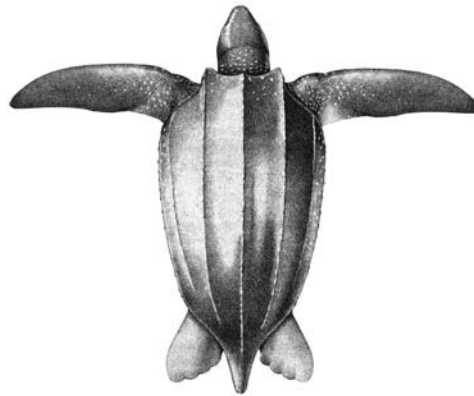




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## UK & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2008

R.S.Penrose & L.R.Gander. February 2009



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## **1. SUMMARY**

2008 started with a record number of loggerhead turtles being reported. Information was gathered throughout 2008 with turtles being reported in all months of the year except May. A total of 52 turtles were reported either as sightings (15) or strandings (37) during the year comprising 15 leatherback turtles, 30 loggerhead turtles, 2 Kemp's ridley and 5 unidentified turtles. All were single animal reports.

### **Live turtles**

13 leatherback turtles, 10 loggerhead turtles, 1 Kemp's ridley and 5 unidentified turtles were reported alive. Five live-stranded loggerhead turtles later died.

Two loggerhead turtles from Devon and Cornwall were rescued and rehabilitated at Blue Reef Aquarium, Newquay and successfully released in Gran Canaria.

Two loggerheads from Wales and one from Ireland have also been rescued and successfully rehabilitated at Blue Reef Aquarium and Dingle Oceanworld. These are expected to be released in Gran Canaria in 2009.

Just one leatherback turtle was reported as being found by-caught entangled in fishing gear in Scotland. It was released alive.

The geographical distribution of the 27 live animals is as follows:- 7 Republic of Ireland, 5 Scotland, 7 England, 6 Wales, 2 Northern Ireland and 0 Isle of Man.

### **Dead turtles**

2 leatherback turtles, 20 loggerhead turtles, 1 Kemp's ridley and 2 unidentified turtles were reported as dead. Of the 25 reports of dead animals all were strandings.

A dead leatherback retrieved from Strangford Lough, Ireland underwent necropsy. Although not considered as the cause of death it was found to have a plastic bag and fishing line in its stomach.

In total 24 loggerheads were found dead or live-stranded and died later.

Two Kemp's ridley turtles underwent *post-mortem* examination and were found to have died from cold shock.

The geographical distribution of the 25 dead animals is as follows - 7 Republic of Ireland, 5 Scotland, 5 England, 8 Wales.

### **Updated turtles**

A live stranded Kemp's ridley turtle reported in January 2006 from Devon is still being cared for at Weymouth Sea Life. Its' release to the U.S. was delayed due to hold ups with the necessary paperwork, however it is hoped that this will now take place in 2009.

### **Data sharing**

TURTLE data has been forwarded to NBN Gateway; OBIS-SEAMAP; OSPAR.

### **TURTLE Record totals**

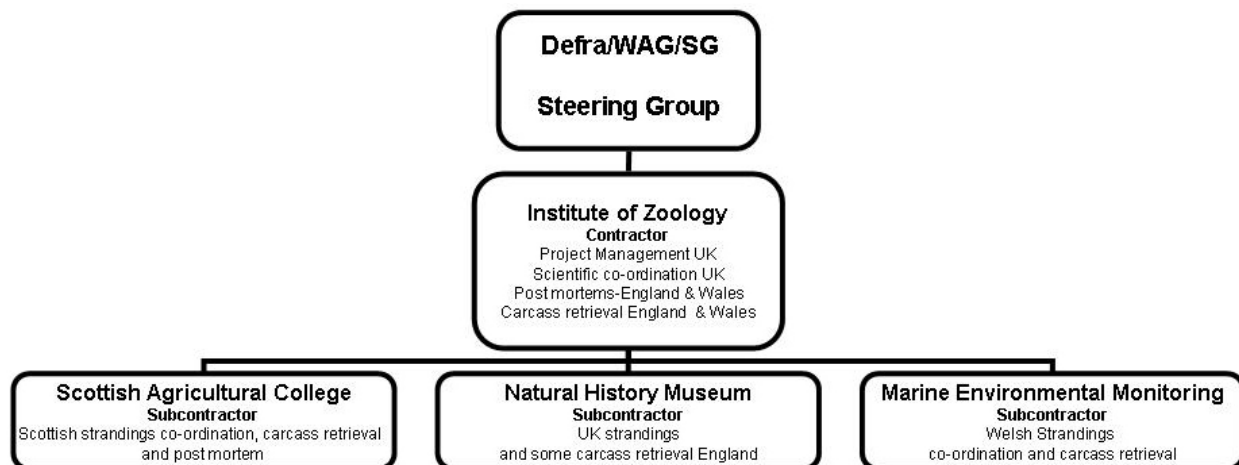
**Current total of 2385** is broken down thus: Republic of Ireland 1224, England 518, Scotland 363, Wales 188, Northern Ireland 39, Isle of Man 28, Channel Isles 12 and Offshore 7.

## 2. 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).

Detailed pathological investigations of stranded marine turtles were included in 2001 and basking sharks in 2007.

The project is now named the ‘Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme’ (CSIP) (see **Figure 1**).



**Figure 1.** Current Technical Co-ordination of the Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP).

### 2.1 The UK Turtle Implementation Group.

In 1999, English Nature, now Natural England, published the UK Marine Turtles Grouped Species Action Plan (SAP) on behalf of the UK Biodiversity Group. The SAP is part of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and aims to enhance marine turtle conservation in UK waters and in the UK Overseas Territories as well as raise awareness and knowledge of their occurrence, legal protection and measures to enhance conservation amongst marine users and the general public. The SAP is being implemented by a group of organisations led by joint lead partners the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) and the Herpetological Conservation Trust (HCT). The contact agency is Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). The Turtle Implementation Group (TIG) consists of the following organisations:-

- **Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)** The Countryside Council for Wales is the Government’s statutory advisor on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and the opportunity for outdoor enjoyment in Wales and its inshore waters. Contact: *Tom Stringell 01248 385780*
- **Herpetological Conservation Trust** is an authority on reptile and amphibian issues and are Lead Partners or joint Lead Partners for all five of the reptile and amphibian Action Plans within the UK BAP [www.herpeconstrust.org.uk](http://www.herpeconstrust.org.uk) Contact: *Tony Gent 01202 391319*
- **Marine Conservation Society (MCS)** is the UK charity dedicated to the protection of the marine environment and its wildlife. MCS is joint Lead Partner of the Marine Turtles Grouped Species Action Plan and coordinates the TIG. Contact: *Sue Ranger or Peter Richardson 01989 566017 [www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)*
- **Marine Environmental Monitoring (MEM)** is a member of the Defra “UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme”, [www.strandings.com](http://www.strandings.com) [www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org) MEM also manages ‘TURTLE’ a UK & Republic of Ireland database holding both records of sightings and strandings of marine turtles dating back to 1748. Contact: *Rod Penrose (Reporting telephone No. 01348 875000)*
- **MEDASSET**, founded in 1988, is an international non-governmental organisation registered as a charity in the UK and as a non profit organisation in Greece, working for the conservation of sea turtles and their habitats throughout the Mediterranean. Its scientific



and educational website [www.euroturtle.org](http://www.euroturtle.org), was developed by Roger Poland, of Kings College, Taunton. Contact: *Lily Venizelos* +30 210 3613572

- **National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)**, part of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, provides the legislative and policy framework for the conservation of nature and biodiversity in the Republic of Ireland. It also oversees its implementation, based on good science, with particular emphasis on the protection of habitats and species, through the designation and conservation of sites under EU Directives and national legislation. Contact *Dr Ferdia Marnell* +3531 8883290.
- **Natural England (NE)** is the Government agency that champions the conservation of wildlife and natural features throughout England. Contact: *Jim Foster* 01733 455251
- **Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)**, is the agency responsible for the implementation of government environmental policy in Northern Ireland. Its aim is “to protect and conserve the natural and man-made environment and to promote its appreciation for the benefit of present and future generations”. Contact: *Gary Burrows*, 028 9056 9571
- **Queen’s University Belfast:** Dr Jonathan Houghton works on the foraging ecology and migratory behaviour of marine turtles with a particular focus on the predator prey interactions of leatherback turtles and gelatinous zooplankton (jellyfish). Contact Dr Jonathan Houghton 028 90972297
- **Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)** is a government body responsible to the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament. SNH promotes the care, improvement, responsible enjoyment, understanding, appreciation and sustainable use of Scotland’s natural heritage. SNH is the contact government point for the Marine Turtles Grouped Species Action Plan. Contact: *Dr Martin Gaywood* 01463 725230.
- **The Wildlife Trusts** is a partnership of 47 Wildlife Trusts, across the UK, caring for more than 2,400 nature reserves. It campaigns for the protection of wildlife and invests in the future by helping people of all ages to gain a greater appreciation and understanding of nature. The Wildlife Trusts Basking Shark Project contributes at sea survey data, from the west coast of Britain on an annual basis. Contact: *Dr Nick Tregenza* 01736 711783
- **University College Cork** *Professor John Davenport* is Head of Department of Zoology & Animal Ecology. He has worked on most species of sea turtles since the early 1980s, conducting fundamental studies on their physiology and biomechanics. He is currently linked to turtle conservation programmes in Bermuda and Cephalonia. Contact: +353 21 490 4051 or *Dr Tom Doyle* +353 (0) 21 4703119
- **University of Exeter, Cornwall Campus** hosts the Marine Turtle Research Group that carries out fundamental and applied research on marine turtles in British waters, the Mediterranean, West Africa and throughout the UK Overseas Territories. Contacts: *Dr Brendan Godley & Dr Annette Broderick* 01326 371 861

### **3. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Contact details vary for different parts of the UK & RoI and the Turtle Code should be consulted for the relevant contacts.

In **England & Wales** a 24 hour answer phone **01348 875000**, is interrogated at regular intervals. A message requests callers to leave details of the stranding or sighting and location, along with their name and contact phone number, so they may be reached if confirmation of details are required. A dedicated email address to receive digital photographs has been created [info@strandings.demon.co.uk](mailto:info@strandings.demon.co.uk) and a mobile phone has been activated to receive ‘phone images’ only Tel. No. **07773 592227**. (If the stranding is a live-stranding a message on the answer-phone informs the caller to contact the RSPCA immediately. see 3.1).

For **Scotland** all records should be reported to Scottish Natural Heritage on **01463 725230** with dead strandings being reported to the Scottish Agricultural College **01463 243030**. Live strandings and entanglements should be reported to the SSPCA on **0131 3390111**.

For **N.Ireland** all records should be reported to the Ulster Museum **02890 3831144** with ‘live/dead’ and entanglements to the Portrush Coastal Zone on **02870 823600**.

In the **Republic of Ireland** all records should be reported to Prof. John Davenport on **00353 (0)21 4904140** (work) and **00353 (0)21 4897392** (home) or Dr Tom Doyle on +353 (0) 21 4703119.

Sightings & strandings can also be reported online in the Republic of Ireland at [www.turtle.ie](http://www.turtle.ie)

UK turtle sightings and strandings can also be reported using the UK Turtle Code online at [www.euroturtle.org/turtlecode](http://www.euroturtle.org/turtlecode)

The following criteria are applied: -

### **3.1 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/turtles in the UK. It has been agreed that in the case of a live-stranding the first point of call would be the RSPCA (England & Wales), SSPCA (Scotland) as they support a manned 24-hour emergency phone. The RSPCA/SSPCA would then contact the relevant organisations, Marine Environmental Monitoring etc.

Contacts and advice can be found in the UK Turtle Code at [www.strandings.com/Turtlepage.html](http://www.strandings.com/Turtlepage.html)

### **3.2 Dead Animals**

---

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

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

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

Health and safety precautions are followed with the animal being handled only with gloved hands. Preferably it is then taken immediately for *post-mortem* examination, but due to funding cuts in 2006 freezing is now an option until transport becomes available.

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

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

Species identified, basic measurements taken together with skin for DNA. Health and safety precautions being observed. Local Authorities then contacted for safe disposal of remains.

All live and dead marine turtles are allocated a "T0000/001" number. "T" designates the animal as a marine turtle, 0000 is the year and /001 is an individual number for each record of the same year. Records of all strandings & sightings in the UK & Republic of Ireland are kept by the Strandings Co-ordinator. Copies of *post-mortem* examination reports are sent from the Strandings Co-ordinator to the finder and others associated with the relevant stranding.

---

<sup>1</sup> Body conditions based on Kuiken, T. and Garcia Hartmann, M (1991) Proceedings of the European Cetacean Society workshop on cetacean pathology: dissection techniques and tissue sampling. ECS newsletter 17, Special issue: 39pp

#### 4. RESULTS

The following three tables include marine turtle 'sightings' and 'strandings' reported through 2008.

**Table 1.**

2008 Total number of reported marine turtles for UK & Eire (live & dead).													
Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Green turtle ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> )	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hawksbill turtle ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> )	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kemp's ridley turtle ( <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> )	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Leatherback turtle ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> )	1	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	6	0	2	0	15
Loggerhead turtle ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> )	9	7	7	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	30
Unidentified	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	5
<b>Total animals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>52</b>

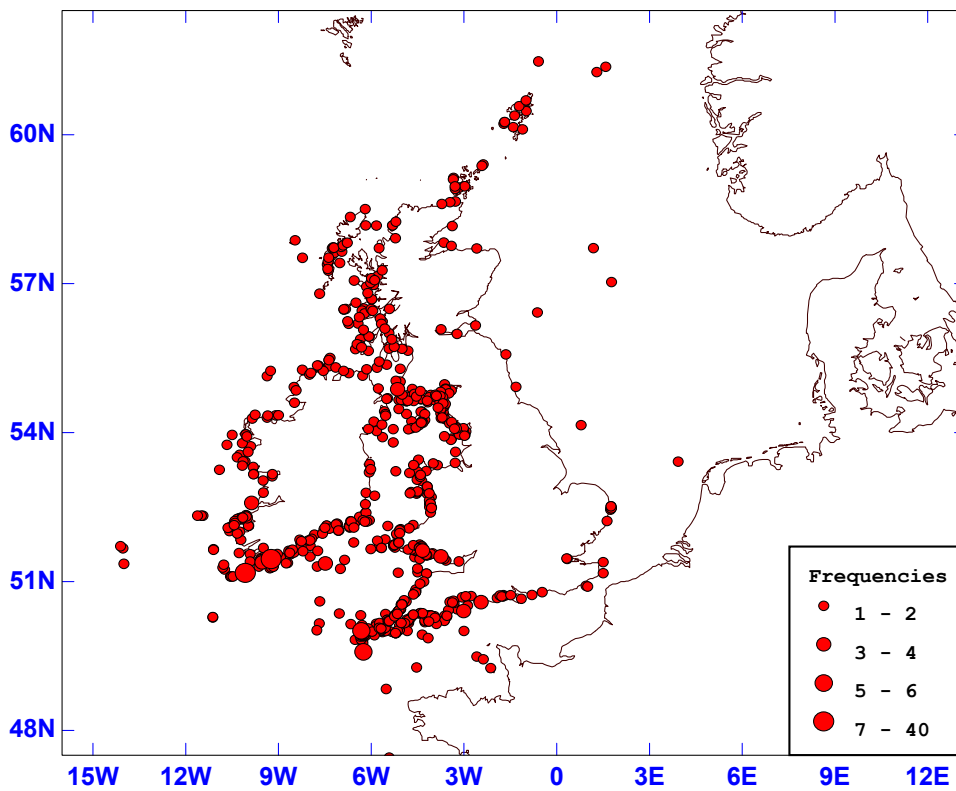
**Table 2.**

2008 Number of live marine turtles.													
Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Green turtle ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> )	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hawksbill turtle ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> )	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kemp's ridley turtle ( <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> )	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Leatherback turtle ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> )	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	6	0	2	0	13
Loggerhead turtle ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> )	3	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	10
Unidentified	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
<b>Total animals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>

**Table 3.**

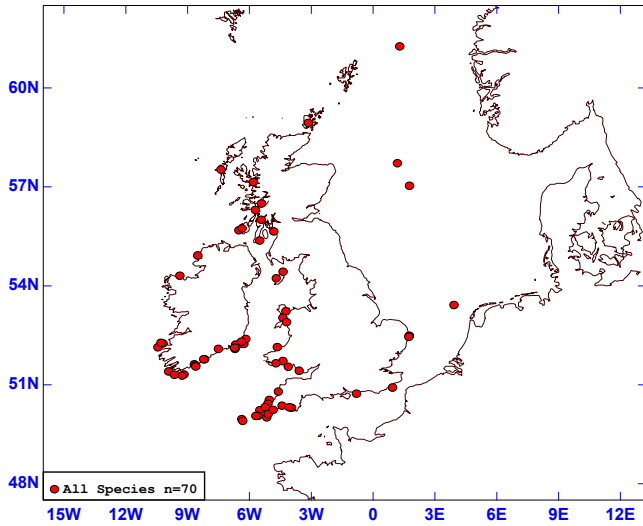
2008 Number of dead marine turtles.													
Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Green turtle ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> )	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hawksbill turtle ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> )	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kemp's ridley turtle ( <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> )	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Leatherback turtle ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> )	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Loggerhead turtle ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> )	6	5	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	20
Unidentified	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total animals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>

The general geographical distribution of each species, strandings and sightings, are plotted on the following maps. Although the maps are generated directly from the data stored, they 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 1 metre apart, even with separations of 100 metres at the scale at which these maps are presented, some symbols may appear to overlap completely.

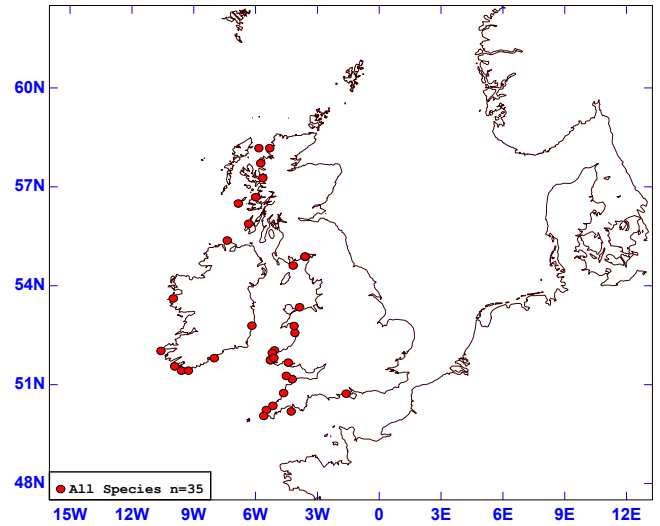


**Figure 2.** *All species sightings & strandings 1998-2008.*

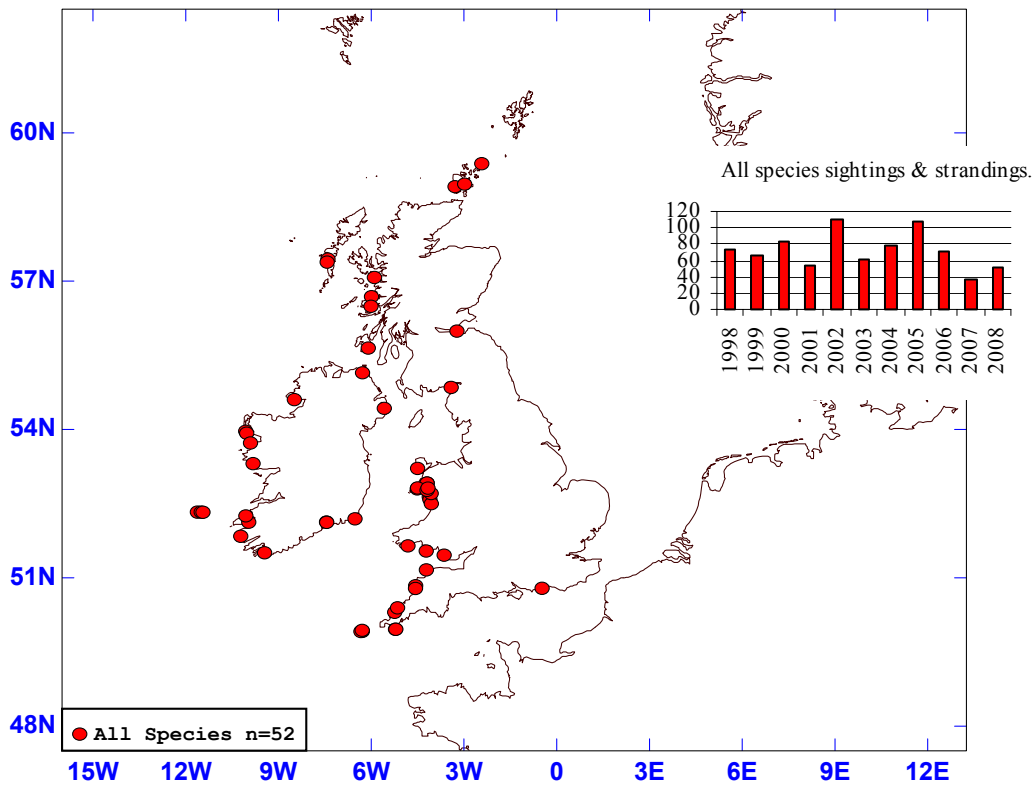
All species, sightings & strandings over the eleven year period 1998-2008 have been plotted in **Figure 2.**



**Figure 3.** All species sightings & strandings 2006.



**Figure 4.** All species sightings & strandings 2007.



**Figure 5.** All species sightings & strandings 2008.



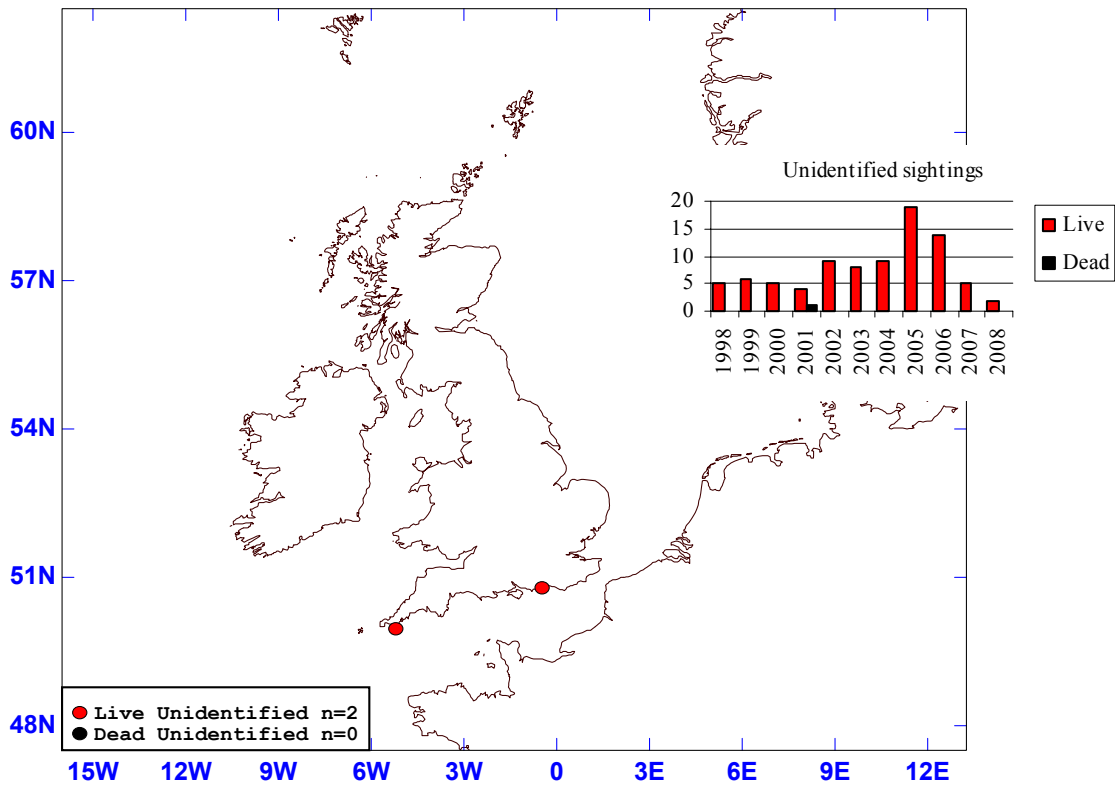


Figure 8. Unidentified sightings 2008.

#### 4.2 Strandings.

No live or dead **green turtles** were reported during 2008. However, ‘strandings’ of both live and dead green turtles have been recorded in recent years as shown in **Figure 9**.

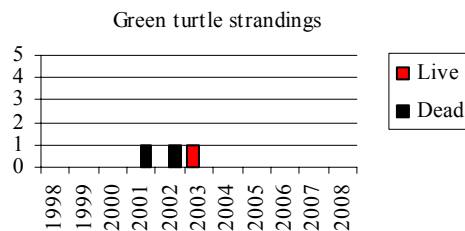


Figure 9. Green turtle strandings.

No live or dead **hawksbill turtle** strandings were reported during 2008. There have been no records of Hawksbill turtle “strandings” in the database. One “sighting” record exists off Cork Harbour in 1983.

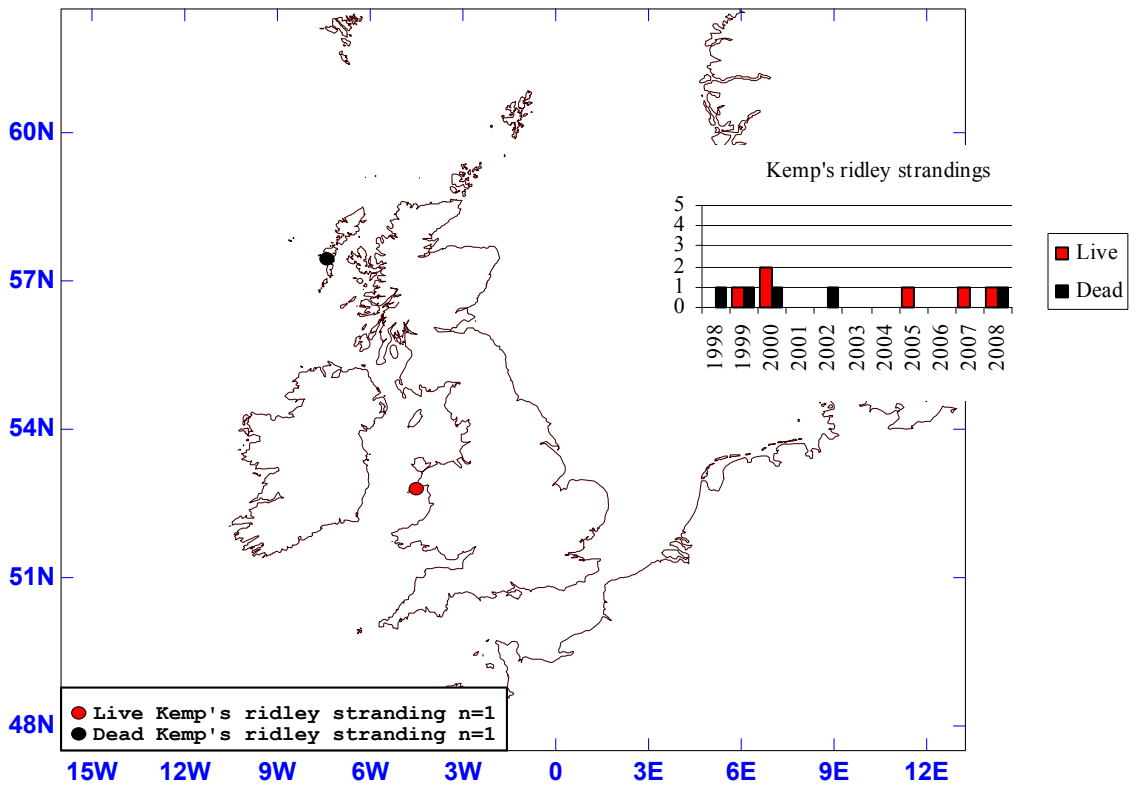


Figure 10. Kemp's ridley strandings 2008.

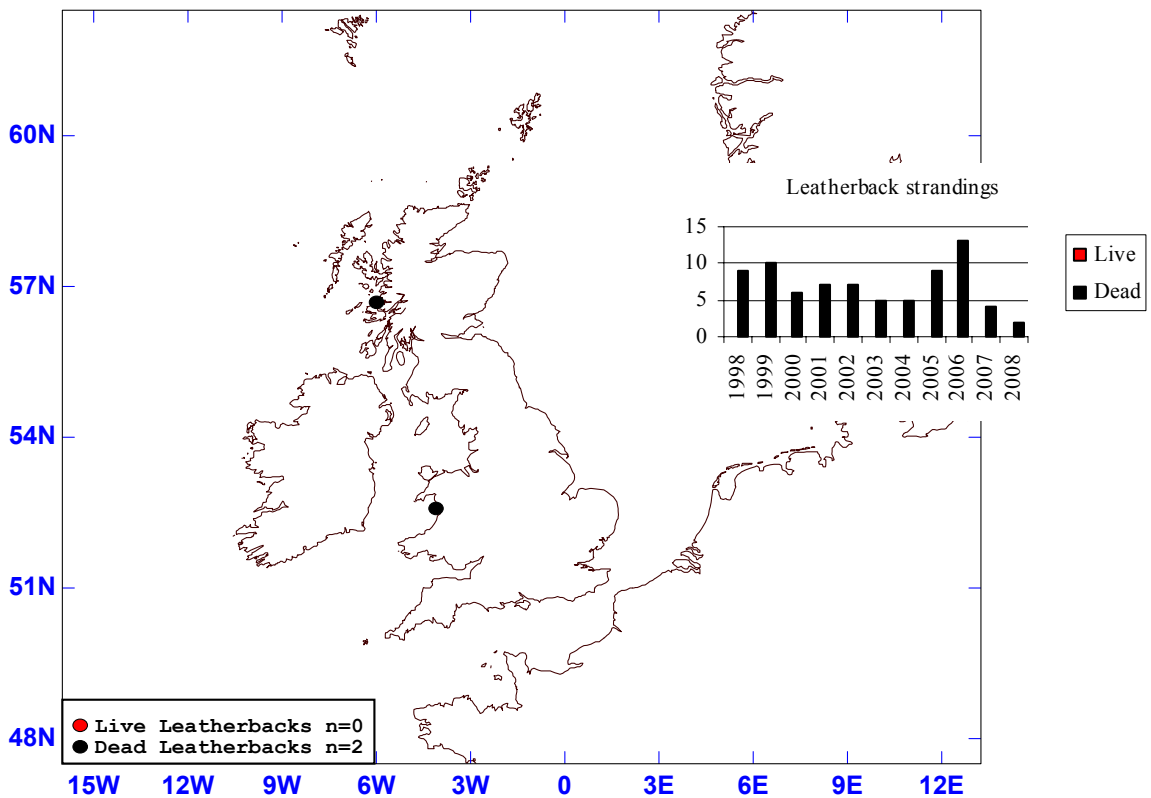


Figure 11. Leatherback strandings 2008.



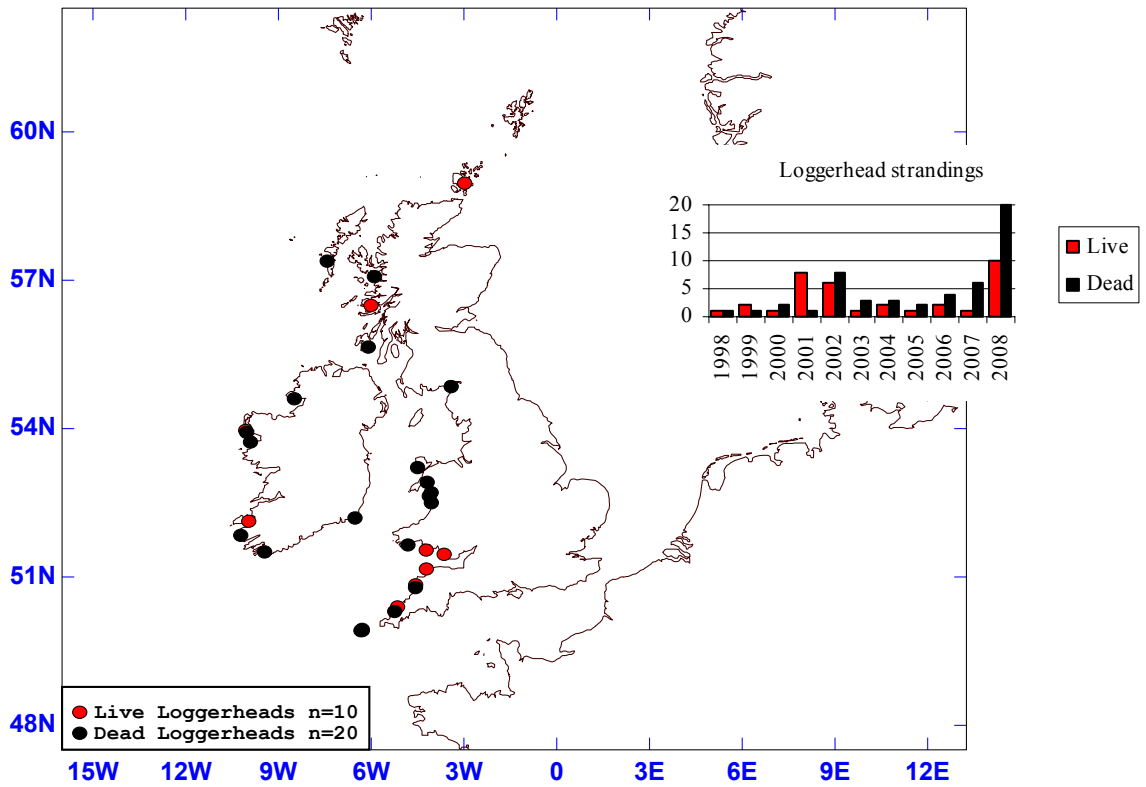


Figure 12. *Loggerhead strandings 2008.*

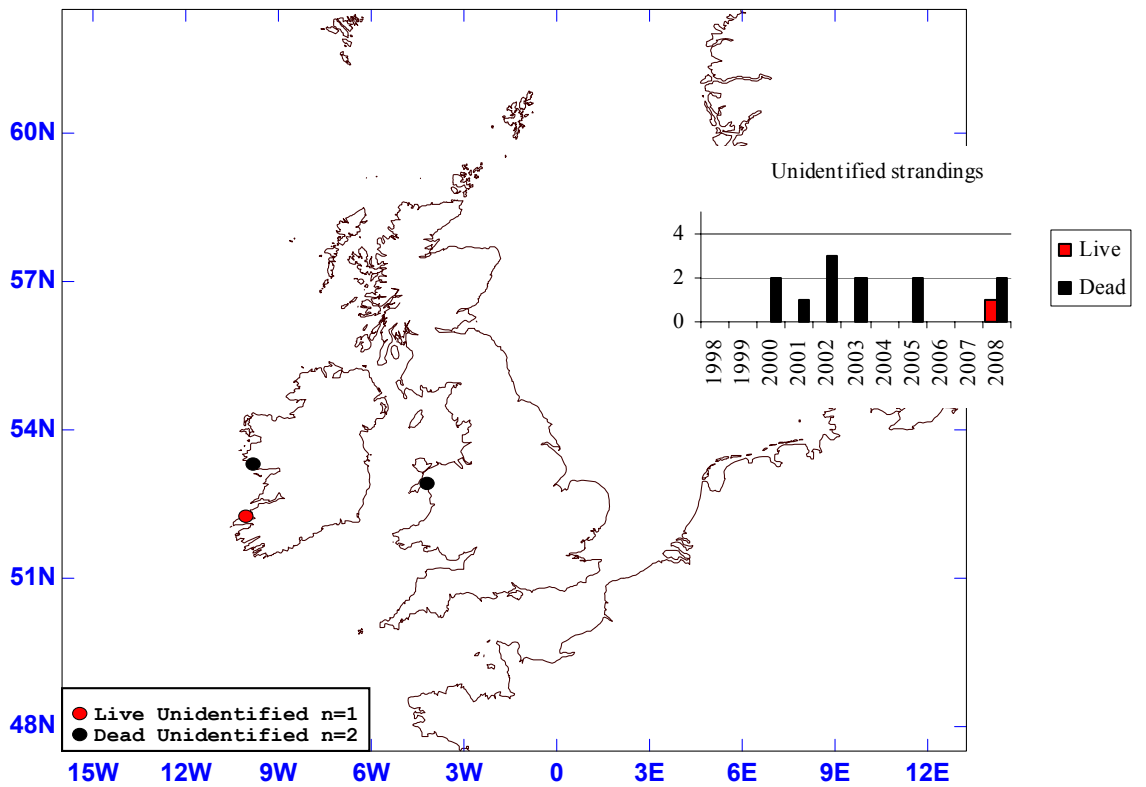
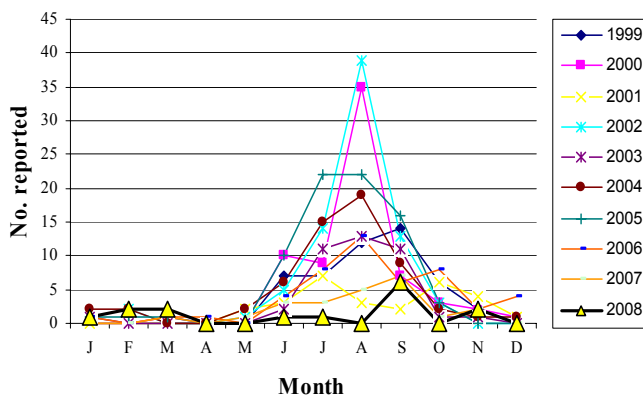


Figure 13. *Unidentified strandings 2008.*

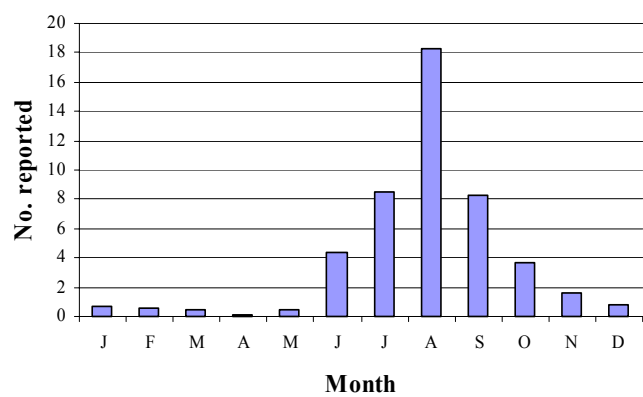
All leatherback strandings and sightings, both dead and alive have been plotted by month for the period 1998 to 2008 shown in **Figure 14**. The average figure was taken over 1998-2008 and plotted in **Figure 15**. The graph clearly shows the increase in numbers through the summer months and gives a good indication on when to expect leatherbacks on the UK & Irish coast.

Numbers of leatherbacks recorded during 2008 were extremely low, the peak number recorded was in September (n=7) still within the expected temporal range as shown in **Figure 15**.

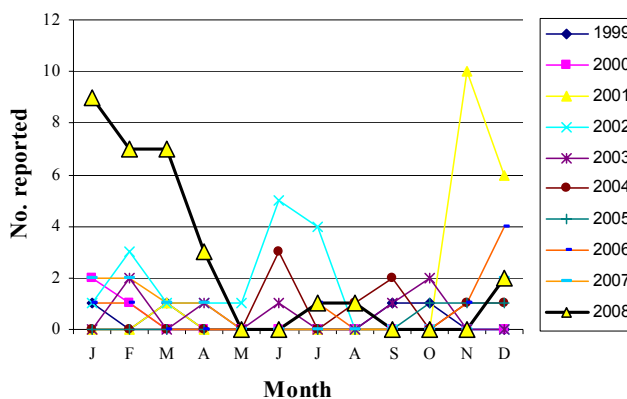
The records for the hard-shell species are more sporadic. Of the hard-shell species the most numerous recorded turtle is the loggerhead. The data for this species are plotted in **Figure 16** and **Figure 17**. It is interesting to note the number of live-stranded loggerheads turtles, found in the UK & Ireland that are either compromised by having a flipper missing or juvenile loggerheads having little body strength due to their size. This would appear to add weight to the theory that these turtles are swept from their home-range by strong currents with these disadvantaged animals unable to maintain headway against this force. Prolonged strong south westerly winds during January and February are thought to be the reason for the record numbers of loggerhead turtles (n=30) recorded in 2008.



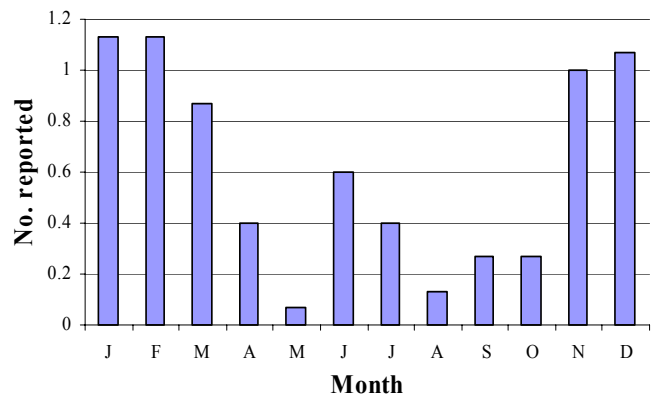
**Figure 14.** All leatherbacks by month.



**Figure 15.** All leatherbacks average over 1998-2008



**Figure 16.** All loggerheads by month.



**Figure 17.** All loggerheads average over 1998-2008.

**Table 4.**

<b>Cumulative number of records.</b>		
<b>Country</b>	<b>All Species</b>	
	<b>2008</b>	<b>1748 - 2008</b>
Rep. of Ireland	14	1224
England	12	518
Scotland	10	363
Wales	14	188
N. Ireland	2	39
Isle of Man	0	28
Channel Islands	0	12
Offshore	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>2379</b>

An additional row has been added to **Table 4.** (Offshore), this includes records from the Bay of Biscay and another sighted whilst on passage to Iceland.

Countries are listed in **Table 4.** by descending order of total number of records shown in the year **1748 – 2008** column.

**Table 5.**

<b>Species Comparison.</b>												
<b>Country</b>	<i>1988 - 1998</i>											
	<b>1998 - 2008</b>											
	<b>GT</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>KR</b>	<b>LBT</b>	<b>LOG</b>	<b>UNI</b>						
England	0	1	0	0	1	7	111	170	9	29	11	50
Scotland	0	2	0	0	0	1	68	96	6	35	17	14
Rep. of Ireland	0	0	0	0	2	0	460	217	22	28	37	19
Wales	0	0	0	0	0	3	47	66	3	14	8	10
Channel Islands	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
N. Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	14	0	0	4	2
Isle of Man	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	13	0	0	2	3
Offshore	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

**GT** = Green turtle, **HB** = Hawksbill turtle, **KR** = Kemp's ridley turtle, **LBT** = Leatherback turtle, **LOG** = Loggerhead turtle, **UNI** = Unidentified turtle.

**Table 6.**

<b>'TURTLE' Database Species Totals (1748 - 2008).</b>	
<b>Species</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Green turtle ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> )	<b>7</b>
Hawksbill turtle ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> )	<b>1</b>
Kemp's ridley turtle ( <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> )	<b>36</b>
Leatherback turtle ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> )	<b>1781</b>
Loggerhead turtle ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> )	<b>206</b>
Unidentified	<b>348</b>
<b>Total animals</b>	<b>2379</b>

The total records held in TURTLE are 2379 (end of 2008). A breakdown of records for each country is shown in **Table 4**. However, the eleven year comparison, 1988-1998 / 1998-2008 shown in **Table 5**, shows a marked decline in all species recorded for the Republic of Ireland compared with increases for nearly all other countries, the high numbers in 1988-1998 are a result of the concerted efforts of Gabriel King in investigating and collecting historical records around the Irish coast.

## **5. MATTERS ARISING.**

### **5.1 Repatriation.**

**T2008/007** a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) named '**James**' was found stranded alive at Blackrock Beach, Widemouth Bay, Bude in Cornwall on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2008. The turtle was taken to Blue Reef Aquarium in Newquay, Cornwall by members of the British Divers Marine Life Rescue. The turtle was successfully flown to Gran Canaria and released together with another loggerhead T2008/011 (below).

PIT tag number 981000002261060 was inserted in the turtles left shoulder prior to being prepared for transportation. The flight took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008 with staff from Blue Reef Aquarium in attendance. We are extremely grateful to Gran Canaria State Veterinarian Pascual Calabuig for receiving this animal and to Thomas Cook and PBS International for flying these animals and producing the Airway Bill free of charge.

**T2008/011** a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) named '**Dink**' was found stranded alive at Putsborough Beach, Braunton, in Devon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008. The turtle was taken to Blue Reef Aquarium in Newquay, Cornwall.

The turtle was successfully flown to Gran Canaria and released together with another loggerhead T2008/007 (above).

PIT tag number 981000002261585 was inserted in the turtles left shoulder prior to being prepared for transportation. The flight took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008 with staff from Blue Reef Aquarium in attendance. We are extremely grateful to Gran Canaria State Veterinarian Pascual Calabuig for receiving this animal and to Thomas Cook and PBS International for flying these animals and producing the Airway Bill free of charge.

The repatriation of both loggerhead turtles was covered by BBC TV. The news item can be viewed at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7477519.stm> and the Turtle 'blog' can be viewed at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7478070.stm>

**T2007/001** was a Kemp's ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempi*) found live-stranded at Woolacombe Beach, Devon on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2007. Luckily the turtle was found by two members, Sarah Gardiner and Steve Hunt, of British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) who managed to stop members of the public from returning the animal to the sea. The turtle was relayed to the RSPCA Centre at West Hatch by RSPCA Inspector Shaun Clements where the turtle was stabilised before being transported to Weymouth Sea Life Centre.

The Kemp's ridley responded well to treatment and was soon fit for release. Current repatriation protocol for Kemp's ridleys is to return them to the US for release, this is unfortunately more involved than returning loggerheads to Gran Canaria as CITES permits are required for movements of these species outside of Europe. The Karen Beasley Topsail Turtle Project in North Carolina was selected as the recipient for the animal and a route was established involving British Airways for the transatlantic flight with the last leg from New York to North Carolina flown by a volunteer private aircraft, all free of charge. A PIT tag 958000001122311 was inserted in the left shoulder in readiness for the journey. Unfortunately, due to a 30 day consultation period required in the US before a CITES permit can be issued, the sea temperatures at North Carolina started to drop below those recommended for a release. As a result the repatriation was postponed and the animal held back at Weymouth.

The attempt to return this animal back to the US for release was restarted in 2008 only to be met again by delays in issuing the relevant paperwork. In frustration I wrote to the American Embassy in London who immediately responded and monitored the application process. The CITES Import permit was finally issued but unfortunately missed the sea temperature 'window' again off the North Carolina coast.

The US CITES Import permit is valid for 12 months and, once applied for, the UK CITES Export permit is valid for 6 months. British Airways have continued to honour their offer of flying the turtle to JFK, I am therefore confident that we should be able to release this animal in 2009.

## **6. LIVE STRANDING EVENTS 2008.**

There were 12 live-strandings of marine turtles reported in 2008.

**T2008/002** was a Kemp's ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempi*) found live-stranded at Porth Ceiriad, Abersoch on the Llyn Peninsula north Wales on the 3rd of January 2008. The animal was driven to Weymouth Sea Life Centre by the Strandings Co-ordinator but it unfortunately died a few days later. Cause of death was: Cold shock.

**T2008/007** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), found live-stranded at Blackrock Beach, Widemouth Bay, Bude in Cornwall on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2008. The turtle was taken to Blue Reef Aquarium in Newquay, Cornwall by members of the British Divers Marine Life Rescue. The turtle was flown to Gran Canaria and released successfully. This event is covered in further detail in '5.1 Repatriation' above.

**T2008/009** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), found live-stranded at Dookinelly, Achill Island, County Mayo, RoI on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2008. The animal was returned to the sea, no further info.

**T2008/011** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), found live-stranded at Putsborough Beach, Braunton, in Devon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008. The turtle was taken to Blue Reef Aquarium in Newquay, Cornwall. The turtle was flown to Gran Canaria and released successfully. This event is covered in further detail in '5.1 Repatriation' above.

**T2008/016** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), found live-stranded on the Isle of Mull, Scotland on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008. The turtle was retrieved to the Oban Sea Life Centre where it unfortunately died on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

Cause of death was: Cold shock.

**T2008/018** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), found live-stranded at Porth Hellick Beach, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The turtle was retrieved to the Blue Reef Aquarium, Newquay, Cornwall where it unfortunately died.

Cause of death was: Cold shock.

**T2008/027** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), found live-stranded at Holywell, Cornwall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008. Died.

Cause of death was: Cold shock.

**T2008/033** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), found live-stranded at Ogmore by Sea, Vale of Glamorgan, south Wales on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2008. The turtle was relayed to Blue Reef Aquarium, Newquay, Cornwall by the RSPCA and British Divers Marine Life Rescue where it was named 'Flash'.

At the time of this report the turtle is doing well and arrangements are being made to fly this animal to Gran Canaria for release in 2009.

**T2008/035** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) found at sea alive off Port Eynon, Gower on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2008. The turtle was recovered by David & Mike Tong of 'Gower Coast Adventures' who found the turtle floating amongst seaweed. The turtle was relayed to Blue Reef Aquarium, Newquay, Cornwall by the RSPCA and British Divers Marine Life Rescue where it was named 'Nemo'.

At the time of this report the turtle is doing well and arrangements are being made to fly this animal to Gran Canaria for release in 2009.

**T2008/036** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), found live-stranded at Inch Strand, County Kerry, RoI on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008. The turtle was retrieved to Dingle Oceanworld, RoI for rehabilitation and later transferred to Blue Reef Aquarium, Newquay, Cornwall UK on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 ready to be flown to Gran Canaria with T2008/033 and T2008/035.

**T2008/046** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), found live-stranded at Scapa Beach, Orkney, Scotland on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008. The turtle was transported to the BDMLR Highland Seal Hospital near John O'Groats where it was found to be dead on arrival.

Cause of death was: Cold shock.

**T2008/051** was an unidentified hardshell turtle found live-stranded near Castlegregory, County Kerry, RoI sometime during Jan/Feb 2008. The turtle was recovered and placed in a tub where it died. No further info.

## 6.1 Rehabilitation

Three live-stranded loggerhead turtles **T2008/033**, **T2008/035** and **T2008/036** listed above had survived to be taken into care, it is hoped these animals will be flown to Gran Canaria and released within the first few months of 2009.

Kemp's ridley turtle **T2007/001** is still held at Weymouth Sea Life Centre but it is hoped this animal will be flown to the US for release soon (further details in 5.1 Repatriation above).

## 7. BYCATCH.

Only one turtle, a leatherback, was reported as by-caught during 2008.

**T2008/044** Leatherback turtle found alive at sea entangled with creel rope around its head and front flippers a quarter of a mile offshore from the south east point of Graemsay, Orkney on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The leatherback was cut free by divers and swam off.

## 8. SAMPLES & POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS.

The normal procedure for the taking of samples is from fresh animals that have been taken for *post-mortem* examination within the CSIP or the Irish Strandings project.

**T2008/002** was a Kemp's ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) found live-stranded at Porth Ceiriad, Abersoch on the Lley Peninsula north Wales on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2008. The animal was driven to Weymouth Sea Life Centre by the Strandings Co-ordinator but it unfortunately died a few days later.

The carcass was recovered to ZSL for *post-mortem* examination within the CSIP project. The animal was found to be a male with a Straight Carapace Length (SCL) of 19.5cm and a Straight Overall Length (SOL) of 25.5cm and a weight of 1.18kg. The cause of death was: Cold shock.



**Plate 1.** Kemp's ridley turtle **T2008/002** en-route to Weymouth.

**T2008/010** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) reported dead at Cae Du, Gwynedd on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2008. The carcass was frozen and delivered to ZSL for examination within the CSIP. The carcass was in good condition (code 2b) with a Straight Carapace Length (SCL) of 25cm and a Straight Overall Length (SOL) of 33cm and a weight of 1.99kg. Cause of death given as: Systemic polymicrobial bacterial infection (pending histology).



**T2008/013** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) found stranded dead at Black Rock Sands, Gwynedd on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The carcass was frozen and delivered to ZSL for examination within the CSIP. The carcass was in a slight to moderate condition with a Straight Carapace Length (SCL) of 44cm and a Straight Overall Length (SOL) of 59cm and a weight of 11.4kg.  
Cause of death was: Poor condition/starvation/hypothermia (cold shock).

**T2008/014** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) found stranded dead at Manorbier, Pembrokeshire on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The carcass was frozen and delivered to ZSL for examination within the CSIP. The carcass was in a moderate condition with a Straight Carapace Length (SCL) of 17cm and a Straight Overall Length (SOL) of 24cm and a weight of 363g.  
Cause of death was: Poor condition/starvation/hypothermia (cold shock).

**T2008/016** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), found live-stranded at Killiechronan on the Isle of Mull, Scotland on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008. The turtle was retrieved to the Oban Sea Life Centre where it unfortunately died on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The carcass was examined by the SAC within the CSIP. The carcass was in a state of slight decomposition with a Straight Carapace Length (SCL) of 47cm and a Straight Overall Length (SOL) of 65cm and a weight of 16.2kg.  
Cause of death was: Cold shock.

**T2008/017** was a Kemp's ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempi*) found stranded dead on Benbecula in the Western Isles on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2008. The carcass was examined by the SAC within the CSIP. The carcass was in a state of slight decomposition with a Straight Carapace Length (SCL) of 24cm and a Straight Overall Length (SOL) of 32cm and a weight of 1.8kg.  
Cause of death was: Cold shock.

**T2008/018** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), found live-stranded at Porth Hellick Beach, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The turtle was retrieved to the Blue Reef Aquarium, Newquay, Cornwall where it unfortunately died. The carcass was delivered to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency in Truro for examination within the CSIP. The carcass was in a fresh condition with a Straight Carapace Length (SCL) of 29cm and a Straight Overall Length (SOL) of 37cm and a weight of 3.8kg.  
Cause of death was: Cold shock.

**T2008/019** was a leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) sighted in Strangford Lough, County Down, Northern Ireland on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The animal was found stranded dead on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February and recovered to Exploris Aquarium, Portaferry. The carcass was delivered to the University Veterinary Hospital, Dublin where it underwent a full post-mortem examination. The carcass was in a fresh condition with a Straight Carapace Length (SCL) of 152cm and a Straight Overall Length (SOL) of 183cm and a weight of 288kg.

Cause of death was: Skull fracture with fistulous tracts extending to brain, and chronic non-suppurative meningitis. (possibly a propeller injury). The stomach contained a plastic bag and some fishing line. Further information on this event can be found in edition 3 of the NIEA COAST magazine at, [http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/ehs\\_coast\\_magazine\\_edition\\_3\\_pdf\\_summer\\_2008.pdf](http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/ehs_coast_magazine_edition_3_pdf_summer_2008.pdf)

**T2008/023** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) found stranded dead at Wanston Mouth, Bude, Cornwall on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008. The carcass was delivered to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency in Truro for examination within the CSIP. The carcass was in a state of slight decomposition with a Straight Carapace Length (SCL) of 47.5 cm and a Straight Overall Length (SOL) of 65cm and a weight of 31kg. There was evidence of recent trauma to the neck which may have been implicated in the animal's demise.

**T2008/026** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) found stranded dead at St Marys, Isles of Scilly Cornwall on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008. The carcass was delivered to the ZSL for examination within the CSIP. The carcass was in a state of slight to moderate decomposition with a Straight Carapace Length (SCL) of 43 cm and a Straight Overall Length (SOL) of 57cm and a weight of 13.9kg.  
Cause of death was: Cold shock.



**T2008/027** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) found stranded dead at Holywell, Cornwall on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2008. The carcass was delivered to the ZSL for examination within the CSIP. The carcass was in a state of slight decomposition with a Straight Carapace Length (SCL) of 26 cm and a Straight Overall Length (SOL) of 34.5cm and a weight of 3kg.  
Cause of death was: Cold shock.

**T2008/029** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) found stranded dead at Armadale, Isle of Skye on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The carcass was delivered to the SAC for examination within the CSIP. The carcass was fresh but had been eviscerated. The Straight Carapace Length (SCL) was 43 cm and a Straight Overall Length (SOL) was not available due to evisceration. The weight of available parts was 8.6kg, weight of intact animal would have been more.  
Cause of death was: Not established due to evisceration.

**T2008/046** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), found live-stranded at Scapa Beach, Orkney, Scotland on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008. The turtle was transported to the BDMLR Highland Seal Hospital near John O'Groats where it was found to be dead on arrival. The carcass was examined by the SAC within the CSIP. The carcass was extremely fresh with a Straight Carapace Length (SCL) of 76cm and a Straight Overall Length (SOL) of 101cm and a weight of 84.0kg.  
Cause of death was: Cold shock.

A full suite of samples, taken as part of the standard CSIP *post-mortem* examination protocol, are routinely collected and archived to aid further research into these species.

## **9. DATA SHARING.**

The TURTLE database was uploaded to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) to include the 2007 UK & Republic of Ireland data.

In June 2008 a request was received to contribute the UK & Republic of Ireland TURTLE database to the OSPAR endangered species and habitats list. The full database was sent in July 2008.

In December 2008 a request was received from OBIS-SEAMAP (<http://seamap.env.duke.edu>) to contribute the TURTLE database to this resource. Following consultation with the Turtle Implementation Group the full database was duly sent.

## **10. UNUSUAL OCCURENCES.**

**T2008/006** was reported to be a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) dead, but in a fresh condition at Cable Bay, Anglesey, north Wales on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2008. The turtle was reported by students who recovered the carcass to a back garden in Bangor north Wales. Nia Jones from Marine Aware North Wales was contacted who agreed to pick the carcass up and relay it to me so this specimen could be examined within the project to establish the cause of death. On arrival to the house at Bangor it was found the turtle had gone, reported as taken by another student to London. Repeated calls on the mobile telephone number given for this person went unanswered, after several weeks it was thought this specimen was lost to the project.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2008 I was contacted by a person living in the Arsenal area of London who awoke that Sunday morning to find what he thought was a dead marine turtle in a state of *rigour-mortis* in the centre of his back garden.

The reporter was convinced it was real and the description indeed matched that of a marine turtle, he could not understand how it got there as his garden had high walls and no external access.

Remembering back to T2008/006 and that the last report was of this animal on its way to London, I thought it may be a possibility, that if stored frozen it could be the same animal and some eight months later the novelty may have worn off and the turtle discarded. I contacted the ZSL CSIP team at London Zoo who agreed to collect the carcass for *post-mortem* examination the next evening. After several missed appointments to recover the turtle the carcass was finally recovered by CSIP staff on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008.



**Plate 2.** *Turtle reported in back garden in London.*

Photo by: Rob Deaville.

‘Made in China’ stamped into the underside of the rubber turtle **Plate 2**. should have been a major clue to the finder. Once the finder was made aware of this he was extremely apologetic and I have no doubts this report was thought to be genuine. A peak over the wall into his neighbours garden revealed many toys including a rubber snake.

I do not believe the episode of T2008/006 and the rubber turtle are related.

**T2008/029** was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) found stranded dead at Armadale, Isle of Skye on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The carcass was examined by the SAC within the CSIP. The carcass was fresh but had been eviscerated and the skeleton removed. The weight of available parts was 8.6kg, weight of intact animal would have been more.

Cause of death was: Not established due to evisceration.

## **11. PUBLICITY.**

The Strandings Web-site has been maintained to provide details of the CSIP. 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/)

Annual reports and other turtle related publications are available at [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.

Records are posted on the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Gateway and these can be accessed at <http://www.searchnbn.net/> The NBN is now the preferred outlet for the database and the database on the strandings.com web-site will no longer be maintained but will be linked to the NBN in future.

## **12. LEGISLATION.**

In 2007 new legislation came in to force in Britain, the "Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) (amendment) Regulations 2007". This makes changes to the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994. Similar changes were also introduced to the equivalent legislation in Northern Ireland, the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995.

It is now prohibited by regulation 39(2)(a) and (b) (and equivalent provisions in Northern Ireland) to possess and transport dead specimens and/or derivatives of species listed on Annex IV to the EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) without a licence, unless the specimen was acquired prior to 10th June 1994.

Sale, purchase and possession of Annex IV species in the Republic of Ireland is covered by regulation 22 of the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997, as revised by the 2005 Habitats (Amendment) Regulations.

Annex IV includes all cetaceans and all marine turtles.

For research and educational purposes the current licensing authorities are the government statutory conservation bodies, Countryside Council for Wales, Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Environment and Heritage Service in Northern Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the Republic of Ireland.

For possession of samples for research or educational purposes licence cover should be obtained via the use of existing general licences or a specific licence. Information and application forms are available from the relevant organisations listed above.

### **13. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.**

Marine Environmental Monitoring wishes to acknowledge the following;

Jemma and Ray Lerwill and Robin Pratt for providing support and base of operations at Fishguard. Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Marine Conservation Society and Tom Doyle for supplying data to the database. 'RSPCA' and British Divers Marine Life Rescue for transportation of live turtles. David & Mike Tong of 'Gower Coast Adventures' for recovery of cold-stunned loggerhead T2008/035. Blue Reef Aquarium and Sea Life Centres in the UK for rehabilitation of cold-stunned turtles. PBS International for producing Airway Bills and Customs Declarations free of charge. Thomas Cook Airways for transporting turtles to Gran Canaria free of charge.

Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural England, National Parks & Wildlife Service and the Countryside Council for Wales for financial support towards the UK & Republic of Ireland TURTLE database.

### **14. APPENDICES.**

Appendix 1.                    2008 Turtle data.

## Appendix 1.

RecordKey	Species	Light	Strait	Alive	Dead	EndDate	Country	County	Location	Notes
T2008/001	LOG	ST	DEAD	01/01/2008	SCOTLAND	ARGYLL & BUTE	Ardbeg, south Islay		Some damage to carapace. No PM carried out. Samples being sent to Bob Reid.	
T2008/002	KR	ST	ALIVE	03/01/2008	WALES	GWYNEDD	Porth Ceiriad, Abersoch, Lleyn Peninsula		Collected by RSPCA and transported by MEM to Weymouth Sea Life. Named Sochs. Died after a couple of days. Sent to ZSL for CSIP PM.	
T2008/003	LOG	ST	DEAD	08/01/2008	EIRE	WEXFORD	Ballyhealy, just east of Kilmoure Key		Very fresh. 41cm CCL. Stored in freezer CMRC/National Maritime College.	
T2008/004	LBT	ST	DEAD	10/01/2008	SCOTLAND	ARGYLL & BUTE	Ardsignish		Almost complete carapace washed up. 1.3m x 0.9m	
T2008/005	LOG	ST	DEAD	18/01/2008	EIRE	KERRY	Inny Strand, Ballinskelligs		Perfect condition. Stored at NMCI.	
T2008/006	LOG	ST	DEAD	19/01/2008	WALES	ANGLESEY	Cable Bay		Taken to Bangor then London?	
T2008/007	LOG	ST	ALIVE	26/01/2008	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	Blackrock Beach, Widemouth Bay, Bude		Taken by BDMLR to Blue Reef Aquarium, Newquay for rehabilitation. Approx 60cm and 16kgs weight. MEM arranging release in Grand Canaria.	
T2008/008	LOG	ST	DEAD	24/01/2008	EIRE	MAYO	Doega, Achill Island		Dead. 20.2 cm. 6lb in weight. Location of carcass not known	
T2008/009	LOG	ST	ALIVE	27/01/2008	EIRE	MAYO	Dookinelly, Achill Island		Returned to sea. Length 43.2 cms 11.6lbs weight	
T2008/010	LOG	ST	DEAD	03/02/2008	WALES	GWYNEDD	Cae Du		Collected and held by MEM. Frozen for PM.	
T2008/011	LOG	ST	ALIVE	02/02/2008	ENGLAND	DEVON	Putsborough Beach, Braunton		Taken to Blue Reef Aquarium, Newquay for rehabilitation. MEM arranging release in Grand Canaria.	
T2008/012	LBT	ST	DEAD	04/02/2008	WALES	GWYNEDD	Tywyn		Head and flippers missing. 1.31m long . 0.89m wide	
T2008/013	LOG	ST	DEAD	07/02/2008	WALES	GWYNEDD	Black Rock Sands		recovered to Portmadoc HM. Collected and held by MEM. Right front flipper missing. Frozen for PM.	
T2008/014	LOG	ST	DEAD	07/02/2008	WALES	PEMBROKESHIRE	Manorbier		recovered and frozen by finder	
T2008/015	LOG	ST	DEAD	22/01/2008	EIRE	CORK	Hare Island		Stored in freezer CMRC/National Maritime College. 51cm CCL	
T2008/016	LOG	ST	ALIVE	31/01/2008	SCOTLAND	ARGYLL & BUTE	Killichronan, Mull		Taken to Oban Sea Life for rehab. Lge animal male? Died - 080208	
T2008/017	KR	ST	DEAD	07/01/2008	SCOTLAND	WESTERN ISLES	Benbecula		Pending PM with Bob Reid Small, 37cm . Frozen for museum?	
T2008/018	LOG	ST	ALIVE	13/02/2008	ENGLAND	ISLES OF SCILLY	Porth Hellick Beach, St Mary's		Taken to Blue Reef Aquarium - died.	
T2008/019	LBT	SEA	ALIVE	15/02/2008	NORTHERN IRELAND	DOWN	Strangford Lough. Portsferry - Kircubbin		Cold stored in Dublin awaiting PM.	
T2008/020	LOG	ST	DEAD	24/02/2008	SCOTLAND	WESTERN ISLES	Ardivachair, St Uist		found on beach 3 x Photo sent. Intact except for head but maggoty. Not retrieved for PM.	
T2008/021	UNI	ST	DEAD	03/03/2008	WALES	GWYNEDD	Criccieth		dead on beach - disappeared after report	
T2008/022	LOG	ST	DEAD	08/03/2008	WALES	CEREDIGION	Borth beach		small turtle dead on beach - retrieved for MEM. Decomposed not suitable for PM. Held by MEM.	
T2008/023	LOG	ST	DEAD	12/03/2008	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	Wanstow Mouth, Bude		taken for PM at VLA lab	
T2008/024	LOG	ST	DEAD	22/03/2008	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	Chapel Porth Beach, St Agnes		Finder Chris Ryan.	
T2008/025	LBT	SEA	ALIVE	13/03/2008	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	off Lizard		no details available	
T2008/026	LOG	ST	DEAD	27/03/2008	ENGLAND	ISLES OF SCILLY	The Garrison, St Mary's		18 ins across. Stored frozen at CWT for IOZ. Finder, Julie Love, Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust. Collected IOZ 1/5/08.	
T2008/027	LOG	ST	ALIVE	02/04/2008	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	Holywell		Stored frozen at VLA Polwhele. Collected by IOZ 1/5/08	
T2008/028	LOG	ST	DEAD	18/03/2008	ENGLAND	ISLES OF SCILLY	Innisidgen Island nr St Mary's		Finder Phil Deason. Carapace given as around 20 - 24 inches front to back. Retrospective report 10th April. Possible duplicate of T2008.026	
T2008/029	LOG	ST	DEAD	12/02/2008	SCOTLAND	HIGHLAND	Armadale, Isle of Skye			
T2008/030	LOG	ST	DEAD	14/04/2008	WALES	GWYNEDD	Fairbourne		Collected and stored frozen by Sal Shipley. Held by MEM 28th April 2008.	
T2008/031	LOG	ST	DEAD	15/04/2008	EIRE	MAYO	Sruhri Strand, beside Killen and Killadon, SW of Louisburgh		Dead. 22 cm long	
T2008/032	UNI	SEA	ALIVE	03/07/2008	ENGLAND	WEST SUSSEX	East Preston - one mile out		Seen whilst wind surfing. Larger than dustbin lid - green/brown.	
T2008/033	LOG	ST	ALIVE	19/07/2008	WALES	VALE OF GLAMORGAN	Ogmore by Sea		Small turtle. Found by Mr Major. Taken to RSPCA West Hatch (Shawn Clements) for stabilisation. Now at Blue Reef. Released in Canary Isles 10/02/09	
T2008/034	LBT	SEA	ALIVE	16/07/2008	WALES	GWYNEDD	near Porth Bach, Machros, Abersoch		Large LBT 200m offshore. Seen from rocks while fishing. Glassy calm. No craft on the water. Observer familiar with hardshells.	
T2008/035	LOG	ST	ALIVE	02/08/2008	WALES	SWANSEA	off Port Eynon, Gower		Recovered by 'Gower Coast Adventures' seen floating amongst seaweed. Taken to Blue Reef Aquarium for rehab. Released in Canary Isles 10/02/09	
T2008/036	LOG	ST	ALIVE	04/03/2008	EIRE	KERRY	Inch Strand		Undernourished - Taken to Dingle Aquarium for rehab. MEM notified on 2nd Sept as being ready for release. Taken to Blue Reef Nov. Released in Canary Isles 10/02/09.	
T2008/037	LBT	SEA	ALIVE	21/09/2008	WALES	GWYNEDD	near Shell Island, Harlech		LBT feeding 150 metres off headland. Approx 2m long. Seen for 2 mins from boat. (possibly same as T2008/038)	
T2008/038	LBT	SEA	ALIVE	22/09/2008	WALES	GWYNEDD	near Sam Badrig		LBT from boat. Approx 8 ft long. (Possibly same as T2008/037)	
T2008/039	LBT	SEA	ALIVE	21/03/2008	EIRE	WATERFORD	Ballyvooney Cove		Seen inshore	
T2008/040	LBT	SEA	ALIVE	07/09/2008	EIRE	OFFSHORE	Porcupine Bank 100KM west of Dingle		Offshore	
T2008/041	LBT	SEA	ALIVE	07/09/2008	EIRE	OFFSHORE	Porcupine Bank		Offshore	
T2008/042	LBT	SEA	ALIVE	07/09/2008	EIRE	OFFSHORE	Porcupine Bank		Offshore	
T2008/043	UNI	SEA	ALIVE	26/10/2008	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	off Lizard near Helston		Seen 10 metres from land/rocks for 20 mins plus.	
T2008/044	LBT	SEA	ALIVE	10/11/2008	SCOTLAND	ORKNEY	Scapa Flow. Quarter mile offshore from south east point of Graemsey		1.5 x 1m Found tangled in creel rope round head and flippers ,by divers. Rope cut Animal released. Some grazing to neck and flipper otherwise looked healthy. Dived and surfaced.	
T2008/045	LBT	SEA	ALIVE	16/11/2008	SCOTLAND	MID Lothian	in Granton Harbour, Firth of Forth		1.5m seen swimming strongly into and out of the harbour.	
T2008/046	LOG	ST	ALIVE	18/12/2008	SCOTLAND	ORKNEY	Scapa beach on mainland Orkney.		Originally reported as a leatherback, turtle to be transported to BDMLR Highland Seal Hospital near John O' Groats. Carcase with SAC Inverness.	
T2008/047	LOG	ST	DEAD	24/12/2008	ENGLAND	CUMBRIA	Silloth		found on beach 2 x Photo sent. Intact except for eyes. Not retrieved for PM.	
T2008/048	LBT	SEA	ALIVE	24/06/2008	SCOTLAND	ORKNEY	North Ronaldsay		Seen by seawatcher through telescope. Est at least 5 ft long.	
T2008/049	LOG	ST	DEAD	12/03/2008	EIRE	DONEGAL	Kilcar Beach (near Killybegs)		Eyes pecked out, damaged to flippers. Stored in MI lab in Killybegs.	
T2008/050	UNI	ST	DEAD	30/04/2008	EIRE	GALWAY	Carna Strand		Stored in Carna research lab.	
T2008/051	UNI	ST	ALIVE	28/02/2008	EIRE	KERRY	Castlegregory ?		Taken to house and put in tub - died. Plotted as Castlegregory.	
T2008/052	LBT	SEA	ALIVE	21/09/2008	NORTHERN IRELAND	ANTRIM	Rathin Island		Seen 3 times swimming west. Submerged when within 20 metres of scuba diving boat (Dalkey scubadivers from Dublin).	