

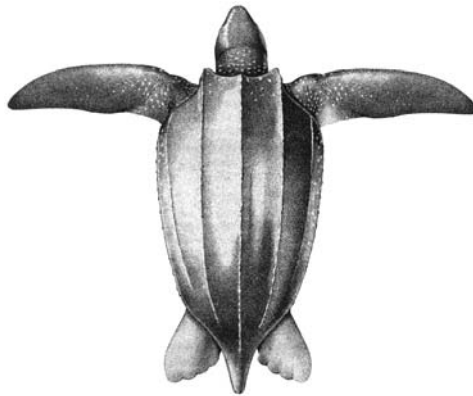


Marine Environmental Monitoring

www.strandings.com

UK & Eire Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2004

R.S.Penrose. February 2005



**Marine
Environmental
Monitoring**



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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 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 are carried out by the Department of Veterinary Pathology, University of Liverpool, the Zoological Society of London, the Veterinary Investigation centre, Truro and the Scottish Agricultural College, Inverness. In addition to pathological and related investigations, a range of frozen and fixed material, collected *post-mortem*, are currently archived at the Zoological Society of London. 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 sightings and strandings of live and dead marine turtles are kept by the Welsh Strandings Co-ordinator within the “Collaborative UK Marine Mammal & Marine Turtle Strandings Project”.

1.1 The UK Turtle Implementation Group.

In 1999, English Nature 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 statutory advisor to government on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and the opportunity for outdoor enjoyment throughout Wales and its inshore waters. Contact: *Tom Stringell 01248 385780*
- **English Nature (EN)** is the Government agency that champions the conservation of wildlife and natural features throughout England. Contact: *Jim Foster 01733 455251*
- **Environment and Heritage Service** 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: *John Milburne 02890 546558*
- **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, was developed by Roger Poland, and is hosted by Exeter University. Contact: *Lily Venizelos +30 210 3613572*
- **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. Contact: *Tony Gent 01202 391319*
- The **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*
- **Marine Environmental Monitoring (MEM)** is a member of the Defra “Collaborative UK Marine Mammal & Marine Turtle Strandings Project”, www.strandings.com. MEM also manages ‘TURTLE’ a UK & Eire database holding both records of sightings and strandings of marine turtles dating back to 1748. Contact: *Rod Penrose (Reporting telephone No. 01348 875000)*
- **The Marine Turtle Research Group (MTRG)** University of Exeter in Cornwall, Carries out fundamental and applied research on marine turtles in British waters, the Mediterranean, West Africa and throughout the UK Overseas

- Territories. Staff edit the international Marine Turtle Newsletter www.seaturtle.org/mtn Contacts: *Dr Brendan Godley & Dr Annette Broderick 01872 865389*
- **Professor John Davenport** is Head of Department of Zoology & Animal Ecology at University College Cork. 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
- **Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)** is a government body responsible to the Scottish Executive 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 0131 446 2444*
- **University of Wales, Swansea:** Dr Graeme Hays and Dr Jonathon Houghton are currently coordinating an INTERREG project with Prof. John Davenport to investigate the ecological relationship between leatherbacks and jellyfish in the Irish Sea. Contact: *Dr John Houghton 01792 205678*
- **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. Contact: *Colin Speedie 07836 746197*

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Contact details vary for different parts of the UK 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. (If the stranding is a live stranding then a message on the answer phone informs the caller to contact the RSPCA immediately. see 2.1).

For **Scotland** all records should be reported to Scottish Natural Heritage on **0131 4474784** 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 Countryside Centre 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).

UK turtle sightings and strandings can also be reported using the UK Turtle Code online at www.euroturtle.org/turtlecode

The following criteria are applied: -

2.1 Live Animals

(Condition code 1)¹

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 (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

2.2 Dead Animals

(Condition code 2a extremely fresh as if just died)¹

(Condition code 2b slight decomposition)¹

Health and safety precautions are followed with the animal being handled only with gloved hands. It is then taken immediately for *post-mortem* examination.

¹ Body condition based on the Zoological Society of London condition code.

(Condition code 3 moderate decomposition)¹

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 +4⁰ Celsius is permissible for a maximum of 1 week.

(Condition code 4 advanced decomposition)¹

(Condition code 5 mummified carcass)¹

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 “T0000/01” number. “T” designates the animal as a marine turtle, 0000 is the year and /01 is an individual number for each record of the same year. Records of all strandings & sightings in the UK & Eire 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.

3. RESULTS

The following three tables include all marine turtle ‘sightings’ and ‘strandings’ reported through 2004.

Table 1.

2004 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>)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leatherback turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	2	2	0	0	1	5	14	14	5	2	1	1	47
Loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	6
Unidentified	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	6
Total animals	2	2	0	1	1	8	14	16	9	2	2	2	59

Table 2.

2004 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>)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leatherback turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	1	2	0	0	1	4	13	14	4	0	0	0	39
Loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
Unidentified	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	6
Total animals	1	2	0	1	1	6	13	16	8	0	0	0	48

Table 3.

2004 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>)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leatherback turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	1	8
Loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
Unidentified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total animals	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	2	2	11

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.

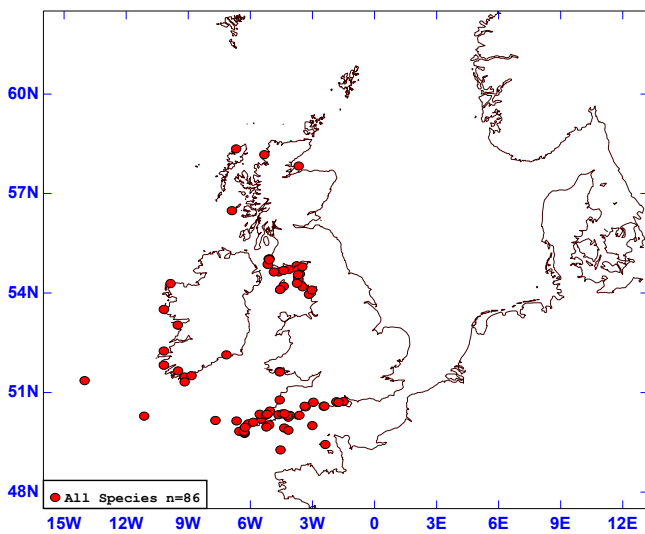


Figure 1. All species sightings & strandings 2002.

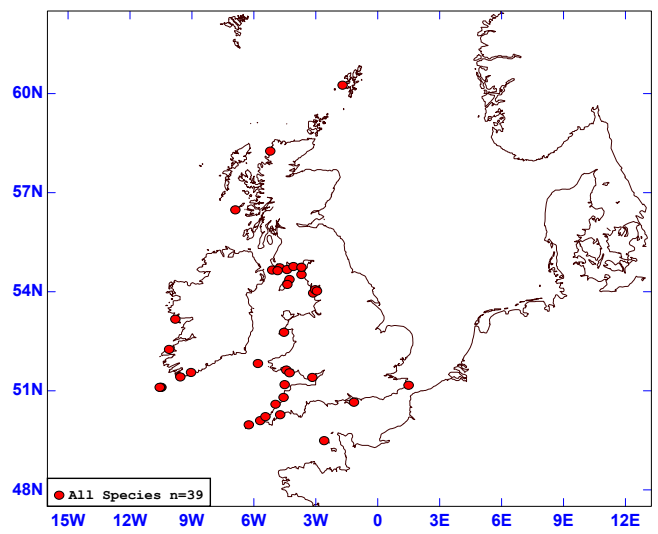


Figure 2. All species sightings & strandings 2003.

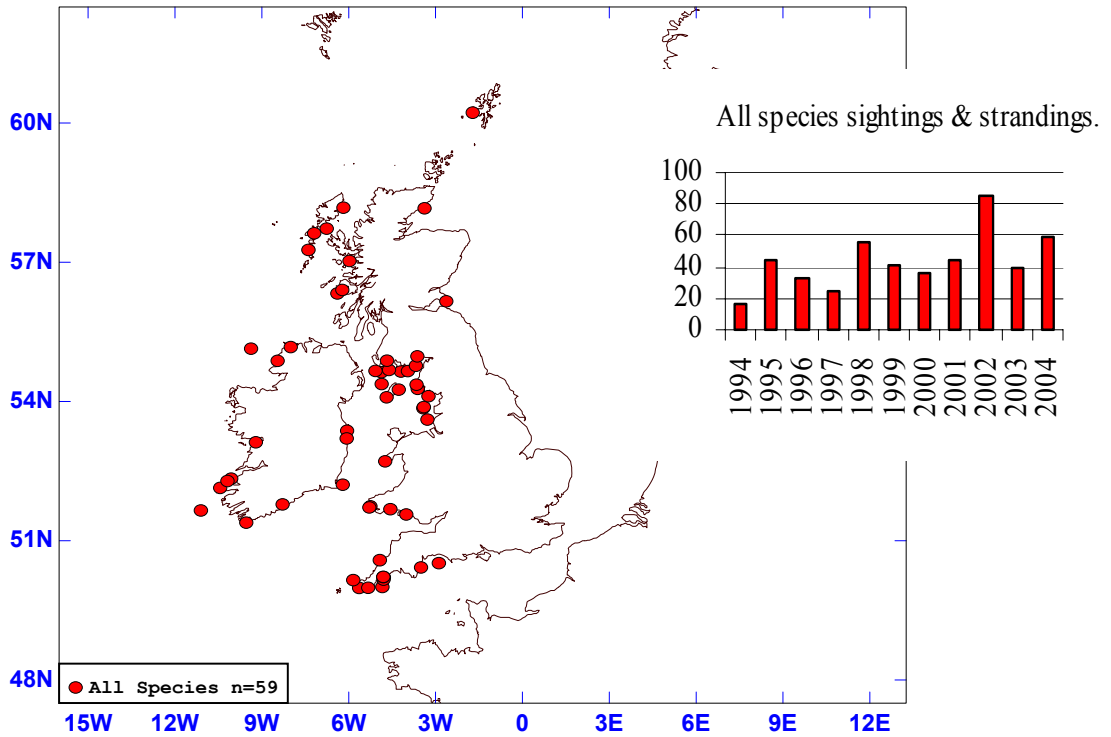


Figure 3. All species sightings & strandings 2004.

3.1 Sightings.

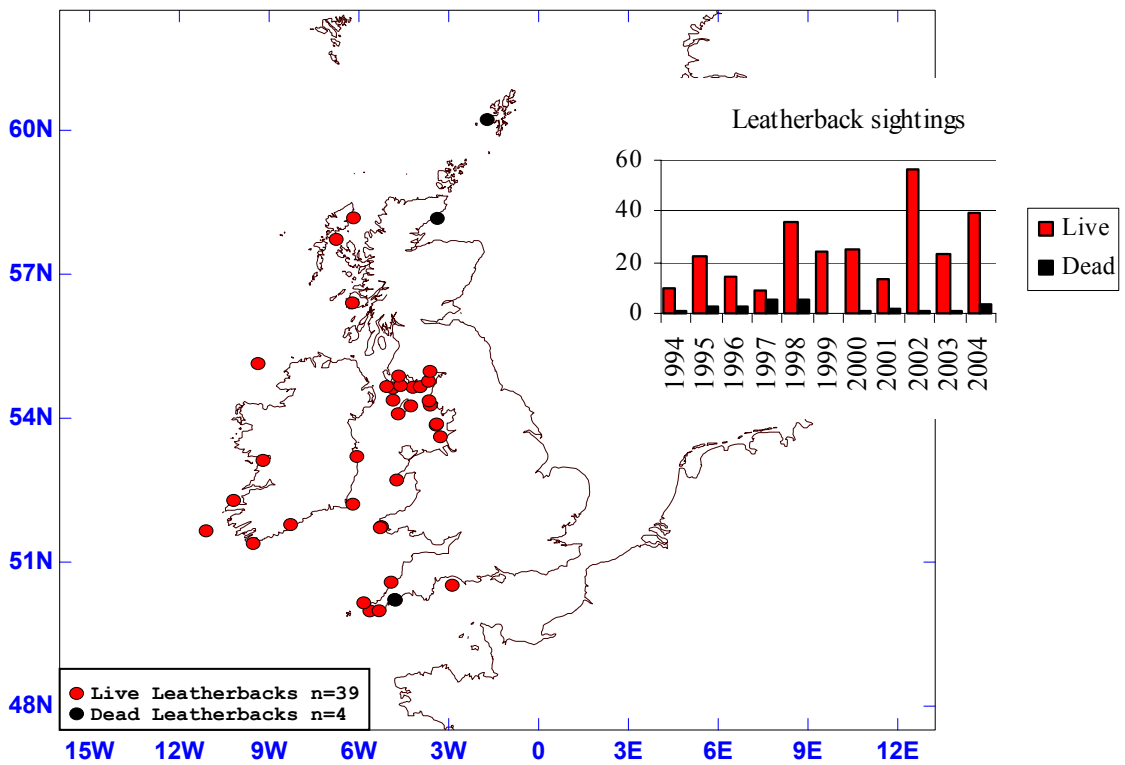


Figure 4. Leatherback sightings 2004.

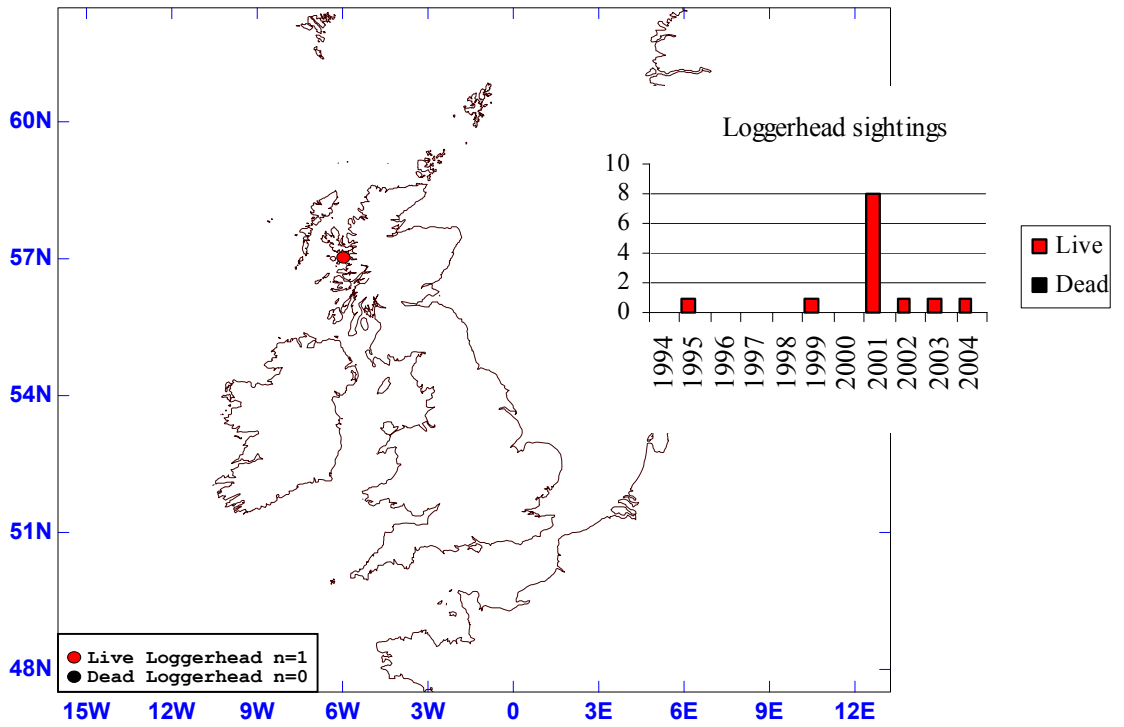


Figure 5. *Loggerhead sightings 2004.*

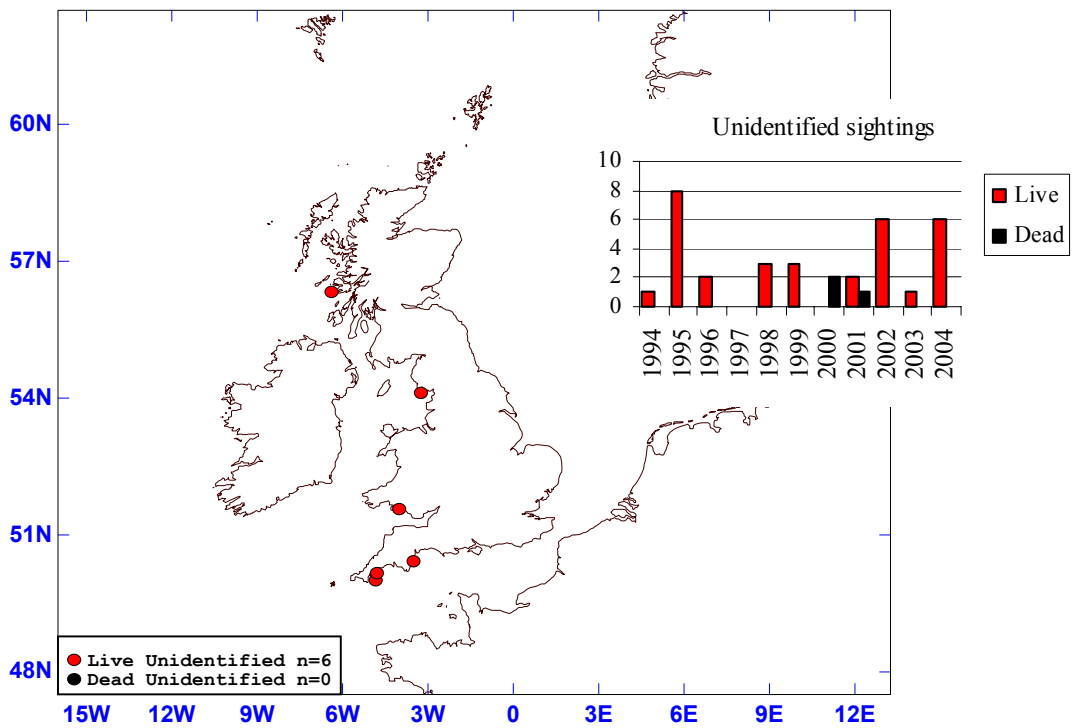


Figure 6. *Unidentified sightings 2004.*

3.2 Strandings.

No live or dead green turtles were reported during 2004. However, 'strandings' of both live and dead green turtles have been recorded in recent years as shown in **Figure 7**.

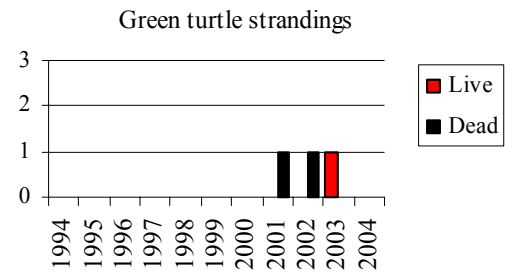


Figure 7. Green turtle strandings.

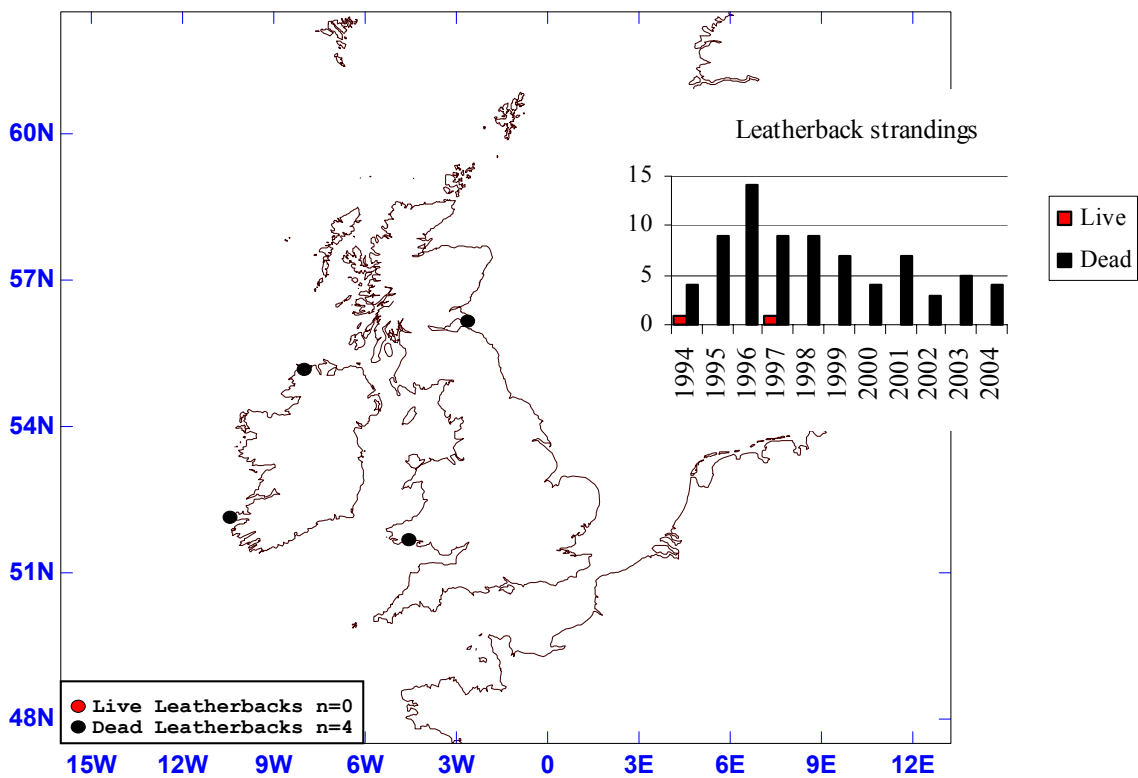


Figure 8. Leatherback strandings 2004.

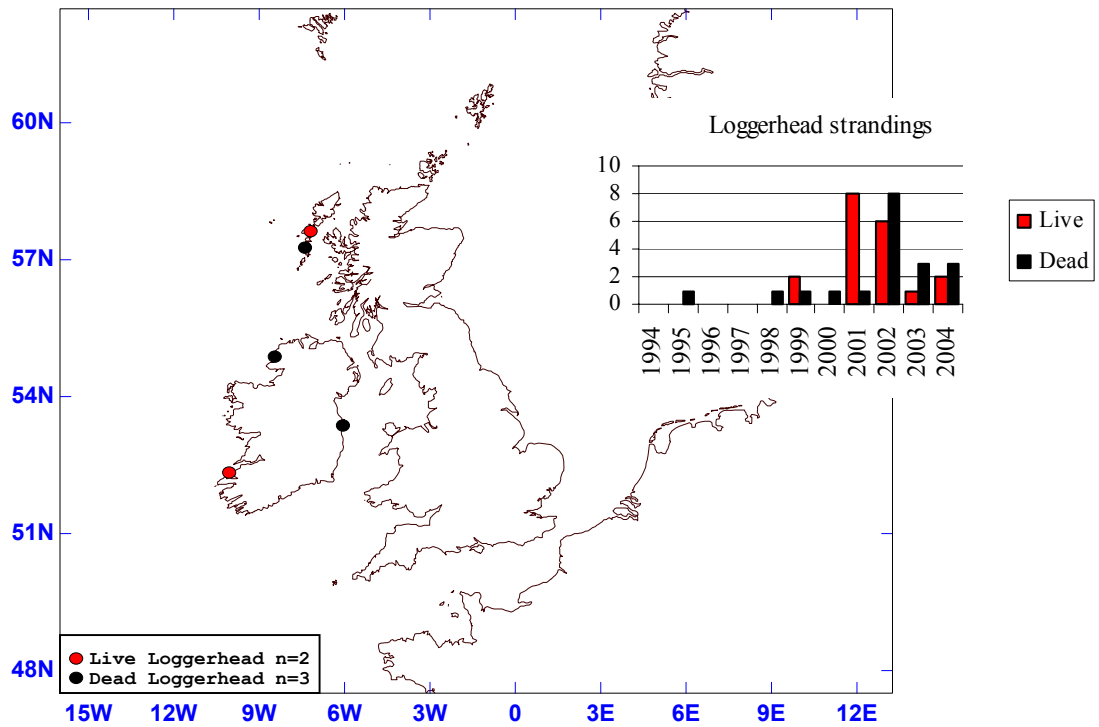


Figure 9. *Loggerhead strandings 2004.*

No live or dead unidentified strandings were reported during 2004. However, unidentified strandings have been recorded in recent years as shown in **Figure 10**.

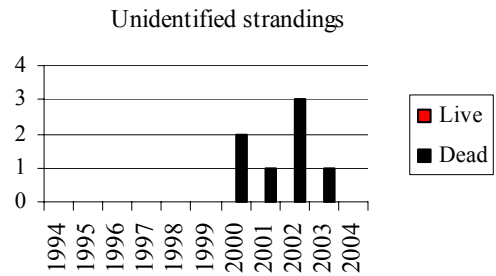


Figure 10. *Unidentified strandings.*

No live or dead Kemp's ridley turtle strandings were reported during 2004. However, strandings of both live and dead Kemp's ridley turtles have been recorded in recent years as shown in **Figure 11**.

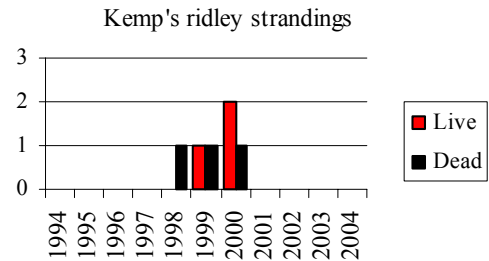


Figure 11. *Kemp's ridley strandings.*

Significant numbers of leatherbacks were recorded in June, July, August and September **Table 1**. All leatherback, strandings and sightings, both dead and alive have been plotted by month for the period 1994 to 2004 shown in **Figure 12**.

The average figure was taken over this period and plotted in **Figure 13**. 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 coast. Unfortunately, the records for the hard-shell species are more sporadic.

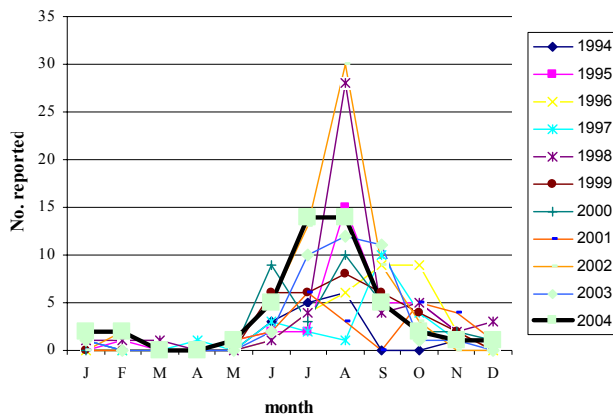


Figure 12. All leatherbacks by month.

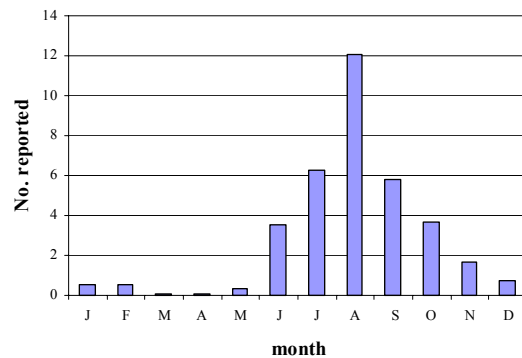


Figure 13. All leatherbacks average over 1994-2004.

Table 4.

Cumulative number of records.		
Country	All Species	
	2004	1748 - 2004
England	21	416
Scotland	17	273
Eire	15	220
Wales	5	123
Channel Islands	0	11
N. Ireland	0	6
Total	58	1049

A leatherback turtle was reported in the Bay of Biscay, this has been included in the database but not shown in **Table 4** bringing the 2004 total to 59 and the database total to 1050.

Countries are listed in **Table 4**. by descending order of total number of records shown in the year **1748 – 2004** column.

Table 5.

Species Comparison.												
Country	1984 - 1994						1994 - 2004					
	GT		HB		KR		LBT		LOG		UNI	
England	0	1	0	0	0	4	77	162	10	15	7	25
Scotland	0	2	0	0	0	0	50	78	5	19	16	9
Eire	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	83	15	16	0	1
Wales	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	66	3	2	1	6
Channel Islands	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
N. Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Total	0	4	0	0	0	6	156	389	33	54	25	42

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

Table 6.

'TURTLE' Database Species Totals (1748 - 2004).	
Species	TOTAL
Green turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)	7
Hawksbill turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>)	1
Kemp's ridley turtle (<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>)	29
Leatherback turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	716
Loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)	142
Unidentified	155
Total animals	1050

4. MATTERS ARISING.

4.1 Retrospective Reports.

Twelve retrospective reports were received during 2004, these have been added to the database and will be uploaded to the TURTLE Web-site together with the 2004 records.

T1999/41 Leatherback turtle, alive at sea, 17th July 1999, off the Gower, Swansea.

T2000/29 Unidentified turtle, alive at sea, August 2000, off Roseland, Cornwall.

T2000/30 Leatherback turtle, alive at sea, 26th June 2000, 6 hrs from Scillies, Eire.

T2000/31 Unidentified turtle, alive at sea, June 2000, entangled released, off Cork Harbour.

T2002/90 Loggerhead turtle, stranded dead, 23rd July 2002, Marwick, Orkney.

T2003/41 Leatherback turtle, alive at sea, 8th September 2003, offshore, Eire.

T2003/42 Leatherback turtle, alive at sea, June or July 2003, off Ballydvid, Eire.

T2003/43 Leatherback turtle, alive at sea, 30th August 2003, offshore, Eire.
T2003/44 Leatherback turtle, alive at sea, August 2003, offshore, Eire.
T2003/45 Leatherback turtle, alive at sea, August 2003, offshore, Eire.
T2003/46 Leatherback turtle, alive at sea, 21st July 2003, NW of Cape Clear, Eire.
T2003/47 Leatherback turtle, alive at sea, July 2003, entangled released, Galway, Eire.

5. LIVE STRANDING EVENTS 2004.

There were only two live-strandings of marine turtles reported in 2004.

T2004/07 was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) found stranded on the 15th June on North Uist, Western Isles, Scotland. The animal was collected and taken by ferry to the Oban Sealife Centre for rehabilitation. The animal had the right front flipper missing (healed injury) and sunken encrusted eyes. (see 5.1 Rehabilitation.)

T2004/36 was also a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), found stranded in August on a beach near Maharees, Kerry, Eire. The animal was taken to the Dingle Aquarium. (see 5.1 Rehabilitation.)

5.1 Rehabilitation

Loggerhead turtle **T2004/07** was found hauled out amongst sand dunes on North Uist, Western Isles, Scotland on the 15th June. The animal had its right front flipper missing and damage to its shell and eyes (healed injuries) and was originally thought to be dead by tourists who found it. A few hours later it was reported as being alive and with the assistance of SSPCA, SNH and HM Coastguard the animal was retrieved and placed on a ferry the next day to Oban (6-8hr journey). The animal was cared for on the journey by a crew member who was also auxiliary coastguard. The animal was taken to the Sealife Centre at Oban who had been contacted and were awaiting arrival of the turtle.

On arrival at Oban, the eyes of the animal were found to be very sunken scratched and cloudy and the turtle was moving about albeit slowly. The turtle was cared for by Jamie Dyer at Oban and it slowly began to show progress as the temperature of the low level of water in the holding tank was raised over the following days. The animal continued to progress well and was moved to the Sealife Centre at Scarborough in late September where it is currently housed.

Veterinarian Sue Thornton, believes the animal will take several months to recover but intends to release it when it is ready.

Loggerhead turtle **T2005/36** found stranded on a beach near Maharees, Kerry, Eire, was taken to the Dingle Aquarium. After a period in quarantine the turtle now known as 'Molly' is in the aquariums giant tropical display. On her last weight check she was 22kg and is feeding on a regular schedule and will be fit for release shortly.



Plate 1. *T2004/07 at Oban Sealife Centre.*

Photo by: Jamie Dyer.

6. BYCATCH.

Two animals were reported as by-caught during 2004, these are listed below.

T2004/30 Leatherback turtle found stranded dead on the 16th June at Clogher Strand, Co Kerry, Eire. Reported as being entangled in pot rope.

T2004/42 Leatherback turtle found at sea entangled in fishing gear on the 30th October off Latheronwheel, Aberdeen, Scotland. Reported in local press, 'dead leatherback found by fisherman checking his creel pots'.

A full report on 'Bycatch of Marine Turtles in UK & Irish Waters' JNCC Report No.310 Pierpoint C., 2000 can be downloaded at www.strandings.com/Turtlepage.html

7. SAMPLES.

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

Requests have been received from North Carolina, USA for humeri from dead loggerhead turtles that are found stranded on the UK coast. The study is to develop a means to age loggerhead turtles using growth layers in the humeri.

Requests have also been received from IATA-CNR, Italy for 1 to 2 grams of scute plus 2 to 3 marginal bones (where ribs are inserted) from dead loggerhead turtles for Carbon and Oxygen stable isotope determinations to learn more about the peculiarity/differences among populations. This is to compare non-Mediterranean animals to those within the Mediterranean.

Wherever possible the above samples have been collected and archived at MEM, Llechryd. The samples will be forwarded, once numbers have been collected, to both parties with the appropriate CITES agreements.

Samples of skin have continued to be taken by the Strandings Co-ordinator from animals, which would normally have been disposed of. These samples have been archived at -20⁰ C.

8. 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/ and I would be grateful for any comments on the Web site and any further links to other sites that may be of interest.

The "TURTLE" database is now available on this site together with annual reports and other turtle related publications at www.strandings.com/Turtlepage.html

Posters and leaflets produced to increase awareness of the project have continued to be distributed.

A general leaflet produced by the Zoological Society of London for the Collaborative UK Strandings Project has been produced in 2005. The leaflet, included as **Appendix 2.**, includes basic details for stranded turtles.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

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

Norman Hammond, Solway Shark Watch & Sea Mammal Survey for passing on turtle records.

Dr John Houghton and Tom Doyle, Interreg Irish Sea Turtle Survey for passing on turtle records.

Marine Environmental Monitoring wishes to acknowledge the financial support of Scottish Natural Heritage, English Nature, and the Countryside Council for Wales.

10. APPENDICES.

Appendix 1.	2004 Turtle data.
Appendix 2 .	ZSL Leaflet.

RecordKey	AltNumbers	Species	Group	Hardshell	SightStrand	AliveDead	Capture	GearCode	Age	EndDate	Country	County	Location	
T2004/01		LBT			ST	DEAD				Y	Monday, January 26, 2004	SCOTLAND	FIFE	nr Crail
T2004/02		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Monday, February 23, 2004	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	off Mevagissey
T2004/03		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Friday, February 20, 2004	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	off New Polzeth
T2004/04		UNI		Y	SEA	ALIVE					Tuesday, April 27, 2004	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	10 nm off Black Head
T2004/05		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Wednesday, May 19, 2004	WALES	PEMBROKESHIRE	Wooltack Bay
T2004/06		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Wednesday, June 02, 2004	SCOTLAND	WESTERN ISLES	Loch Fionnsabhagh
T2004/07		LOG			ST	ALIVE					Tuesday, June 15, 2004	SCOTLAND	WESTERN ISLES	North Uist
T2004/08	1068	LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Tuesday, July 06, 2004	ENGLAND		Between Mull of Galloway and I.o.M.
T2004/09	1067	LBT	1/2		SEA	ALIVE					Wednesday, July 07, 2004	SCOTLAND	DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY	Wigtown Bay
T2004/10	1067	LBT	2/2		SEA	ALIVE					Wednesday, July 07, 2004	SCOTLAND	DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY	Wigtown Bay
T2004/11	1075	LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Sunday, July 11, 2004	SCOTLAND	DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY	Luce Bay
T2004/12		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Friday, June 25, 2004	WALES	ANGLESEY	Bardsey Sound
T2004/13		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Friday, July 23, 2004	ENGLAND	DORSET	15 miles off Lime Bay
T2004/14		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Wednesday, July 28, 2004	WALES	PEMBROKESHIRE	North Haven, Skomer Island
T2004/15		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Saturday, July 31, 2004	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	8 miles offshore, swimming NW towards Land's End.
T2004/16		UNI		Y	SEA	ALIVE					Wednesday, August 04, 2004	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	Off Dodman Point
T2004/17		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Friday, August 06, 2004	ENGLAND	CUMBRIA	8 miles west of Eskmeals Gunnery Range - plotted 8 miles west of Ravenglass
T2004/18		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Tuesday, August 10, 2004	EIRE	CORK	3NM offshore, between Cork and Kinsale
T2004/19		UNI		Y	SEA	ALIVE					Tuesday, June 22, 2004	SCOTLAND		Halfway between Iona and Mull
T2004/20		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Thursday, August 12, 2004	EIRE	CORK	Longship lighthouse, 3NM offshore
T2004/21		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Sunday, August 15, 2004	SCOTLAND	OUTER HEBRIDES	10 NM NE of Stornaway, 2NM offshore
T2004/22		UNI			SEA	ALIVE					Thursday, September 02, 2004	WALES	SWANSEA	80 metres from Snaple point, west of Langland Point
T2004/23		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Saturday, September 04, 2004	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	Off Dodman Point
T2004/24		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Tuesday, September 07, 2004	SCOTLAND	ISLE OF MULL	Just out of Loch na Keal
T2004/25		LBT			SEA	ALIVE						EIRE	CORK	Cape Clear
T2004/26		LOG		Y	ST	DEAD				Y	Tuesday, June 01, 2004	EIRE	DUBLIN	Kilbarrick Strand, Dublin
T2004/27		LBT			SEA	ALIVE						EIRE	GALWAY	One mile north of the Mareello tower, Ballyvaughan
T2004/28		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Monday, July 12, 2004	EIRE	CORK	100m offshore from Blannan, Cape Clear
T2004/29	5215	LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Tuesday, June 22, 2004	EIRE	DONEGAL	Malin Beg, Donegal
T2004/30		LBT			ST	DEAD	ENT			11.01	Wednesday, June 16, 2004	EIRE	KERRY	Clogher Strand, Dunquin, Dingle
T2004/31		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Friday, July 23, 2004	EIRE	KERRY	Brandon Point, Brandon Bay
T2004/32		LBT			SEA	ALIVE						EIRE	WEXFORD	Off Tusker Rock, Wexford (Tusker Rock plotted)
T2004/33		LBT			ST	DEAD					Tuesday, July 27, 2004	EIRE	DONEGAL	Tramore Strand, bewteen Dunfanaghy and Horn Head, North-west Donegal
T2004/34		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Saturday, August 21, 2004	EIRE	WICKLOW	One km offshore of Bray Head, Wicklow
T2004/35		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Monday, August 30, 2004	EIRE	OFFSHORE	Off Kerry coast
T2004/36		LOG		Y	ST	ALIVE						EIRE	KERRY	Beach near th Maharees, Kerry
T2004/37		LBT			SEA	DEAD					Wednesday, September 01, 2004	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	0.25 miles off Dodman Point, near Falmouth
T2004/38		LBT			ST	DEAD					Saturday, October 23, 2004	WALES	PEMBROKESHIRE	Pendine beach
T2004/39		UNI		Y	SEA	ALIVE					Friday, September 10, 2004	ENGLAND	CUMBRIA	Walney Channel, north of Barrow Island
T2004/40		LOG		Y	SEA	ALIVE					Friday, September 10, 2004	SCOTLAND	ISLE OF SKYE	Half a nautical mile off coast at Aird of Sleat
T2004/41		UNI		Y	SEA	ALIVE					Thursday, September 23, 2004	ENGLAND	DEVON	Within cove of Torbay
T2004/42		LBT			SEA	DEAD	ENT			11.01	Saturday, October 30, 2004	SCOTLAND	ABERDEEN	Latheronwheel
T2004/43		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Sunday, August 29, 2004	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	Helston
T2004/44		LOG		Y	ST	DEAD					Wednesday, November 24, 2004	EIRE	DONEGAL	Naran Strand
T2004/45		LBT			SEA	DEAD					Thursday, November 25, 2004			Bay of Biscay
T2004/46		LBT			SEA	DEAD					Saturday, December 11, 2004	SCOTLAND	SHETLAND	Plotted in centre island, closest port Papa Stour
T2004/47		LOG		Y	ST	DEAD					Friday, December 24, 2004	SCOTLAND	WESTERN ISLES	West Gerinish, South Uist
T2004/48		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Sunday, August 01, 2004	ENGLAND	IRISH SEA	Shell Flats OSWF Site
T2004/49		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Sunday, July 18, 2004	ENGLAND	IRISH SEA	West Area 1, off Cumbria
T2004/50		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Saturday, August 21, 2004	ENGLAND	IRISH SEA	Hilpsford Point, off Lancashire
T2004/51		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Friday, July 16, 2004	SCOTLAND	GALLOWAY	North Channel
T2004/52		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Friday, July 16, 2004	SCOTLAND	GALLOWAY	Luce Bay
T2004/53		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Tuesday, August 24, 2004	SCOTLAND	GALLOWAY	Outer Solway Firth
T2004/54		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Wednesday, September 15, 2004	ENGLAND	CUMBRIA	Irish Sea
T2004/55		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Saturday, August 21, 2004	ENGLAND	ISLE OF MAN	east off IOM
T2004/56		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Monday, August 23, 2004	ENGLAND	ISLE OF MAN	east off IOM
T2004/57		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Sunday, August 01, 2004	SCOTLAND	GALLOWAY	Robin Rigg OSWF Site
T2004/58		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Wednesday, September 15, 2004	ENGLAND	CUMBRIA	Ormonde West
T2004/59		LBT			SEA	ALIVE					Tuesday, August 31, 2004	ENGLAND	LANCASHIRE	Liverpool Bay

RecordKey	Notes	ReportBy
T2004/01	Measurements and tissue samples collected by SMRU. Samples with Bob Reid SAC.	Bob Reid
T2004/02	Turtle breathed then swam off westwards.	Jo Leach
T2004/03	Seen 2 minutes by surfer. 3-6ft long. Dived and swam away.	Gavin Bassett
T2004/04	Smaller than 3 ft. Dived as boat approached	Capt. Keith Leeves
T2004/05	Seen from Dale Princess	Kenny (Dale Princess)
T2004/06		Shelley Armson
T2004/07	Front right flipper missing (old injury), turtle doing well 26th Aug 2004 at Oban Sealife Centre - but eyesight still cause for concern.	Roger Bailey
T2004/08	Swimming south, gannets,herring gulls & fulmers present.	Sally Dent
T2004/09	Reported with T2004/10. Swimming NE, 10 metres apart. Herring gulls, fulmar & gannets present.	John Wright
T2004/10	Reported with T2004/09. Swimming NE, 10 metres apart. Herring gulls, fulmar & gannets present.	John Wright
T2004/11	Swimming east, kittiwakes gannets & herring gulls present.	NH & FH
T2004/12	Heading North through Bardsey Sound against the ebb tide.	John Willacy
T2004/13		Ben Farey
T2004/14	With large shoal of compass & cone jellyfish.	Dale
T2004/15	6-8 foot long, head about 8-10 inches wide, carapace not seen as underwater.	Mr & Mrs Rumbelow
T2004/16	Less than a metre long, Seen 6.30pm for one minute, moving with speed, head, flippers and underside visible, shell and underside appeared to be pale green.	Lynne Gouldsmith
T2004/17	Watched for 5 mins, from 10-15metres, from the Patrol Boat	Hugh Thinesen
T2004/18	1-2 metres long, seen for 10 mins, 3NM offshore at 11.45 in calm sunny conditions feeding on jellyfish	Nigel Chetland
T2004/19	Seen for 1 minute from Ferry - 12 - 18 inches, tan brown shell, like tortoise . Kept its head above water.	Jenny Hill
T2004/20	Seen for 1 minute, less than 10 metres away. More than 6 feet long. Feeding on jellyfish	Nigel Chetland
T2004/21	Seen for 1 minute, 10-50 metres from boat swimming northwards, surfaced 3 times. More than 6 feet long	Steven Horrobin
T2004/22	Dark shape less than 1 metre seen from land for 30 mins. Swimming east along coast, faster than current, head above surface	Nicholas Stephens
T2004/23	2.5 - 3 feet long	Mr Lockit
T2004/24	Seen for 10 minutes, swimming along surface heading south. Approx 2.5 metres long.	Steve Robinson
T2004/25		S Wing
T2004/26	Stranded dead. Reported to Doyle by National parks and Wildlife.	Ciaran O'Keefe National Parks & Wildlife
T2004/27	By-catch. Turtle fouled in lobster pot ropes. Caught by two flippers and the head. Need the effort of two small vessels to release it.	Peter Tyndal
T2004/28	Turtle seen heading west.	Steve Wing
T2004/29	slow, swimming heading north	Padraig Whooley
T2004/30	Basket Island , Dingle. Probably the same animal.	TJ Scanlon
T2004/31	Seen in morning at salmon net but it turned around. Other fishermen had seen it earlier in the week.	Tom Kennedy
T2004/32	Observed by crew of Irish Ferries 'Isle of Inishmore ' July/August?	
T2004/33	Turtle had been scavenged by birds etc, its black leather was largely gone. Otherwise complete 6'6" long. (photos available)	Christine & Iain Lees
T2004/34	Observed during Irish Sea Leatherback Turtle Project aerial survey.	J Houghton
T2004/35	c 6 ft	D Wall
T2004/36	Found mid-August - Loggerhead now in Dingle Aquarium	K Flanery
T2004/37	A large specimen. Seen again near Falmouth on 60904. A further sighting 180904 seen near Swanpool beach approx SW800304	Jan Loveridge
T2004/38	2.15m. Retrieved and sampled by MEM. C.C. to dispose of.	John Neary
T2004/39	Seen from land, less than 10 metres away - oval green shell less than 2 feet long - foraging in weed	Jenny Holden
T2004/40	Seen for 3 mins, photo taken (with MCS) - Juvenile Loggerhead	Philip Nelson
T2004/41	Seen for 3 mins - less than 10 metres away. Pale yellow/green underbelly.	Susan Hawkes
T2004/42	Reported in local press	Mary Legg
T2004/43	5 miles offshore. Seen for 1 minute swimming and floating 10-50 metres away. Over 6 feet long.	Andy & Kath Smith
T2004/44	Identified by Prof J Davenport from photos by Ferdia Marnell (Wildlife & Heritage). Approx 8 ins long.	John Kilbane
T2004/45	1-2 metres, seen swimming dived when boat alongside	Clive Martin
T2004/46	very decomposed	Holly & Jack Walker
T2004/47	Necropsy carried out by Bob Reid	Bob Reid
T2004/48	Feeding/swimming 9km from shore , heading S	Norman Hammond
T2004/49	Feeding 26m from shore, heading S	Norman Hammond
T2004/50	Feeding 11 km from shore, heading SW	Norman Hammond
T2004/51	Feeding/swimming 7.8 km from shore, heading S	Norman Hammond
T2004/52	Swimming 7 km from shore, heading SE	Norman Hammond
T2004/53	Feeding/swimming 11.5 km from shore,heading SE	Norman Hammond
T2004/54	Swimming 13 km from shore, heading S	Norman Hammond
T2004/55	Feeding/swimming 4 km from shore, heading S	Norman Hammond
T2004/56	Feeding/swimming 7 km from shore, heading SE	Norman Hammond
T2004/57	Feeding/swimming 5.1 km from shore, heading E	Norman Hammond
T2004/58	Feeding/swimming 20 km from shore, heading SE	Norman Hammond
T2004/59	Feeding/swimming 14 km from shore, heading SW	Norman Hammond

Why have a Strandings Network?

Unfortunately, marine mammals regularly strand around our coast. Information received on stranded animals can provide an accurate picture of what species occur and show local and seasonal distribution. Dead marine mammal strandings that undergo post-mortem examination provide us with valuable information on cause of death, disease, contaminants, reproductive patterns, diet and also useful pointers to the general health of the populations living in the seas around our coasts. This provides useful baseline data to detect outbreaks of disease or unusual increases in mortality.

Whales, Dolphins & Porpoises

Live Strandings - Urgency

If the cetacean (Whale, Dolphin or Porpoise) is found alive, please telephone the relevant number **as soon as possible**. If the weather is hot keep the animal cool and wet, avoid pouring water near the blowhole.

Keep well clear of the tail and do not pull the animal by its tail or fins.

Information required (Dead Strandings)

When reporting a dead stranding please give a clear description of location, species if known, overall length and condition of the animal, for example: fresh; slightly decomposed; moderately decomposed; advanced decomposition.

Safety Precautions

Please take great care around live stranded cetaceans, as the tail is extremely powerful and can easily cause injury. Avoid contact/inhalation with aerosols from the blowhole. Keep members of the public and dogs well clear. If handling a live or dead stranding gloves should be worn at all times. Wash hands thoroughly immediately after involvement and also before eating, drinking and smoking. Do not handle strandings if you have cuts or abrasions on your hands. For further information visit www.nhm.ac.uk/zoology/stranding/safety.html



Collaborative UK Marine Mammal & Marine Turtle Strandings Project

www.strandings.com

If you find a stranded marine animal please contact

LIVE STRANDING (all species):

England: RSPCA **08705 555999**

Wales: RSPCA **08705 555999**

Scotland: SSPCA **0131 339 0111**

DEAD STRANDING:

England (cetaceans):

Natural History Museum

0207 942 5155

England (seals & turtles):

Zoological Society of London

0207 449 6672

Wales (all species):

Marine Environmental Monitoring

01348 875000

Scotland (all species):

SAC Veterinary Services:

01463 243030



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Seals & Turtles

Live Seals

It is normal for seals to haul out. Only call the RSPCA if you are concerned for the welfare of the animal.

Live Turtles

Of the world's seven marine turtle species, five have been recorded in UK waters. They are the leatherback, loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, green and hawksbill turtles. The leatherback, the largest marine turtle, is the species most frequently recorded in UK waters. Leatherbacks have a flexible, leathery shell and are unique among reptiles in that they are able to metabolically raise their body temperature above that of their immediate environment, allowing them to survive in colder waters. Each summer leatherbacks migrate from tropical nesting beaches to UK waters where they feed on jellyfish. The other four species have hard shells and are less frequently encountered in UK waters, where they usually occur as stray juveniles carried by currents from warmer seas.

Leatherbacks found stranded on beaches are usually very weak, but might still be saved.

If apparently uninjured:

Carefully drag the turtle back to the sea and release it (enlist the help of several people and pull the shell rather than the flippers).

- Do not drag the animal over rocks, as this will cause severe damage.
- If stranded on rocks, it may be better to wait for the incoming tide to provide some buoyancy before dragging the turtle back to sea. Other species (hard-shelled) loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, green and hawksbill turtles encountered on UK shores are usually cold stunned juveniles and should not be placed back in the sea.
- Wrap the turtle in a towel soaked in seawater, do not cover the nostrils.
- Place the animal in a sheltered and secure place on its belly. If inactive, raise the back end of the shell so the turtle is resting at approximately 30° to drain the lungs. Report the turtle as soon as possible.

Collaborative UK Marine Mammal & Marine Turtle Strandings Project

England (cetaceans): Natural History Museum 0207 942 5155

England (seals & turtles): Zoological Society of London 0207 449 6672

Wales (all species): Marine Environmental Monitoring 01348 875000

Scotland (all species): SAC Veterinary Services: 01463 243030

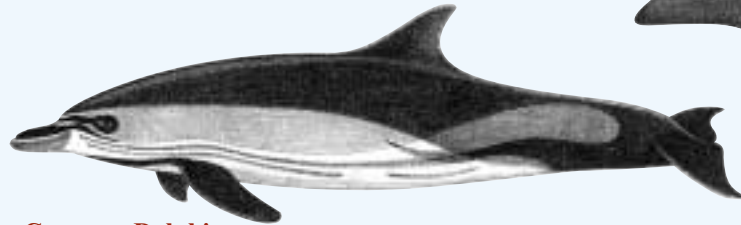
Species likely to be found stranded on our beaches



Harbour Porpoise

Adult length 1.3m -1.9m

19-28 pairs of small, spade-shaped teeth



Common Dolphin

Adult length 2.1m -2.4m

40-50 pairs of small, sharp conical teeth



Striped Dolphin

Adult length 2.25m -2.4m

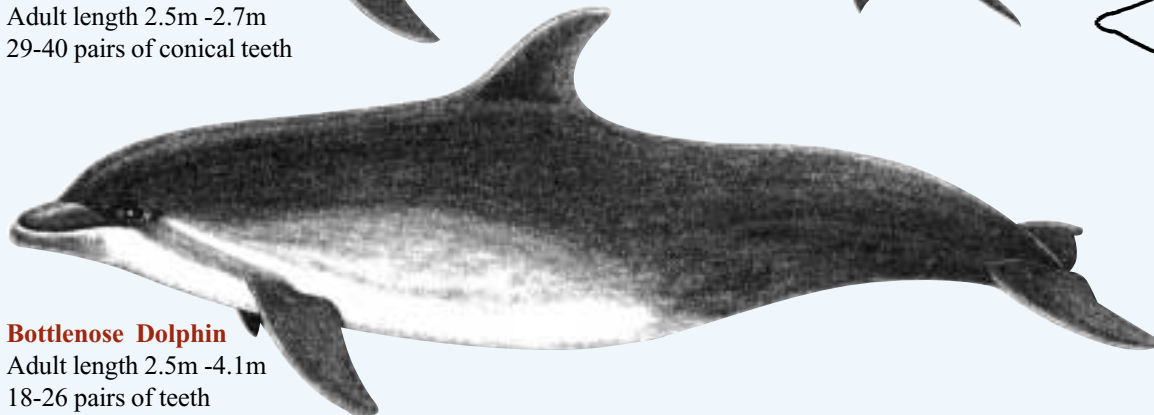
45-50 pairs of sharp, conical teeth



White Sided Dolphin

Adult length 2.5m -2.7m

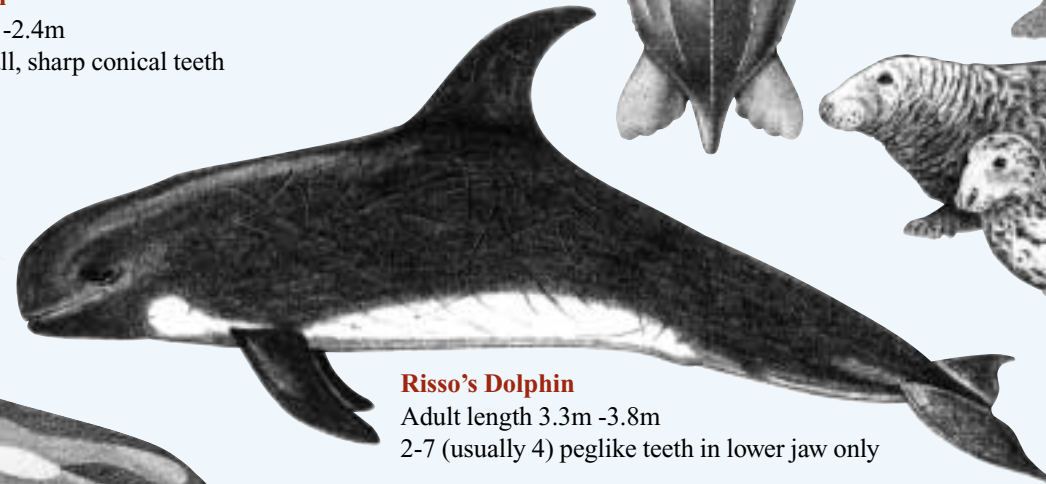
29-40 pairs of conical teeth



Bottlenose Dolphin

Adult length 2.5m -4.1m

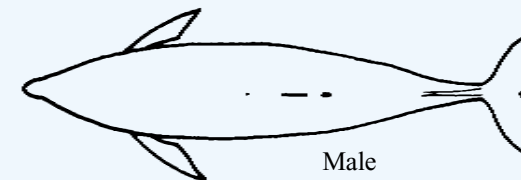
18-26 pairs of teeth



Risso's Dolphin

Adult length 3.3m -3.8m

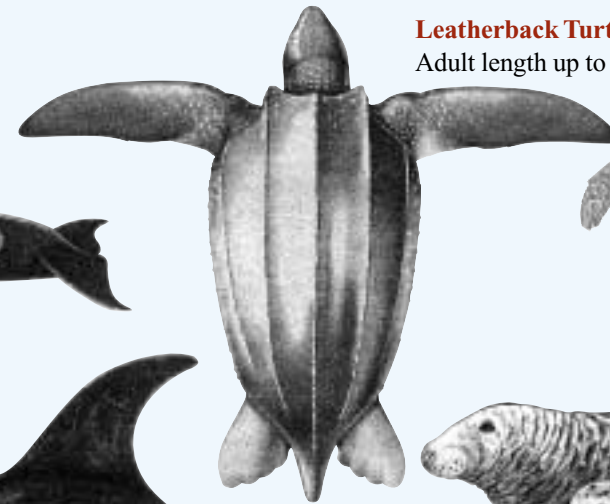
2-7 (usually 4) peglike teeth in lower jaw only



Male



Female



Leatherback Turtle

Adult length up to 2.91m



Hardshell Turtle species

Loggerhead

Kemp's ridley

Hawksbill

Green



Grey Seal

Adult length male 2.1m-2.45m

Adult length female 1.95m-2.2m

Common Seal

Adult length male 1.5m-1.85m

Adult length female 1.4m-1.75m



White Beaked Dolphin

Adult length 2.5m -2.7m

22-28 pairs of conical teeth