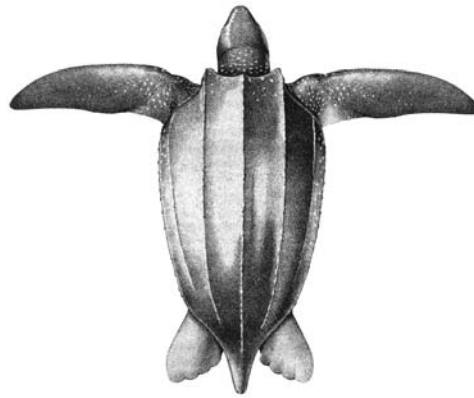




www.strandings.com

UK & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2005

R.S.Penrose & L.R.Gander. March 2006



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2005 saw the sad loss of Norman and Florence Hammond who were both killed in a tragic car accident whilst setting off for their holidays in Scotland.

He and his wife were founder members of the Cumbria Wildlife Trust in 1962 and, 30 more years on, they helped to form the Solway's local support group.

Norman was the co-ordinator for the Solway Shark Watch and Sea Mammal Survey who supplied the vast majority of the marine turtle records from the Solway area to 'TURTLE'.

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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, of Kings College, Taunton. 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 & 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)*

- **The University of Exeter in Cornwall** hosts the Marine Turtle Research Group that carried 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 01326 371 861*
- **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 01463 248087*.
- **University of Wales, Swansea:** Prof. Graeme Hays and Dr Jonathan Houghton are currently coordinating an INTERREG project with Prof. John Davenport and Tom Doyle from the University College Cork, to investigate the ecological relationship between leatherbacks and jellyfish in the Irish Sea. Contact: *Dr John Houghton 01792 205678 ext 4614*.
- **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. [Colin Speedie] The Wildlife Trusts Basking Shark Project contributes at sea survey data, from the west coast of Britain on an annual basis. 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 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

Sightings & strandings can be reported online in the Republic of Ireland at www.turtle.ie

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.

(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 marine turtle ‘sightings’ and ‘strandings’ reported through 2005.

A further three live leatherbacks were reported through 2005 but unfortunately dates given were ‘summertime’ for two animals and ‘June or July’ for the third. Although a mechanism exists for these to be recorded within the ‘TURTLE’ database they cannot be added into Table 1. or Table 2. and are therefore not shown here.

Table 1.

2005 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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Leatherback turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	1	1	1	0	0	8	21	21	14	3	0	1	71
Loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Unidentified	0	0	1	0	0	1	8	4	0	0	0	1	15
Total animals	1	2	2	0	0	9	29	25	14	4	1	3	90

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

Table 2.

2005 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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Leatherback turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	0	1	0	0	0	8	19	20	9	2	0	0	59
Loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Unidentified	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	4	0	0	0	0	13
Total animals	0	2	0	0	0	9	27	24	9	3	0	0	74

Table 3.

2005 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	1	0	0	0	2	1	5	1	0	1	12
Loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Unidentified	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Total animals	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	5	1	1	3	16

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.

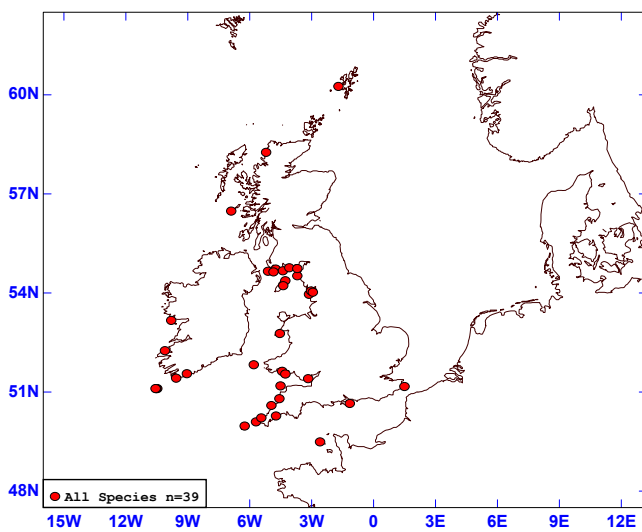


Figure 1. All species sightings & strandings 2003.

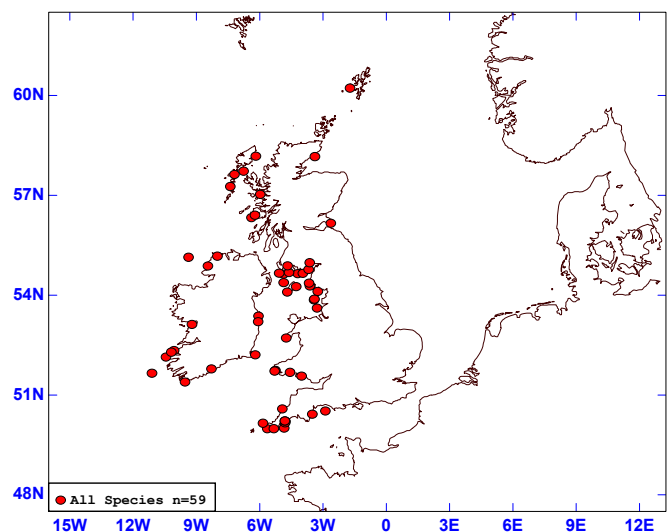


Figure 2. All species sightings & strandings 2004.

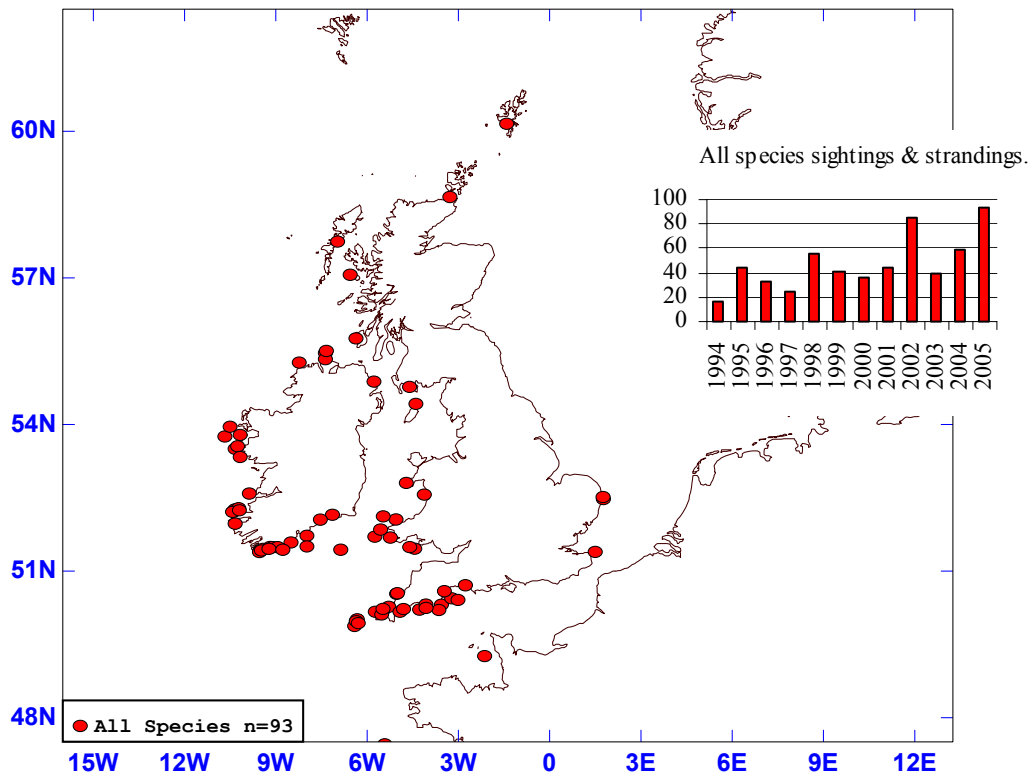


Figure 3. All species sightings & strandings 2005.

3.1 Sightings.

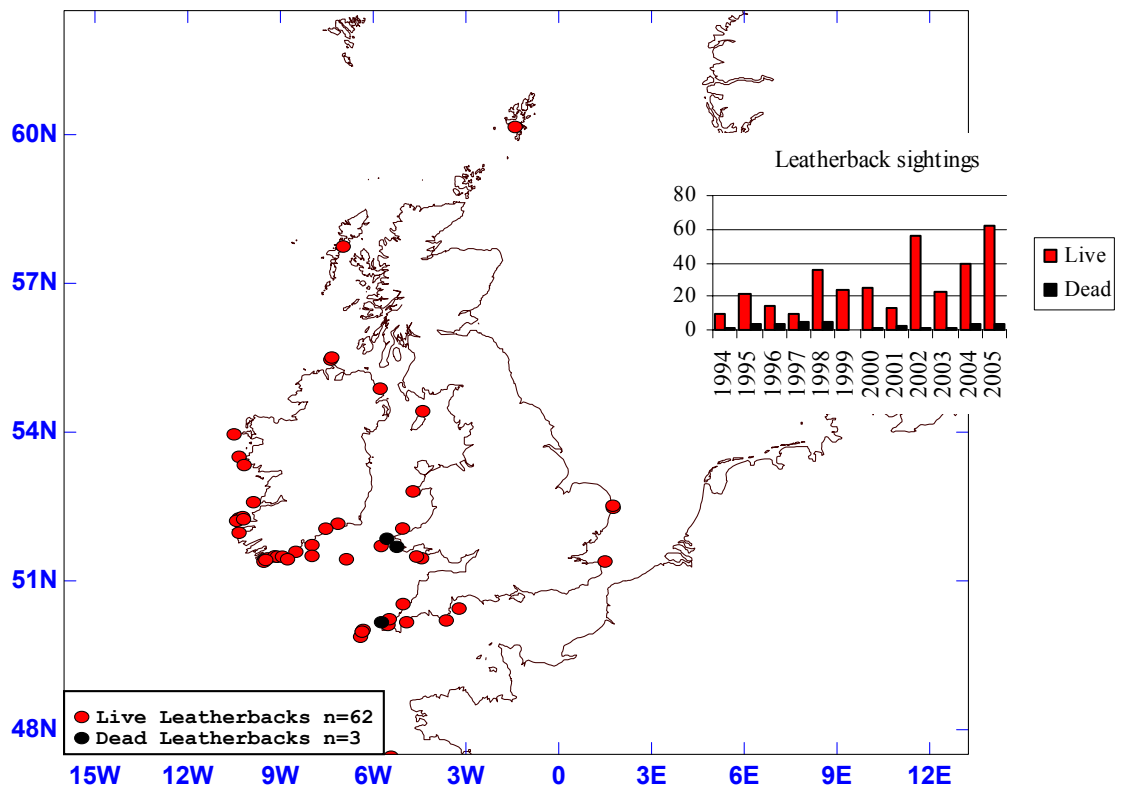


Figure 4. Leatherback sightings 2005.

No live or dead loggerhead sightings were reported during 2005. However 'sightings' of both live and dead loggerhead turtles have been recorded in recent years as shown in **Figure 5**.

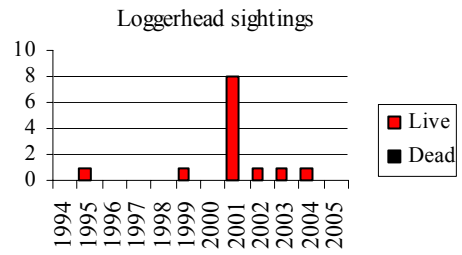


Figure 5. *Loggerhead sightings.*

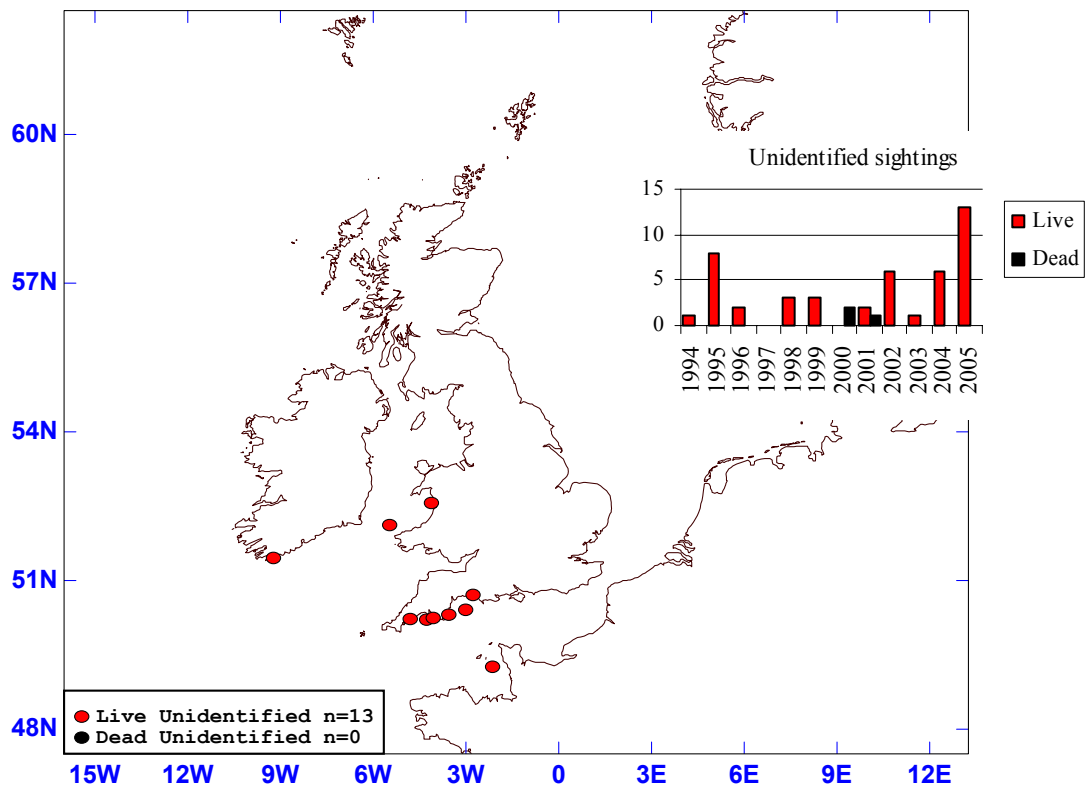


Figure 6. *Unidentified sightings 2005.*

3.2 Strandings.

No live or dead green turtles were reported during 2005. However, ‘strandings’ of both live and dead green turtles have been recorded in recent years as shown in **Figure 7**.

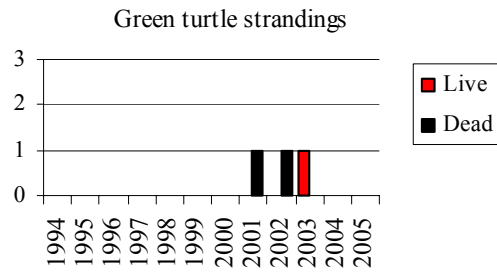


Figure 7. *Green turtle strandings.*

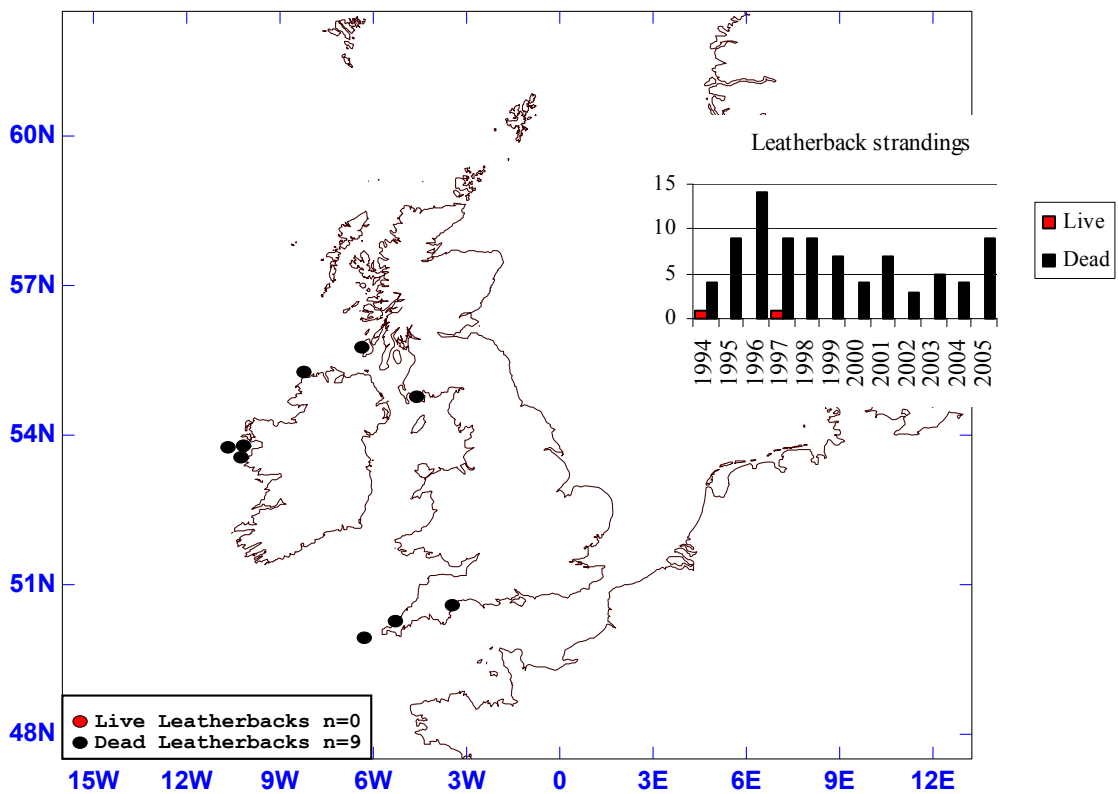


Figure 8. *Leatherback strandings 2005.*

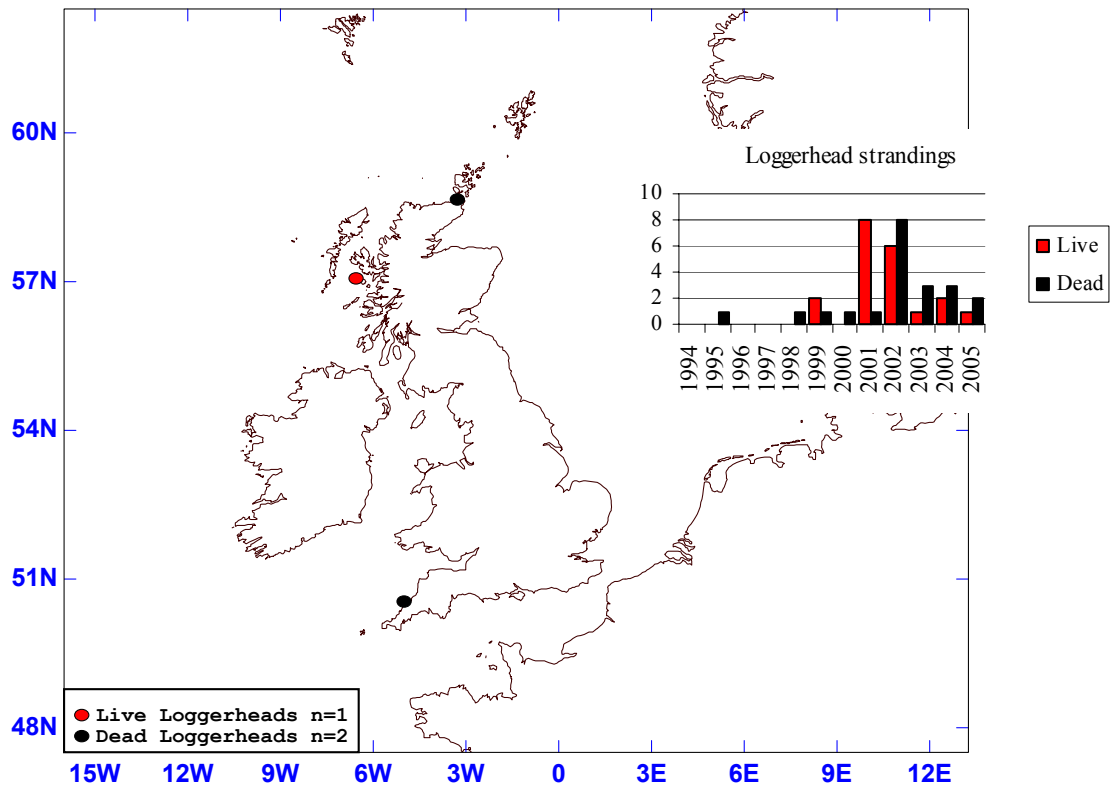


Figure 9. *Loggerhead strandings 2005.*

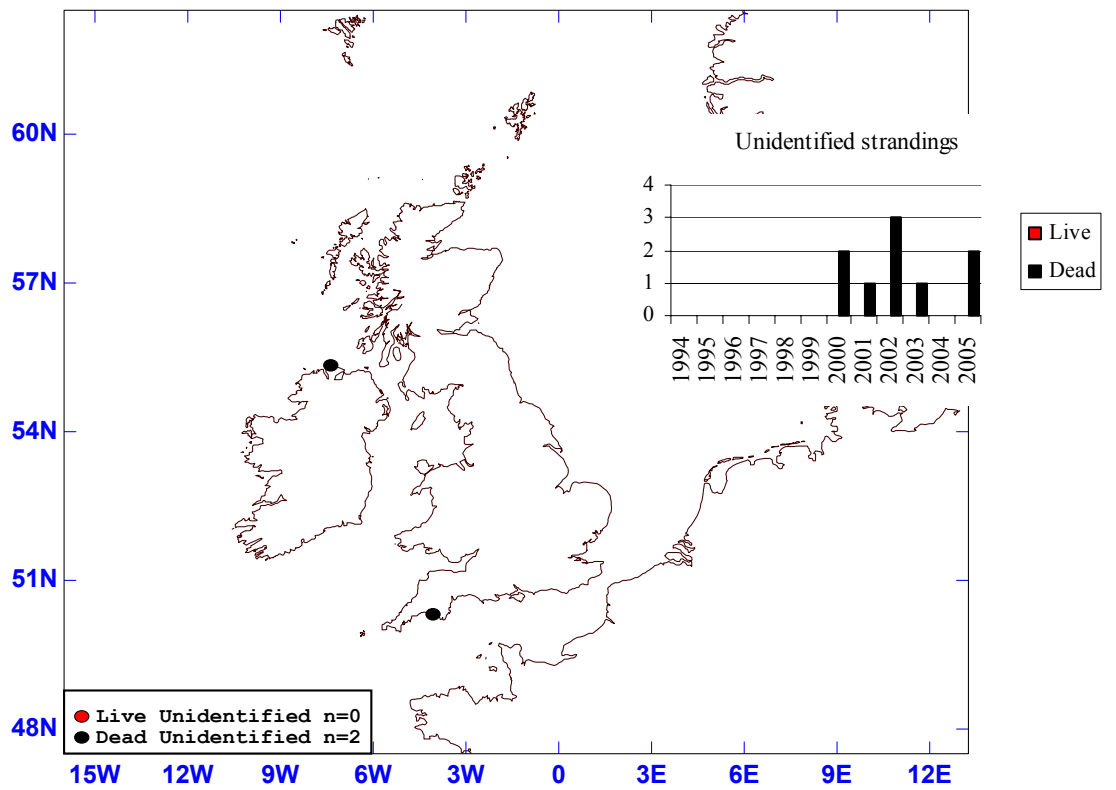


Figure 10. *Unidentified strandings 2005.*

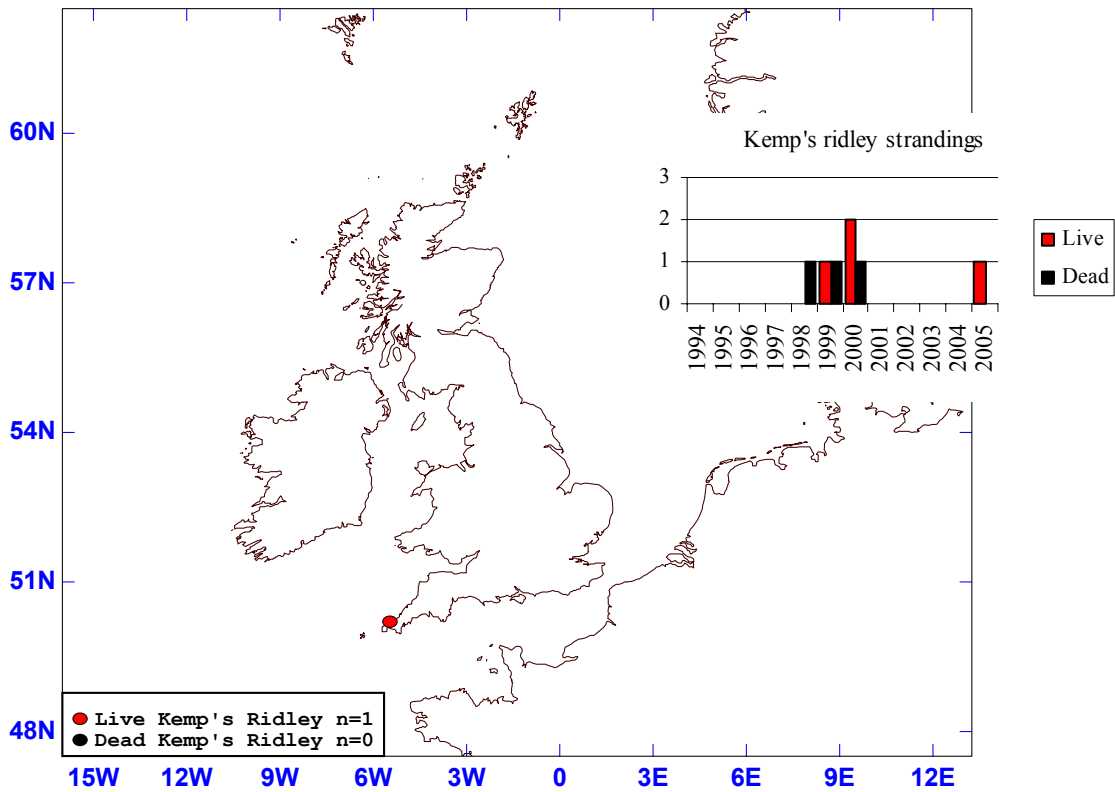


Figure 11. Kemp's Ridley strandings 2005.

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 1995 to 2005 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.

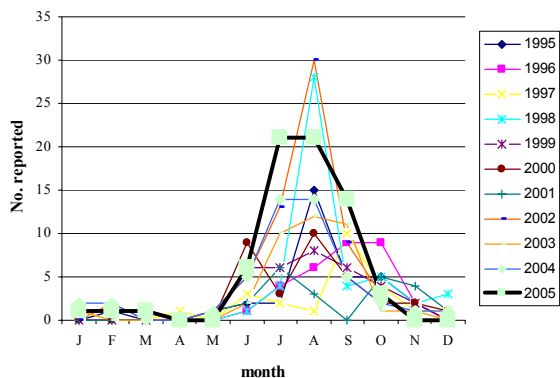


Figure 12. All leatherbacks by month.

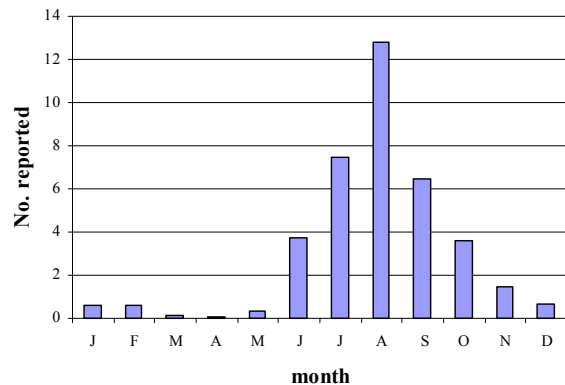


Figure 13. All leatherbacks average over 1995-2005.

Table 4.

Cumulative number of records.		
Country	All Species	
	2005	1748 - 2005
Eire	40	570
England	35	463
Scotland	6	292
Wales	9	134
Channel Islands	1	12
N. Ireland	0	6
Total	91	1477

Two leatherback turtles were reported in the Bay of Biscay during 2005, these have been included in the database but not shown in **Table 4** as the reports are outside the UK remit, these bring the 2005 total to 93. An additional Bay of Biscay animal in 2004 brings the current database total to 1480.

Countries are listed in **Table 4.** by descending order of total number of records shown in the year **1748 – 2005** column.

Table 5.

Species Comparison.												
Country	<i>1985 - 1995</i>											
	1995 - 2005											
	GT		HB		KR		LBT		LOG		UNI	
England	0	1	0	0	0	5	93	179	8	17	11	38
Scotland	0	2	0	0	0	0	52	89	6	22	15	9
Eire	0	0	0	0	0	0	88	124	16	18	1	3
Wales	0	0	0	0	0	2	15	73	3	2	7	7
Channel Islands	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2
N. Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Total	0	4	0	0	0	7	249	465	34	61	35	59

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 - 2005).	
Species	TOTAL
Green turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)	7
Hawksbill turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>)	1
Kemp's ridley turtle (<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>)	30
Leatherback turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	1090
Loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)	149
Unidentified	203
Total animals	1480

4. MATTERS ARISING.

4.1 Retrospective Reports.

In excess of 1200 reports ranging from years 1970 to 2004 have been received from Gabriel King in Ireland during 2005. These records will nearly double the total held in TURTLE and it is expected these will be entered into the database during 2006.

It is understood that these records will be published in a dedicated forthcoming issue of the Irish Naturalist Journal and we are extremely grateful to Gabriel King for releasing these records to TURTLE.

The following 19 retrospective records were also received during 2005 and have been added to the database for inclusion to the NBN Gateway in 2006.

T1996/43	Leatherback turtle, dead at sea, July 1996, 2 miles E of Muldoanich, Barra. Scotland
T1999/41	Leatherback turtle, alive at sea, 17th July 1999, 200m off Port Eynon Point, Gower, Wales
T1999/42	Leatherback turtle, alive at sea, 3rd September 1999, Between Hoga Ness and Cullivaoe, Shetland
T1999/43	Leatherback turtle, alive at sea, 29th September 1999, Little Minch, Scotland
T1999/50	Leatherback turtle, alive at sea, 1999, Seal Skerry, North Ronaldsay, Orkney
T2000/32	Leatherback turtle, dead at sea, 2nd July 2000, 12 miles south of Plymouth, England
T2000/33	Leatherback turtle, stranded dead, 3rd August 2000, Peppercombe beach, Nth Devon, England
T2000/36	Leatherback turtle, stranded dead, 28th March 2000, Harlyn Bay, Nth Cornwall, England
T2000/37	Unidentified turtle, sea alive, 27th April 2000, Mother Ivy's Bay, Padstow, England
T2000/59	Leatherback turtle, sea alive, 22nd August 2000, 7 miles E of Boreray, Scotland
T2000/60	Leatherback turtle, sea alive, 30th July 2000, 1 mile E of Boreray, Scotland
T2000/61	Loggerhead turtle, stranded dead, Feb 2000, Cornwall, England
T2001/40	Loggerhead turtle, sea alive, 22nd Sept 2001, North Shoal, NW of Birsay, Orkney
T2002/91	Unidentified turtle, sea alive, 17th June 2002, 16 miles from Alderney, Devon, England
T2002/92	Leatherback turtle, sea alive, 7th August 2002, 3 miles SE Exmouth, England
T2002/93	Leatherback turtle, sea alive, 26th August 2002, between Budleigh Salterton and East Exe fairway buoy, Devon, England
T2002/94	Leatherback turtle, sea alive, 16th September 2002, Seaton Bay, Devon, England
T2002/95	Leatherback turtle, stranded dead, 6th January 2002, Dale of Walls, Shetland
T2003/48	Unidentified turtle, sea alive, 8th August 2003, 2-3 miles off Bigbury, Devon, England

4.2 Reporting of data.

The sad demise of Norman & Florence Hammond of the Solway Shark Watch and Sea Mammal Survey (page 1) highlights the fact that TURTLE is heavily reliant on data received from enthusiastic motivated key people. A comparison of data plotted in **Figure 1**, **Figure 2** and **Figure 3** shows a significant decline in animals plotted for the above area for 2005. Although enquiries have been made in the Solway area for marine turtle sightings and strandings only one record was recorded. It is not known if this is the actual number present during 2005 or whether data exists in observers notebooks and has not been collated. Further enquiries will be made during 2006.

5. LIVE STRANDING EVENTS 2005.

There were only two live-strandings of marine turtles reported in 2005.

T2005/01a was a Kemp's Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) found stranded on the 2nd February in Carbis Bay near St Ives, Cornwall. The animal was collected and taken to Blue Reef Aquarium, Newquay for rehabilitation but sadly died on the 3rd February.

T2005/52 was a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), found stranded on the 16th October on the Isle of Canna, Western Isles of Scotland. The juvenile male was taken to the Scottish Sea Life Centre, Oban where it responded well while its body temperature was slowly raised but later died. The carcass is stored frozen awaiting *post-mortem* examination at SAC Inverness.

5.1 Rehabilitation

Loggerhead turtle **T2004/07** found hauled out amongst sand dunes on North Uist, Western Isles, Scotland on the 15th June 2004 and taken to Oban Sea Life Centre and later moved to Scarborough Sea Life Centre is now ready for release. Paperwork and transportation to facilitate the movement of this animal to Gran Canaria for release are currently being organised. It is hoped the turtle will be delivered to Gran Canaria in late March 2006.

Weymouth Sea Life Centre has informed me they will shortly have a purpose-built **Turtle Rehab' facility** at Weymouth, which will be working with both fresh and saltwater turtles.



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

Photo by: Jamie Dyer.

6. BYCATCH.

Six animals, all leatherbacks, were reported as by-caught during 2005, these are listed below.

T2005/42 Leatherback turtle found stranded dead on the 16th July at half a mile north of Bertra Beach, Clew Bay, Mayo, Eire. Reported as being entangled in pot rope.

T2005/57 Leatherback turtle found alive at sea entangled in fishing gear on the 15th September off Broadstairs, 2/3 miles NE of the Foreland, Kent. Caught in net but released alive and swam off.

T2005/65 Leatherback turtle found alive at sea entangled in lobster pot rope in the last half of August 4-5 miles NNW of Inishtrahull, Donegal, Eire. Released alive and swam off.

T2005/67 Leatherback turtle found alive at sea entangled in fishing gear in late July a quarter mile off Helvic Head, Waterford, Eire. Caught in net but released alive and swam off.

T2005/90 Leatherback turtle found alive at sea entangled in lobster pot rope on the 30th August off Cuas, near Brandon Head, Kerry, Eire. Turtle fitted with satellite tag by Tom Doyle and Jon Houghton and released.

T2005/92 Leatherback turtle found alive at sea entangled in lobster pot rope on the 28th August at Banbas Crown, Malin Head, Donegal, Eire. Released alive and swam off.

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 -20° C.

T2005/01 was a dead female leatherback turtle found stranded at Port William, Wigtownshire on the 12th January. The carcass was in a fresh condition and measured 1.90 metres (overall length) and weighed 256kg. The animal underwent a full *post-mortem* examination by the staff at SAC Inverness. Significant diseases or conditions thought to contribute to the death of the animal were: “The myocardium appeared friable on cutting. All major organs were intensely congested which is suggestive of circulatory failure. It is possible that this turtle died of congestive heart failure. Sections of the myocardium will be viewed by our histopathologists to investigate this further. The turtle was in moderate body condition and had been feeding. There were no signs of physical trauma associated with storm damage or entrapment and the animal had not drowned.”

T2005/01a was a Kemp’s Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) found stranded on the 2nd February in Carbis Bay near St Ives, Cornwall. The animal was collected and taken to Blue Reef Aquarium, Newquay for rehabilitation but sadly died on the 3rd February. A *post-mortem* examination was carried out by Dr Brendan Godley. The cause of death was given as hypothermia/starvation although some lesions were observed that may have contributed (subject to histopathological analysis). The curved carapace length was 43cm and the carcass weighed 2.823 kg.



Plate 2. Leatherback turtle **T2005/01** upside down on the strandline.
Photo by: David Baird



Plate 3. Kemp’s Ridley turtle **T2005/01a**.

Photo by: Matthew Witt

T2005/09 was a dead female leatherback turtle sighted by a helicopter crew on a survey from RNAS Culdrose. The turtle had become entangled in lobster pot buoy ropes off Botallack, near Lands End and was towed to shore at Cape Cornwall by the Sennen Inshore Lifeboat. The carcass measured 1.71 metres (overall length), no weight details given. Although the carcass was in a state of advanced decomposition the Veterinary Laboratory Agency at Truro did a sterling job examining the animal.



Plate 4. Leatherback turtle **T2005/09** being recovered.

Photo by: Caroline Curtis

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.
Dr John Houghton and Tom Doyle, Interreg Irish Sea Turtle Survey for passing on turtle records.
Cape Clear Bird Observatory and BirdWatch Ireland for passing on turtle sightings.
Doug Herdson, Plymouth National Marine Aquarium.
Devon Biological Record Centre, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Orkney Field Club, Shetland Biological Record Centre, Marine Conservation Society.
Gabriel King for supplying data to the database.

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.	2005 Turtle data.
Appendix 2 .	ZSL Leaflet.

RecordKey	Species	Group	Hardsh	SightStrand	AliveDead	Capture	GearCode	AnatTag	EndDate	Country	County	Location
T2005/01	LBT			ST	DEAD			Y	Wednesday, January 12, 2005	SCOTLAND	GALLOWAY	Port William
T2005/01a	KR			ST	ALIVE				Wednesday, February 02, 2005	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	Carbis Bay, near St Ives
T2005/02	LBT			ST	DEAD				Sunday, March 13, 2005	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	Portreath
T2005/03	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Monday, July 04, 2005	ENGLAND	SUFFOLK	Ness Point, Lowerstoft
T2005/04	UNI		Y	SEA	ALIVE				Saturday, July 09, 2005	WALES	GWYNEDD	Aberdyfi - Tywyn area
T2005/05	UNI			SEA	ALIVE				Saturday, July 16, 2005	ENGLAND	DEVON	Between Brixham and Start Point
T2005/06	UNI			SEA	ALIVE				Saturday, July 16, 2005	ENGLAND	DEVON	Between Brixham and Start Point
T2005/07	UNI			SEA	ALIVE				Friday, July 15, 2005	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	4 miles south of Mevagissey
T2005/08	LBT			ST	DEAD				Sunday, July 17, 2005	EIRE	MAYO	Westport Bay
T2005/09	LBT			SEA	DEAD				Monday, August 01, 2005	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	Botallack, St Just, Cornwall
T2005/10	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Wednesday, August 17, 2005	ENGLAND	DEVON	Lyme Bay
T2005/11	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Sunday, July 31, 2005	SCOTLAND	SHETLAND	Point of Skeld, near Isle of Oxna
T2005/12	UNI			SEA	ALIVE				Tuesday, August 16, 2005	ISLANDS	JERSEY	Ronez
T2005/13	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Thursday, August 11, 2005	WALES	GWYNEDD	Seen from Aberdaron beach feeding and swimming
T2005/14	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Wednesday, August 17, 2005	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	Mount's Bay. 1 mile south of Penzance harbour heading south
T2005/15	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Friday, July 08, 2005			Bay of Biscay
T2005/16	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Monday, July 11, 2005			Bay of Biscay
T2005/17	UNI			ST	DEAD				Tuesday, March 01, 2005	ENGLAND	DEVON	Cellar Beach, Mouth of Yealm
T2005/18	LBT			ST	DEAD				Monday, September 05, 2005	EIRE	DONEGAL	Tory
T2005/19	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Friday, September 09, 2005	EIRE	CORK	near Sherkin Island
T2005/20	UNI			SEA	ALIVE				Sunday, July 24, 2005	ENGLAND	DEVON	100 metres from West Bay Harbour
T2005/21	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Saturday, August 06, 2005	ENGLAND	SCILLY ISLES	North of Tresco
T2005/22	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Monday, August 08, 2005	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	Nare Head
T2005/23	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Wednesday, June 29, 2005	ENGLAND	SCILLY ISLES	Off the Western Rocks
T2005/24	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Friday, February 25, 2005	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	Constantine
T2005/25	UNI			SEA	ALIVE				Sunday, June 12, 2005	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	Dodman Point
T2005/26	LBT	1/6		SEA	ALIVE				Monday, June 27, 2005	ENGLAND	SCILLY ISLES	North of the isles (plotted 2 miles north of Round Island)
T2005/27	LBT	2/6		SEA	ALIVE				Monday, June 27, 2005	ENGLAND	SCILLY ISLES	North of the isles (plotted 2 miles north of Round Island)
T2005/28	LBT	3/6		SEA	ALIVE				Monday, June 27, 2005	ENGLAND	SCILLY ISLES	North of the isles (plotted 2 miles north of Round Island)
T2005/29	LBT	4/6		SEA	ALIVE				Monday, June 27, 2005	ENGLAND	SCILLY ISLES	North of the isles (plotted 2 miles north of Round Island)
T2005/30	LBT	5/6		SEA	ALIVE				Monday, June 27, 2005	ENGLAND	SCILLY ISLES	North of the isles (plotted 2 miles north of Round Island)
T2005/31	LBT	6/6		SEA	ALIVE				Monday, June 27, 2005	ENGLAND	SCILLY ISLES	North of the isles (plotted 2 miles north of Round Island)
T2005/32	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Saturday, August 06, 2005	ENGLAND	SCILLY ISLES	Tresco
T2005/33	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Monday, August 29, 2005	ENGLAND	SUFFOLK	100 yds off headland , Corton, Lowerstoft
T2005/34	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Tuesday, August 30, 2005	WALES	RE	Strumble Head
T2005/35	UNI		Y	SEA	ALIVE				Saturday, August 20, 2005	WALES	Irish Sea	Fishguard to Rosslare ferry
T2005/36	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Saturday, August 27, 2005	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	1 mile off Start Point, heading south
T2005/37	UNI		Y	SEA	ALIVE				Tuesday, August 30, 2005	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	Yealm estuary, inside Misery Point swimming north
T2005/38	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Monday, August 29, 2005	EIRE	KERRY	nearest landmark Valentia
T2005/39	LBT			SEA	DEAD				Sunday, September 11, 2005	WALES	RE	2 miles off Milford Haven
T2005/40	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Saturday, September 10, 2005	ENGLAND	ISLE OF MAN	Point of Ayre, drifting south
T2005/41	LBT			ST	DEAD				Tuesday, September 13, 2005	ENGLAND	SCILLY ISLES	Watermill Cove
T2005/42	LBT			ST	DEAD	ENT	11.01		Saturday, July 16, 2005	EIRE	MAYO	Half a mile north of Bertra Beach, Clew Bay
T2005/43	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Thursday, August 25, 2005	EIRE	CLARE	Seen from Bridges of Ross, travelling south
T2005/44	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Saturday, August 27, 2005	EIRE	CLARE	Seen from Bridges of Ross, travelling south
T2005/45	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Sunday, August 28, 2005	EIRE	CLARE	Seen from Bridges of Ross, travelling south
T2005/46	LBT	1/2		SEA	ALIVE				Saturday, September 17, 2005	EIRE	WATERFORD	400yds east of Newtown Cove, Tramore Bay
T2005/47	LBT	2/2		SEA	ALIVE				Saturday, September 17, 2005	EIRE	WATERFORD	400yds east of Newtown Cove, Tramore Bay

RecordKey	Species	Group	Hardshe	SightStrand	AliveDead	Capture	GearCode	AnatTag	EndDate	Country	County	Location
T2005/48	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Saturday, August 27, 2005	EIRE	CLARE	Seen from Bridges of Ross, Loop Head
T2005/49	LBT			ST	DEAD				Thursday, September 22, 2005	SCOTLAND	Isle of Islay	Loch Indaal, Isle of Islay, south of Bruichladdich
T2005/50	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Sunday, September 04, 2005	EIRE	CORK	Blanan, Cape Clear Island
T2005/51	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Saturday, October 01, 2005	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	off St Ives
T2005/52	LOG			ST	ALIVE				Sunday, October 16, 2005	SCOTLAND	ISLES	Isle of Canna
T2005/53	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Thursday, October 13, 2005	SCOTLAND	ISLES	Off Rodel, Harris.
T2005/54	UNI	1/3		SEA	ALIVE				Friday, July 08, 2005	ENGLAND	DORSET	Between Brixham and Portland, Lyme Bay. 20nm offshore
T2005/55	UNI	2/3		SEA	ALIVE				Friday, July 08, 2005	ENGLAND	DORSET	Between Brixham and Portland, Lyme Bay. 20nm offshore
T2005/56	UNI	3/3		SEA	ALIVE				Friday, July 08, 2005	ENGLAND	DORSET	Between Brixham and Portland, Lyme Bay. 20nm offshore
T2005/57	LBT			SEA	ALIVE	ENT	20		Thursday, September 15, 2005	ENGLAND	KENT	Off Broadstairs. 2/3 miles NE of the Foreland
T2005/58	LBT			ST	DEAD				Sunday, October 30, 2005	ENGLAND	DEVON	Dawlish
T2005/59	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Tuesday, September 20, 2005	WALES	RE	Seen whilst sailing to Pembrokeshire from Ireland
T2005/60	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Friday, September 02, 2005	WALES	SHIRE	Carmarthen Bay
T2005/61	LOG			ST	DEAD				Sunday, November 27, 2005	ENGLAND	CORNWALL	Harlyn Beach, nr Padstow
T2005/62	LOG			ST	DEAD				Sunday, December 11, 2005	SCOTLAND	HIGHLAND	Scarfskerry Harbour, by Thurso, CAITHNESS, Highland
T2005/63	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Sunday, July 17, 2005	EIRE	CORK	1.5 miles due south of Old Head of Kinsale
T2005/64	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Thursday, July 28, 2005	EIRE	MAYO	2 miles west of Achill Head swimming north
T2005/65	LBT			SEA	ALIVE	ENT	11.01			EIRE	DONEGAL	4-5 miles NNW Inishtrahull
T2005/66	LBT			SEA	ALIVE					EIRE	GALWAY	C. 10 miles west of Clifden, between Slyne Head and High Island.
T2005/67	LBT			SEA	ALIVE	ENT	20			EIRE	WATERFORD	A quarter mile off Helvic Head
T2005/69	LBT			ST	DEAD				Sunday, December 25, 2005	EIRE	GALWAY	Omev Island, far end.
T2005/70	UNI		Y	ST	DEAD				Monday, December 19, 2005	EIRE	DONEGAL	Silver Strand, Malin Beg
T2005/71	LBT			SEA	ALIVE					EIRE	GALWAY	off west coast Slyne Head to Mizen Head
T2005/72	LBT			SEA	ALIVE					EIRE	GALWAY	off west coast Slyne Head to Mizen Head
T2005/73	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Sunday, August 07, 2005	EIRE		Western Approaches (off Waterford/Wexford?)
T2005/74	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Monday, August 15, 2005	EIRE	CORK	Off Cape Clear
T2005/75	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Friday, September 09, 2005	EIRE	CORK	Off Cape Clear
T2005/76	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Tuesday, July 05, 2005	EIRE	KERRY	Coastal, Off Cuas, Ballydavid, Dingle
T2005/77	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Wednesday, July 06, 2005	EIRE	CORK	Scullane Bay, west Cork
T2005/78	LBT			SEA	ALIVE					EIRE	KERRY	Coastal off Brandon Point, Dingle
T2005/79	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Wednesday, July 13, 2005	EIRE	CORK	1.5 miles off High Island, near Castletown
T2005/80	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Friday, July 15, 2005	EIRE	KERRY	Off mouth of Smerwick Harbour, Dingle
T2005/81	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Sunday, July 17, 2005	EIRE	CELTIC SEA	Off Ballycotton
T2005/82	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Sunday, July 17, 2005	EIRE	CELTIC SEA	Off Ballycotton
T2005/83	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Tuesday, July 26, 2005	EIRE	KERRY	Coastal, off An Cuas, near Brandon Head
T2005/84	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Friday, July 29, 2005	EIRE	KERRY	Coastal, off Smerwick Harbour, Dingle
T2005/85	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Saturday, July 23, 2005	EIRE	CORK	Offshore west Cork
T2005/86	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Tuesday, July 26, 2005	EIRE	CORK	Offshore west Cork
T2005/87	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Sunday, July 31, 2005	EIRE	ANTRIM	2 miles off Larne, Co. Antrim
T2005/88	UNI			SEA	ALIVE				Tuesday, August 23, 2005	EIRE	CORK	Off Stags, West Cork
T2005/89	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Monday, July 25, 2005	EIRE	CORK	South of Clonakilty Bay
T2005/90	LBT			SEA	ALIVE	ENT	11.01		Tuesday, August 30, 2005	EIRE	KERRY	Coastal, off Cuas, near Brandon Head
T2005/91	LBT			SEA	DEAD				Saturday, September 24, 2005	WALES	Irish Sea	Between Pembroke and Rosslare on ferry
T2005/92	LBT			SEA	ALIVE	ENT	11.01		Sunday, August 28, 2005	EIRE	DONEGAL	Banbas Crown, Malin Head
T2005/93	LBT			SEA	ALIVE				Friday, June 24, 2005	WALES	Bristol channel	Bristol channel off Pembs/Carms

RecordKey	Notes	ReportBy
T2005/01	stranded on beach. Photos with MEM	David Baird
T2005/01a	Taken to Blue reef Aquarium died Feb 3rd Post-mortemed by MTRG	Mr Gee & David Jarvis
T2005/02	Samples taken for Brendan Godley, Marine Turtle Research	RSPCA & David Jarvis
T2005/03	Off Birdseye Jetty	Mr Mingay
T2005/04	Heading south. 0.4m long, green coloured.	Dave Kendall
T2005/05	Reported as a seperate sighting from T2005/06 - same journey	Douglas Herdson
T2005/06	reported as a seperate sighting from T2005/05 - same journey	Douglas Herdson
T2005/07	Approx 15 ins long	Mark Gibson
T2005/08	Apparently died recently as no sign of decomposition. Carapace 1.8 metres (approx) Photos available from John Brunsdon,. John.brunsdon@bt.com	John Brunsdon
T2005/09	Same animal was seen floating on 26th July 2 miles SW of Land's End.	
T2005/10	Seen heading north on surface. Sea temp 17.8 degrees.	Douglas Herdson
T2005/11	Seen by mackerel fisherman. 6-7 ft long. Reported by shetland News Agency 03/08/05.	Karen Hall SNH
T2005/12	90 cms long - no tag noted. Appeared dark circle area on top of shell and light 'silver' around bottom of shell	Vic Jeanne
T2005/13	1.5-2 metres long feeding close to shore	Steve Parry
T2005/14		Rosemary Barnes
T2005/15	Seen from 'Pride of Bilbao'. 1 -2 metres long. Sea temp. 18 degrees	Clive Martin
T2005/16	Seen from 'Pride of Bilbao'. 1 -2 metres long Sea temp. 15degrees	AH
T2005/17	4 ft long. Possible turtle. Very decomposed, no carapace. Head removed and photographed.	
T2005/18	Washed up on Tory, next to pier - in week of 5th Sep, dead.	IWDG
T2005/19	seen from ferry heading to Sherkin	Dick Coombes
T2005/20	0.4 metres long. Light colour with front flipper out of water. 'Sun bathing.'	
T2005/21	no further info	D Ware & B Bennett
T2005/22	approx 3 ft long. Came to within 20m of coast between Nare Head and Portloe.. Seen by angler.	Joana Doyle
T2005/23	seen by fisherman via V Jackson & R Hathway (Plotted as centre of Western rocks)	Stella Turk
T2005/24		Stephen Lathan
T2005/25	unidentified turtle seen from yacht	Terry Roe
T2005/26	reported as several seen (6-8) by fishermen via V Jackson & R Hathway	
T2005/27	reported as several seen (6-8) by fishermen via V Jackson & R Hathway	
T2005/28	reported as several seen (6-8) by fishermen via V Jackson & R Hathway	
T2005/29	reported as several seen (6-8) by fishermen via V Jackson & R Hathway	
T2005/30	reported as several seen (6-8) by fishermen via V Jackson & R Hathway	
T2005/31	reported as several seen (6-8) by fishermen via V Jackson & R Hathway	
T2005/32	seen by fishermen	Dwane Ware & Barry Bennett
T2005/33	seen from cliff top above naturists beach, Corton. Head out then dived. 6 ft approx.	Peter May
T2005/34	Seen from cliff top	
T2005/35	Seen from ferry boat	Vicki Swales
T2005/36	Approx 5 ft long with ridges down back	Mrs Tresise
T2005/37	Seen from moored boat about 8ft away. Turtle about 1 ft long, light brown 'tortoise-like' head, body underwater appeared round.	Mr Neil Cornwell
T2005/38	Seen from yacht Papageno. Flapping fin and relaxed. C. 1 metre long.	Peter Haden
T2005/39		
T2005/40	3-6 feet long. Seem for 10 mins, swimming. Heading southwards along western shore of Ayres.	Judith Bridgen
T2005/41	Advanced decomposition, no head. Samples taken by Amanda Martin/Ren Hathway	
T2005/42	Dead in lobster pot ropes. Approx 2 m long. Later found washed up. Carapace length 1.74m. Plus head 2.14m	Sean O'grady
T2005/43	Seen while sea watching. Multi-species (cetaceans, birds etc) feeding over several days - possibly same turtle seen on other days (see T2005/44 & 45)	Niall Keogh
T2005/44	Seen while sea watching. Multi-species (cetaceans, birds etc) feeding over several days - possibly same turtle seen on other days (see T2005/43 & 45)	Niall Keogh
T2005/45	Seen while sea watching. Multi-species (cetaceans, birds etc) feeding over several days - possibly same turtle seen on other days (see T2005/43 & 44)	Niall Keogh
T2005/46	2 turtles seen from shore and boat	Tony Caulfield
T2005/47	2 turtles seen from shore and boat	Tony Caulfield

RecordKey	Notes	ReportBy
T2005/48	Approx. 1.8m long. 30 m out from cliff. Surfaced 3 times swimming west.	Dick Coombes
T2005/49	Beached, very dead, decomposing. Not suitable for PM. No head, length 185cm. Carapace 135 x 95 cm.	George Jackson
T2005/50	About 50m out from southern shore. Seen while sea-watching. Small specimen Approx 1.5m long. Moving west.	Dick Coombes
T2005/51	Seen whilst bird watching	Paul Semmens Cornish Wildlife
T2005/52	Small, juvenile male. Found cold stunned and underweight. Taken to Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary, Oban	
T2005/53	Adult size	Dr Sugoto Roy (Minke Project)
T2005/54	Seen from 10 metres while sailing. One larger, less than 1 metre, other two very small. Swimming west.	Doreen Hutton
T2005/55	Seen from 10 metres while sailing. One larger, less than 1 metre, other two very small. Swimming west.	Doreen Hutton
T2005/56	Seen from 10 metres while sailing. One larger, less than 1 metre, other two very small. Swimming west.	Doreen Hutton
T2005/57	Caught in net by Ramsgate fisherman (prefer to be anonymous) and released alive and swam off - size of dustbin lid.	
T2005/58	Spinal column and ribs only	Mark Totterdel
T2005/59	Seen on local TV news and Web site.. Videod by Mr Jeff Tierney (Pontypridd).	
T2005/60	Seen from research vessel Noctiluca	
T2005/61	Taken to Truro VLA for PM by Nick Davidson	
T2005/62	service Point, thurso. KW14 7SS (01641 521884)	Paul Castle
T2005/63	Seen from RIB	Mike Hallahan
T2005/64	Seen from angling boat	Michael Keane
T2005/65	Released alive from lobster pot line. Last half of August. (Pers.comm 20.01.06)	
T2005/66	Swimming NE towards High Island. End of month.	
T2005/67	Released alive from net. Swam off west. Late July.	
T2005/69	Identity of remains by Bob Holoway (Conservation Ranger)	John Brittain
T2005/70	Decomposing, returned to sea. Carapace 10 x 12 ins, light grey. (Plotted as White Strand Bay, Malin Head?)	Mike O'Boyle
T2005/71	Different time from T2005/72	John Roberts
T2005/72	Different time from T2005/71	John Roberts
T2005/73	Seen by INTERREG IIIA aerial survey. Appeared to be an adult heading SW. swimming and breathing.	Dr J Houghton/Tom Doyle
T2005/74	Seen from Bird Observatory	
T2005/75	Seen from Bird Observatory	
T2005/76	Contact Tom Doyle for further info.	
T2005/77	Contact Tom Doyle for further info.	IWDG
T2005/78	Contact Tom Doyle for further info.	
T2005/79	Sighting from whale watching trip by Colin Barnes	IWDG
T2005/80	Contact Tom Doyle for further info.	
T2005/81	Sighted from Cork-Swansea ferry, 400m from T2005-08. By captain of ferry.	Buckley, S.
T2005/82	Sighted from Cork-Swansea ferry, 400m from T2005-07. By captain of ferry.	Buckley, S.
T2005/83	Contact Tom Doyle for further info.	
T2005/84	Contact Tom Doyle for further info.	
T2005/85	Sighting from whale watching trip on MV Voyager by Nic Slocum	IWDG
T2005/86	Sighting from whale watching trip on MV Voyager by Nic Slocum	IWDG
T2005/87	Sighting by fisherman, 2 miles off Lane. David Galbraith	IWDG
T2005/88	Very small and alive. Probably a loggerhead c. 15 ins long. Colin Barnes.	IWDG
T2005/89	Sighting from Irish Navy St Eithne. Mark Mellet.	IWDG
T2005/90	Entangled in lobster pot rope and freed by fishermen. Turtle was fitted with satellite tag by Doyle and Houghton and released.	
T2005/91	Dead for sometime, putrifying. C. 5-6 ft long. Dave Wall	IWDG
T2005/92	Entangled in potting ropes, front flipper seemed badly rubbed by sawing action of both ropes and wave action.	Danny Porteous
T2005/93	Surfaced 3 times amongst large bloom of Aurelia aurita.	Buckley, Sarah and Doyle

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):

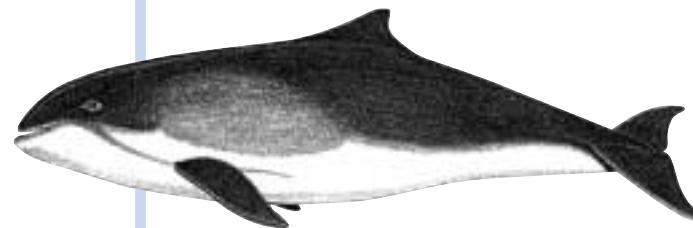
Marine Environmental Monitoring

01348 875000

Scotland (all species):

SAC Veterinary Services:

01463 243030



Design & layout by Newman Editorial Services 01239 612161

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

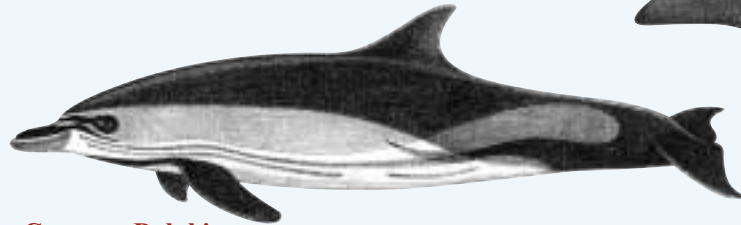
Species likely to be found stranded on our beaches



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

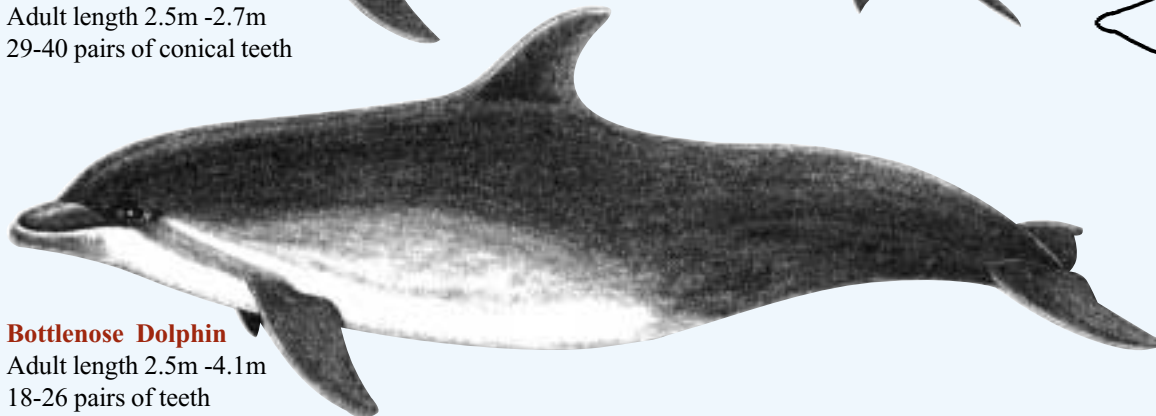
45-50 pairs of sharp, conical teeth



White Sided Dolphin

Adult length 2.5m -2.7m

29-40 pairs of conical teeth



Bottlenose Dolphin

Adult length 2.5m -4.1m

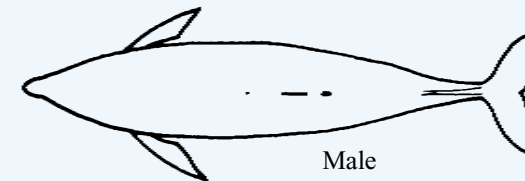
18-26 pairs of teeth



Risso's Dolphin

Adult length 3.3m -3.8m

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



Male



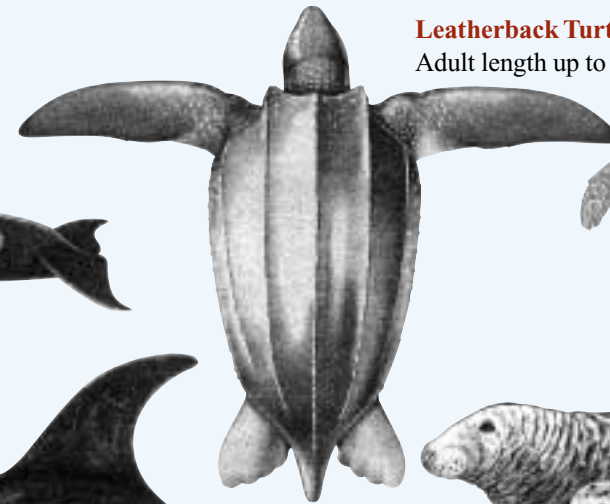
Female



White Beaked Dolphin

Adult length 2.5m -2.7m

22-28 pairs of conical teeth



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