rod Penrose	Found whilst recovering a cetacean.
SS2005/057		Halichoerus grypus	?			20-Jun-05	Ceredigion	Ynyslas	SN603933		
SS2005/058		Halichoerus grypus	?			20-Jun-05	Vale of Glamorgan	Aberthaw	ST021661	Nicola Rimington	
SS2005/066		Halichoerus grypus	?			21-Jul-05	Carmarthenshire	Llanelli	SS498988	Emyr Richards	
SS2005/067		Halichoerus grypus	?			03-Aug-05	Swansea	Rhossili	SS413899	NT	Env. Health to dispose of.
SS2005/097	Y	Halichoerus grypus	?		injured/died	26-Sep-05	Gwynedd	Criccieth	SH494376	Phil Lewis RSPCA	
SS2005/099		Halichoerus grypus	?	pup		08-Aug-05	Ceredigion	New Quay	SN397594	Hanna Nuutila	
SS2005/100		Halichoerus grypus	F		advanced decomposition	14-Aug-05	Ceredigion	New Quay	SN403597		Reported as shot but just decomposition. Tagged, LA informed for disposal.
SS2005/101		Halichoerus grypus	?		advanced decomposition	15-Aug-05	Swansea	Rhossili	SS415885	Swansea C.G.	Disposed of by NT.
SS2005/102		Halichoerus grypus	F	adult		15-Aug-05	Flintshire	Talacre	SJ136847	Sam Dyer	L A informed for disposal
SS2005/103		Halichoerus grypus	?	juvenile		15-Aug-05	Flintshire	Talacre	SJ136847	Sam Dyer	L A informed for disposal
SS2005/104		Halichoerus grypus	?			18-Aug-05	Ceredigion	Cwmytydu	SN356574	Jean Bryant	Reported as headless. L A informed for disposal
SS2005/105		Halichoerus grypus	?	adult		19-Aug-05	Swansea	Burrows	SS412931	Sarah Stephens NT	Disposed of by NT.
SS2005/106		Halichoerus grypus	F	adult		23-Aug-05	Swansea	Rhossili	SS415885	Swansea C.G.	Tag orange 61475, 'Eve' released on Gower Feb 05 RSPCA.
SS2005/107		Halichoerus grypus	F	pup	advanced decomposition	31-Aug-05	Ceredigion	Castell Bach	SN359480	Mr Moore	
SS2005/108		Halichoerus grypus	?			07-Sep-05	Swansea	Oxwich	SS507868	Nic Edwards CCW	Reported as headless. L A informed for disposal
SS2005/109		Halichoerus grypus	?			08-Sep-05	Pembrokeshire	Marloes	SM780074	Barry Sharp PCC	L A informed for disposal
SS2005/110		Halichoerus grypus	?	pup		13-Sep-05	Pembrokeshire	Aberhigian	SN033396	June Gibson	L A informed for disposal
SS2005/206		Halichoerus grypus	?	pup		20-Sep-05	Ceredigion	Llanon	SN512681	Robin Pratt	
SS2005/207		Halichoerus grypus	F	adult		21-Sep-05	Pembrokeshire	Pwll Deri	SM893385	Jemma Lerwill	Seen dead in water from cliff top with dead pup.
SS2005/208		Halichoerus grypus	?	pup		21-Sep-05	Pembrokeshire	Pwll Deri	SM893385	Jemma Lerwill	Seen dead in water from cliff top with dead adult female.
SS2005/209		Halichoerus grypus	?			23-Sep-05	Pembrokeshire	Freshwater East	SS020979	Carolyn Rogers	L A informed for disposal
SS2005/210		Halichoerus grypus	?	pup		24-Sep-05	Pembrokeshire	Newgale	SM850210	Blaise Bullimore	L A informed for disposal
SS2005/211		Halichoerus grypus	?	pup		28-Sep-05	Gwynedd	Tywyn	SH532686	Sal Shipley	L A informed for disposal
SS2005/212		Halichoerus grypus	?			01-Oct-05	Pembrokeshire	Newgale	SM850210		L A informed for disposal
SS2005/213		Halichoerus grypus	?		advanced decomposition	01-Oct-05	Gwynedd	Dinas Dinlle	SH430585	Neal Thomas	L A informed for disposal
SS2005/214		Halichoerus grypus	?	adult	fresh	02-Oct-05	Pembrokeshire	Abereddy	SM783306	Dr Pike	Not found.
SS2005/215		Halichoerus grypus	?			03-Oct-05	Ceredigion	Llanrhystud	SN532689	Annalisa Bianchessi	L A informed for disposal
SS2005/216		Halichoerus grypus	?	pup		03-Oct-05	Ceredigion	Aberystwyth	SN583822	Judy Davies	L A informed for disposal
SS2005/217		Halichoerus grypus	?		advanced decomposition	03-Oct-05	Ceredigion	Aberaeron	SN452625		L A informed for disposal
SS2005/218		Halichoerus grypus	?			04-Oct-05	Anglesey	Cymyran Bay	SH306746	Jo CCW	L A informed for disposal
SS2005/219		Halichoerus grypus	F	adult	moderate decomposition	04-Oct-05	Ceredigion	Llanon	SN503662	Richard Abbott RSPCA	L A informed for disposal (photo's taken)
SS2005/220		Halichoerus grypus	F	pup	moderate decomposition	04-Oct-05	Ceredigion	Llanon	SN503662		Found whilst searching for above animal. L A informed for disposal
SS2005/221		Halichoerus grypus	?	pup	advanced decomposition	05-Oct-05	Gwynedd	Tywyn	SN583992	Sal Shipley	Headless whitecoated pup. L A informed for disposal
SS2005/222		Halichoerus grypus	?	pup	advanced decomposition	05-Oct-05	Gwynedd	Tywyn	SN583993	Sal Shipley	Headless pup. L A informed for disposal
SS2005/223		Halichoerus grypus	?	pup		06-Oct-05	Gwynedd	Hell's Mouth	SH265275	John Hughes	Six dead seals reported, 1 of 3 found. L A informed for disposal
SS2005/224		Halichoerus grypus	?	pup		06-Oct-05	Gwynedd	Hell's Mouth	SH265275	John Hughes	Six dead seals reported, 2 of 3 found. L A informed for disposal
SS2005/225		Halichoerus grypus	?	pup		06-Oct-05	Gwynedd	Hell's Mouth	SH265275	John Hughes	Six dead seals reported, 3 of 3 found. L A informed for disposal
SS2005/226		Halichoerus grypus	?	adult	advanced decomposition	06-Oct-05	Bridgend	Kenfig NNR	SS793793	Rob Davies	L A informed for disposal

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SS2005/227		Halichoerus grypus	?	adult	advanced decomposition	09-Oct-05	Gwynedd	Tywyn	SH574011	Sal Shipley	L A informed for disposal. (sprayed green).
SS2005/228		Halichoerus grypus	?	pup		13-Oct-05	Ceredigion	Cei Bach	SN420599	Jean Bryant	L A informed for disposal.
SS2005/229		Halichoerus grypus	?			13-Oct-05	Gwynedd	Tal-y-bont	SH579213	Mike Bailey	L A informed for disposal.
SS2005/230		Halichoerus grypus	?			15-Oct-05	Gwynedd	Pwllheli	SH384342		L A informed for disposal.
SS2005/231		Halichoerus grypus	?			24-Oct-05	Pembrokeshire	Amroth	SN170068	Mrs Ducket	L A informed for disposal.
SS2005/232		Halichoerus grypus	?			24-Oct-05	Pembrokeshire	Abereiddy	SM803321		L A informed for disposal.
SS2005/233		Halichoerus grypus	?			24-Oct-05	Carmarthenshire	Pembrey Range	SN366038	Range Control	L A informed for disposal.
SS2005/234		Halichoerus grypus	?			31-Oct-05	Carmarthenshire	MOD Pendine	SN317069	MOD Police	L A informed for disposal.
SS2005/235		Halichoerus grypus	?	adult		31-Oct-05	Pembrokeshire	West Dale Beach	SM797058	Mr Evans	L A informed for disposal.
SS2005/236		Halichoerus grypus	?	adult		31-Oct-05	Pembrokeshire	Strumble	SM890410	Katrina Scorey	Dead seal floating under bridge.
SS2005/237		Halichoerus grypus	?	pup		13-Nov-05	Gwynedd	Sands	SH511377		L A informed for disposal.
SS2005/238		Halichoerus grypus	M		advanced decomposition	19-Nov-05	Swansea	Hunt's Bay	SS575871	Roger Jenkins	Reported as Walrus, tagged and L A informed for disposal.
SS2005/239		Halichoerus grypus	?	adult		07-Dec-05	Bridgend	Kenfig NNR	SS793793		L A informed for disposal.
SS2005/240		Halichoerus grypus	?			19-Dec-05	Ceredigion	Aberporth	SN260512	Tonya	L A informed for disposal.
SS2005/241		Halichoerus grypus	?			27-Dec-05	Conwy	Llandudno	SH785827		L A informed for disposal.