



Marine Environmental Monitoring

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Marine Mammal & Marine Turtle Strandings (Welsh Coast) Annual Report 2010

R.S.Penrose. March 2011



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1. CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL

Caiff yr UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP - rhaglen y DU ar gyfer ymchwilio tiriadau anifeiliaid o deulu'r morfilod) ei gydlynw'n dechnegol gan Gymdeithas Sŵolegol Llundain (ZSL).

Teulu'r Morfilod: Derbyniodd MEM adroddiadau am 84 o anifeiliaid o deulu'r morfilod yn 2010. O'r rhain, llamhidyddion oedd y rhai y cafwyd y nifer uchaf o adroddiadau amdanynt (61 ohonynt).

Cafwyd adroddiadau ynghylch anifeiliaid eraill o deulu'r morfilod wedi tirio ar lannau Cymru yn 2010, gan gynnwys dau ddolffin trwyn potel, saith dolffin cyffredin, dau ddolffin rhesog/cyffredin, deg 'rhywogaeth amhenodol o deulu'r morfil', un morfil pigfain ac un dolffin Risso.

Daeth un dolffin cyffredin i'r lan yn fyw.

Cafwyd bod chwe anifail ar hugain o deulu'r morfilod mewn cyflwr o bydredd 'newydd gychwyn i gymedrol' ac fe'u hystyriwyd felly'n addas i'w harchwilio *post-mortem*. Dewiswyd 15 o'r 26 i'w harchwilio.

Trwy gydol 2010, ceid o hyd fod rhai llamhidyddion wedi'u lladd gan ddolffiniaid trwyn potel. Bu gorfod i'r cynllun wneud llai o gofnodi ers 2006 a gwnaeth hyn hi'n anodd cymharu tueddiadau yn y gweithgaredd hwn â'r blynyddoedd cynt.

Samplau: Yn ogystal â'r samplau arferol a gymerwyd o anifeiliaid a gasglwyd ar gyfer archwiliad *post-mortem*, cymerwyd samplau hefyd o un ar ddeg o anifeiliaid eraill cyn cael gwared arnynt.

Morloi: Derbyniodd *Marine Environmental Monitoring* adroddiadau am 110 morlo llwyd. Bu'r nifer o adroddiadau ynghylch morloi meirw yn uwch na'r disgwyl. Ni chasglwyd unrhyw gyrff i'w harchwilio *post mortem* oherwydd nad oes arian gan CSIP i fonitro'r rhywogaethau hyn.

Crwbanod: Ni chafwyd unrhyw adroddiad am grwbanod môr yn tirio o gwmpas glannau Cymru. Cafwyd saith adroddiad, rhwng mis Chwefror a mis Medi, bod crwban môr cefn lledr wedi'i weld

Heulforgwn: Ni chafwyd unrhyw adroddiad yn ystod 2009 am heulforgi'n tirio.

Ariannu: Mae cytundeb tair blynedd â Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru/Defra, ar gyfer 2011 ymlaen, yn mynd trwy'r broses o dendro ar hyn o bryd.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP) is under the technical co-ordination of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL).

Cetaceans: 84 cetaceans were reported to MEM in 2010. Harbour porpoises (n=61) were the most frequently reported cetacean.

Other cetaceans reported stranded on the Welsh coast in 2010 included two bottlenose dolphins, seven common dolphins, two common/striped dolphins, ten 'cetacean species indeterminate', one minke whale and one Risso's dolphin.

One common dolphin live-stranded.

Twenty-six cetaceans were found to be in a state of 'fresh to moderate' decomposition and therefore considered to be suitable for *post-mortem* examination. Fifteen of the 26 were selected for examination.

Harbour porpoise 'killed by bottlenose dolphin' continued to be identified through 2010. Imposed reduced effort in recording from 2006 has made trends in this activity difficult to compare with previous years.

Samples: In addition to routine samples taken from animals recovered for *post-mortem* examination, samples have also been taken from eleven further animals before disposal.

Seals: 110 grey seals were reported to Marine Environmental Monitoring. Numbers of dead seals reported were higher than expected. No carcasses were retrieved for *post-mortem* examination as there is no funding to monitor these species within the CSIP.

Turtles: No 'stranded' marine turtles were reported from around the Welsh coast. Reports of seven leatherback turtle 'sightings' were received between February and September.

Basking Sharks: No basking shark strandings were reported during 2010.

Funding: A three-year contract with WAG/Defra, for 2011 onwards, is currently undergoing the tender process.

2. INTRODUCTION

In 1990, the ‘Collaborative UK Marine Mammal Strandings Project’ was initiated and part-funded by the UK Department of the Environment (now Defra). The project involves detailed pathological and other investigations of stranded marine mammal carcasses (mostly cetacean) from UK waters. It forms part of the Department's international obligations towards conservation agreements, including the ‘Agreement on the conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas’ (ASCOBANS). Detailed pathological investigations of stranded marine turtles were included in 2001 and basking sharks in 2007.

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

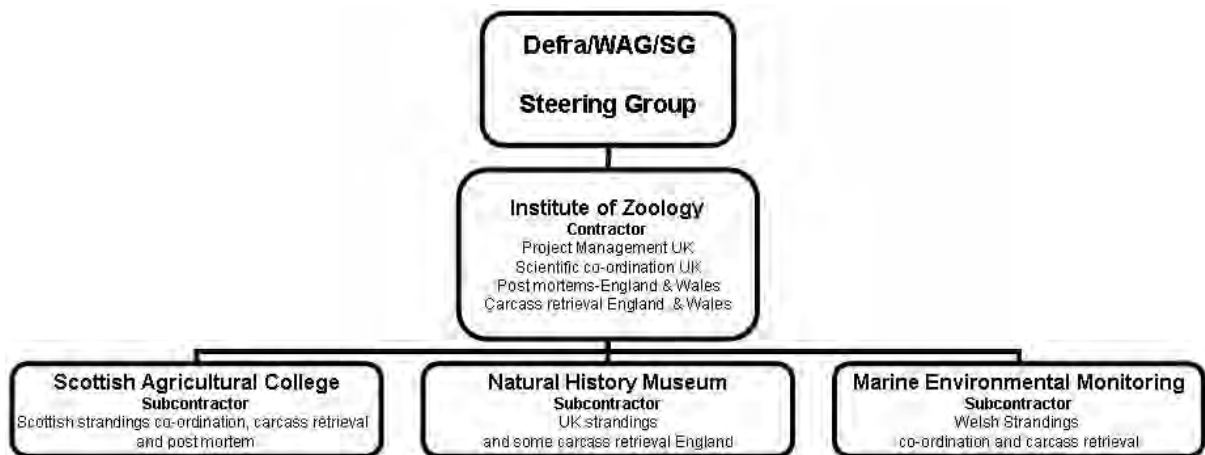


Figure 1. Current Technical Co-ordination of the Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP).

Funding to ZSL/IoZ, NHM and SAC was significantly reduced through 2006/2007. Funding to MEM by the Welsh Assembly Government and the Countryside Council for Wales fortunately remained at previous levels, however reduced travelling expenses supported by Defra via ZSL/IoZ has had a knock-on effect in Wales resulting in only known ‘fresh to moderate’ carcasses that can be successfully recovered for *post-mortem* examination being attended. Confirmation of species of other cetacean strandings has relied on digital photographs and known reliable sources. Where animals cannot be identified 100 per cent, the Strandings Co-ordinator has attended at his own expense if within a reasonable distance. Carcasses with unconfirmed species identification generally outside this area have been entered into the database as ‘cetacean species indeterminate’. In an attempt to operate within the reduced travelling budget two chest freezers have been purchased and procedures have now been changed to freeze carcasses. Although this practice results in loss of some information during the *post-mortem* examination process, carcasses can now be ‘stock-piled’ and transported to London or Liverpool in larger numbers thus reducing the number of journeys per year.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A 24 hour Strandings Answerphone (**01348 875000**), is interrogated at regular intervals. A message requests callers to leave details of the stranding and location, along with their name and contact phone number, so they can be reached if confirmation of details are required. (If the stranding is a live stranding, a message on an answer-phone informs the caller to contact the RSPCA immediately. See 3.1)

A network of volunteers, rangers, wardens, coastal officers, Harbour Masters etc. has been formed who can be contacted by the Strandings Co-ordinator to confirm the stranding, assess its condition and secure the animal from the effects of the tide, predation etc. until it can be dealt with. In recent years

the use of digital cameras has vastly improved the quality of reporting as species, sex, and condition of carcass can be ascertained from the e-mailed image. A dedicated email address to receive digital photographs has been created info@strandings.demon.co.uk and a mobile phone has been activated to receive 'phone images' only Tel. No. 07773 592227. It is hoped this will reduce the number of 'cetacean species indeterminate' recorded in the database.

The following criteria are applied: -

3.1 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 as they support a manned 24-hour emergency phone. The RSPCA would then contact the relevant organisations, Marine Environmental Monitoring etc.

3.2 Dead Animals

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

(Condition code 2b slight decomposition)¹

(Condition code 3 moderate decomposition)¹

The animal is retrieved using a 4-wheel drive vehicle and trailer. Health and safety precautions are followed with the animal being handled only with gloved hands. Due to current changes the carcass is now stored frozen until delivery for *post-mortem* examination².

(Condition code 4 advanced decomposition)¹

(Condition code 5 mummified carcass)¹

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

The CSIP database <http://data.ukstrandings.org/> has continued to be the UK wide repository for all records with the exception of the TURTLE database which is yet to be incorporated into this web-based system.

Members of the CSIP are now able to enter data directly to the database. Each access point or 'node' is password protected and the database automatically designates the appropriate number for the species being entered.

Additional to this, the public are now able to access stranding data through regular updates to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Gateway (www.nbn.org.uk).

Copies of *post-mortem* examination reports have been continued to be sent from the Strandings Co-ordinator to the finder and others associated with each relevant stranding.

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

² Large cetaceans unable to be frozen or transported are investigated at their stranding location.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Marine Mammals

Table 1.

2010 Total number of reported marine mammal strandings (Welsh Coast).													
Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Bottlenose dolphin	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Cetacean sp. Indet.	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	4	0	2	0	0	10
Common dolphin	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	1	7
Common/striped dolphin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Harbour porpoise	0	0	4	1	4	4	10	15	13	6	3	1	61
Minke whale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Risso's dolphin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total cetaceans	0	0	4	1	6	7	13	21	14	12	4	2	84
Grey seal	3	1	1	1	1	5	4	22	38	24	9	1	110
Total animals	3	1	5	2	7	12	17	43	52	36	13	3	194

Table 2.

2010 Number of live cetacean strandings (Welsh Coast).													
Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Bottlenose dolphin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cetacean sp. Indet.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common dolphin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Common/striped dolphin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harbour porpoise	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minke whale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Risso's dolphin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total cetaceans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

Of the 84 cetacean strandings only 1 animal was found live-stranded during 2010.

Table 3.

2010 Number of animals selected for <i>post-mortem</i> examination.													
Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Bottlenose dolphin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cetacean sp. Indet.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common dolphin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Common/striped dolphin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harbour porpoise	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	3	3	1	0	0	12
Minke whale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Risso's dolphin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total cetaceans	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	4	3	2	0	1	15

Of the 84 cetacean strandings, 31.3% (26 animals classified as fresh to moderate decomposition) were suitable for *post-mortem* examination, of these, 15 animals were selected for examination. The animals selected for *post-mortem* examination are listed, together with the cause of death, in 13. CAUSE OF DEATH, Page 23.

Table 4.

2010 Number of animals decomposed / discarded. (Welsh Coast).													
Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Bottlenose dolphin	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Cetacean sp. Indet.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Common dolphin	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	6
Common/striped dolphin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Harbour porpoise	0	0	3	0	1	4	7	11	8	3	2	0	39
Minke whale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Risso's dolphin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total cetaceans	0	0	3	0	3	4	9	12	9	7	3	0	50
Grey seal	3	1	0	1	1	4	4	19	29	20	7	1	90
Total animals	3	1	3	1	4	8	13	31	38	27	10	1	140

Of the 194 total strandings in 2010, 72% (140 animals) were decomposed or discarded and the relevant local council contacted for safe disposal of remains. The remaining 20.2% (39 animals) (excluding the 15 selected for examination) were confirmed reports but, were unable to be retrieved or disposed of due to various reasons. i.e. no access to stranding, washed away, retrospective report or were found alive and returned to the sea.

Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) were the most frequently reported stranded cetacean during 2010.

The black line shown running through the bar chart in **Figure 2.** indicates harbour porpoise neonates³ recovered in each year. This line has roughly mimicked and followed the totals for each year however, 2004 shows a marked decline in neonates compared to the reported total of porpoises for that year.

Due to changes in funding and restrictions placed on transport arrangements introduced in 2006/2007, the numbers of porpoises recorded since 2006, (shaded yellow in **Figure 2.**) may be lower than the actual number stranded as not all carcasses were attended or identified to species. In an attempt to address this deficiency, various measures have been implemented, described in further detail in 3. MATERIALS AND METHODS. Page 8.

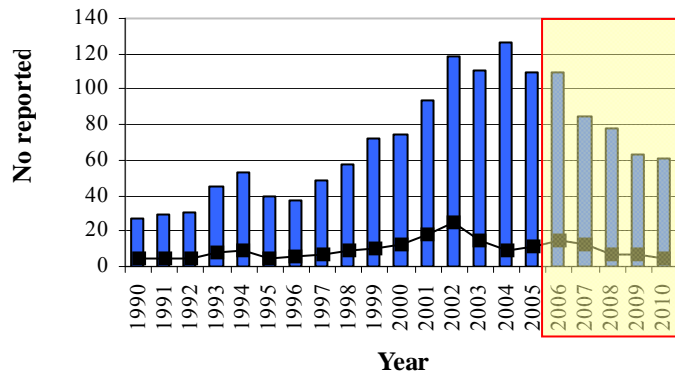


Figure 2. Reported harbour porpoise strandings on the Welsh coast.

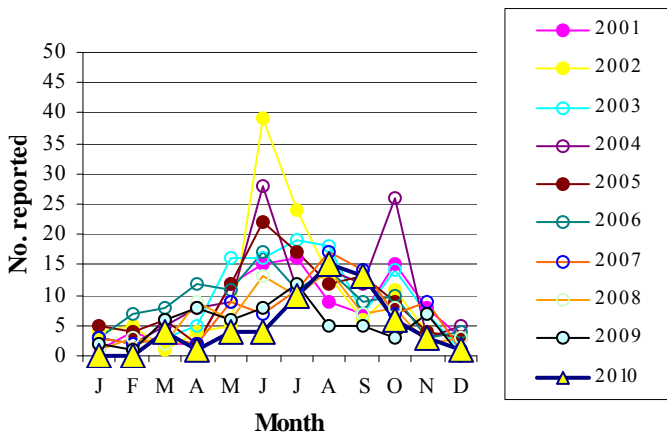


Figure 3. Harbour porpoise strandings by month.

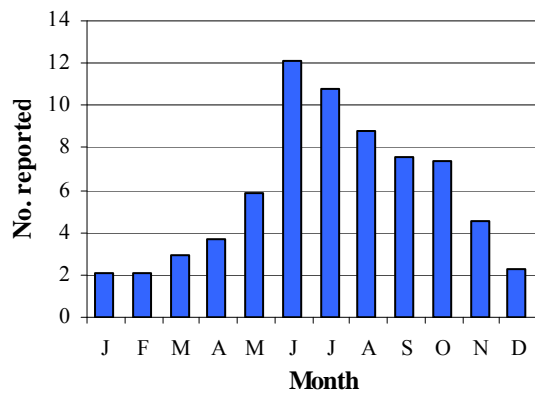


Figure 4. Harbour porpoise strandings averaged over 1990 to 2010.

³ Neonate harbour porpoise classified as having a straight overall measurement from tip of upper jaw to tail notch of less than 0.90 metres. (Lockyer 1995).

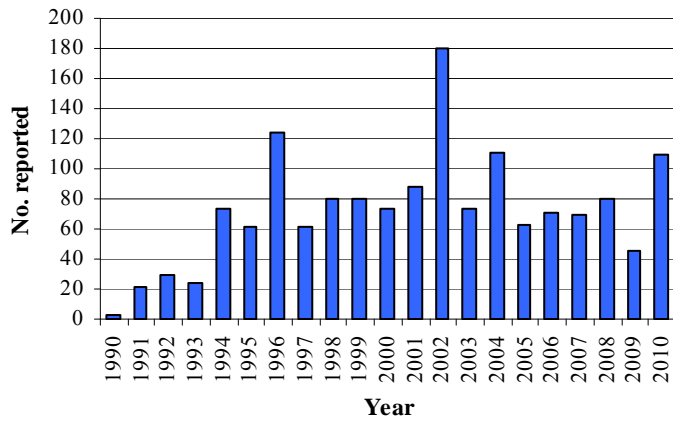


Figure 5. Reported grey seal mortality on the Welsh coast.

Atlantic grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) mortality reported to Marine Environmental Monitoring showed a substantial increase compared to 2009. Previous highs shown in **Figure 5**, occurred in 2004, due to severe weather during the pupping season, and 1996 and 2002. In both these years, 1996 and 2002, there was a high public effort in reporting as 1996 followed the Sea Empress Oil Spill (SEOS) and 2002 was the Phocine Distemper Virus (PDV) epizootic.

Both these years also include data from the Pembrokeshire Islands which has not been recorded in other years. Animals retrieved for full *post-mortem* examination post SEOS⁴ and during the PDV⁵ epizootic showed no evidence that either of these events had any effect on the Welsh grey seal population.

High mortality is normally associated with the pupping season which is around September to November on the Welsh coast. However, this period appears to be extending earlier in the year to include August as shown in **Figure 6**.

No explanation can be offered for this increase in mortality other than the Atlantic grey seal population in Pembrokeshire appears to be quite healthy and the mortality figures may just be a reflection on a high population. Although not currently part of the CSIP a few dead seals were collected during 2010 by the Welsh Strandings Co-ordinator and stored for future examination if funding becomes available.

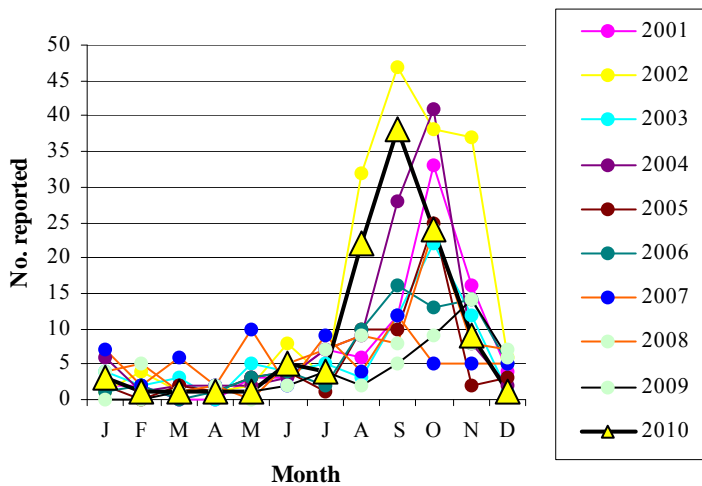


Figure 6. Grey seal mortality by month.

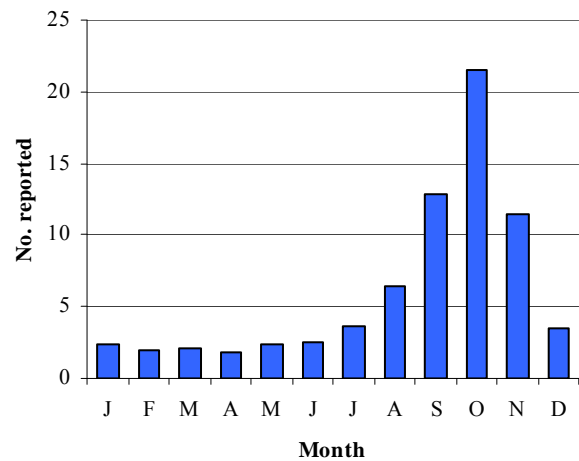


Figure 7. Grey seal reports averaged over 1990 to 2010.

⁴ Penrose, R. 1997. *Sea Empress Oil Spill – West Wales review of marine mammal strandings from the west Wales coast 1991-1996*. Report to CCW.

⁵ Lerwil, J.K., G.A.P. Jones and R.S. Penrose 2003. *Seals in Wales: Response to a possible Phocine Distemper Virus (PDV) outbreak*. Report to CCW.

4.2 Bottlenose Dolphin Attacks.

Harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) that had died of injuries consistent with attack by one or more bottlenose dolphin (Jepson & Baker 1998), continued to be found through 2010.

The number of harbour porpoise carcasses reported to the project, identified as being “killed by bottlenose dolphins”, appear to have declined over time. However care should be used when interpreting this data as not all porpoise strandings have been attended since the beginning of 2006. The stranding locations for the animals attended or retrieved for *post-mortem* examination determined as being killed by bottlenose dolphins are plotted in **Figure 8**.

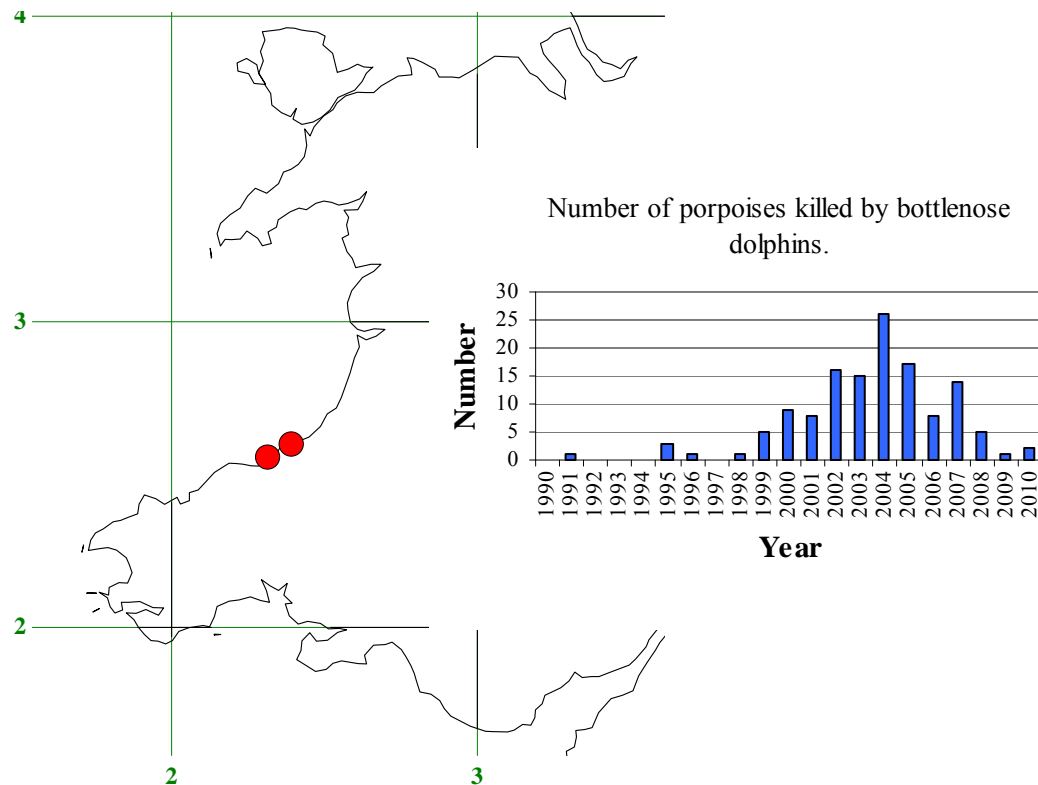


Figure 8. Stranding location of the 2 porpoises killed by bottlenose dolphins in 2010.

Two porpoises collected for full *post-mortem* examination were found to be killed by bottlenose dolphins.

A third harbour porpoise was observed being attacked by bottlenose dolphins off New Quay on the 13th May. The carcass was not recovered so did not undergo a post-mortem examination. This has therefore not been included in the map or graph above. A more detailed description of this event is included under **SW2010/151**, 4.3 Unusual Occurrences.

The data presented here should not be interpreted as a decline in this activity as the numbers of porpoises selected for examination has been restricted since 2006.

4.3 Unusual Occurrences.

SW2010/133 was a 1.02 metre female harbour porpoise that was reported dead entangled in a set beach net together with a large tope and various other fish on the 24th April 2010 at Abergele, Conwy. The porpoise carcass was recovered by the Rhyl Coastguard team to the CSIP for a full *post-mortem* examination where the cause of death was established as ‘by-catch’. Some of the cutaneous lesions consistent with net entanglement appeared to be more chronic which is unusual for a cetacean by-catch where death is normally very rapid. It is possible the porpoise became entangled in the net on an ebb tide the previous evening, surviving over night only to drown on the incoming tide in the morning. Admiralty tidal predictions give a time of 06:54 for high water on the 24th April 2010 which help supports this theory.



Plate 1. *Porpoise SW2010/133 entangled in set net.*

Photo by: Feleena Hobson.

SW2010/151 was a harbour porpoise, observed from shore by Bangor University researchers at New Quay, Ceredigion on the 13th May 2010, being attacked by one or more bottlenose dolphins. Sea Watch Sightings Officer, Gemma Veneruso, attempted to recover the porpoise carcass, by boat, being directed by cliff-top observers to the approximate location. Unfortunately, as the event took place around a kilometre offshore, the chances of finding the carcass was low and nothing was found by this valiant effort.

SW2010/156 was a 2.52 metre female bottlenose dolphin seen floating at sea off Mwnt, Ceredigion on the 18th May 2010 by RV “Vigilance”. The carcass finally made landfall at Penbryn, Ceredigion where it was reported on the 26th May 2010. Although in a state of advanced decomposition, the carcass could be identified as the same animal by comparing areas of scavenger damage with digital images received from RV “Vigilance”. Basic samples of skin, muscle, blubber and teeth were taken and the carcass removed for disposal. No explanation of the piece of wood shown in the photograph can be offered other than it may have been used to push the carcass off a beach somewhere.



Plate 2. *Bottlenose dolphin SW2010/156 off Mwnt.*

Photo by: Mark Williams.

On the 20th July 2010, twelve common dolphins were reported alive within Fishguard Harbour on a receding tide. The animals kept in a tight group with milling activity. As these are a pelagic species, not normally known for coming close to shore, and enclosed in a drying out harbour there was a high risk of these animals stranding. As a precaution, and in accordance with the Military Underwater Sound Stakeholders Forum, the Duty Fleet Controller was contacted so that any military sonar activity in the area could be suspended while attempts were made to return these dolphins to open water. Several attempts were made at herding the animals towards the harbour entrance over several hours until the ladies rowing team assisted with a successful result.

SW2010/234 was a 2.3 metre male bottlenose dolphin reported stranded by Milford Haven Coastguard at Borth, Ceredigion on the 4th August 2010. Unfortunately this animal was also in a state of advanced decomposition. With the help of the local council the carcass was moved to a secluded area at Ynyslas where basic samples were taken. The remains were then removed for safe disposal by Ceredigion County Council. Due to the state of decomposition no meaningful results on cause of death could be found but two deep indentations from ropes could clearly be seen on the right side of the body. The carcass may have been found at sea and lashed to the side of a boat?



Plate 3. *Bottlenose dolphin SW2010/234 at Ynyslas.*

Photo by: D. Feingold/Sea Watch Foundation.

SW2010/238 was the remains of a harbour porpoise reported at Newport, Pembrokeshire on the 5th August 2010. The headless carcass was in a state of moderate decomposition but consisted of skin and blubber only, in a wide corkscrew cut, starting in front of the dorsal fin and finishing with the complete tail section. Edges of the blubber appeared to be cut as opposed to scavenger damage. The carcass was not recovered for post-mortem examination due to the lack of remains.

The injury may have been caused by a marine propulsion system or other rotating mechanical equipment.



Plate 4. *Remains of SW2010/238 at Newport.*

Photo by: Cliff Benson/Sea Trust.

SW2010/326 was the remains of a harbour porpoise reported at Rhosneigr, Anglesey on the 10th August 2010. The remains were in a state of slight decomposition but consisted of the dorsal fin only together with a small area of skin and blubber from the left flank. Edges of the blubber appeared to be cut as opposed to scavenger damage. The carcass was not recovered for post-mortem examination due to the lack of remains.

The injury may have been caused by a marine propulsion system or other rotating mechanical equipment.



Plate 5. *Remains of SW2010/326 at Rhosneigr.*

SW2010/262 was a 7.00 metre male minke whale reported stranded dead by Holyhead Coastguard at Pwllheli, Gwynedd on the 22nd August 2010. The carcass was in a state of slight decomposition but had unfortunately made landfall within the busy Haven Hafan y Mor holiday camp. The carcass was guarded on site by the local coastguard team until we were able to secure the carcass and carry out an on-site *post-mortem* examination. The examination was viewed by a number of enthusiastic holiday makers from the camp. The remains were later removed, by sea, to a nearby beach by Gwynedd County Council Maritime Services where vehicular access allowed the whale to be disposed of.

Cause of death was:- Starvation/hypothermia.



Plate 6. *Minke whale SW2020/262 at Pwllheli.*

A 7.00 metre minke whale had live-stranded and was re-floated on the 18th of August 2010 at Tyrella, County Down, Northern Ireland, it is possible this was the same animal.

<http://www.iwdg.ie/iscope/strandings/details.asp?id=3516>

SW2010/312 and **SW2010/313** were harbour porpoises, possibly a mother and calf pair, reported dead entangled in a beach set net at Aberthaw, Vale of Glamorgan on the 29th September 2010. Photographs received of the animals showed them to be in an extremely fresh condition. Unfortunately the Strandings Co-ordinator was delivering carcasses to London at this time, a search for the carcasses on the return trip proved unfruitful as the animals had obviously been moved by the tide.

SW2010/327 was a 1.2 metre female common dolphin reported stranded by Pembrokeshire County Council at Gelliswick within the Milford Haven on the 7th October 2010. The carcass was in a state of moderate decomposition but had an injury that was thought to be caused by a marine propulsion system or other rotating mechanical equipment.

The carcass was not recovered for post-mortem examination due to the condition of the remains.



Plate 7. *Common dolphin SW2010/327 at Gelliswick.*

SW2010/333 was a 1.3 metre common dolphin reported stranded by the Harbour Master within the harbour at Saundersfoot, Pembrokeshire on the 11th October 2010. The carcass was in a state of slight decomposition but had an injury that was thought to be caused by a marine propulsion system or other rotating mechanical equipment.

The carcass was not recovered for post-mortem examination due to the condition of the remains.



Plate 8. *Common dolphin SW2010/333 at Saundersfoot.*

SW2010/358 was a 1.22 metre 'cetacean species indeterminate' reported stranded at Fall Bay, Rhossili on the Gower by Swansea Coastguard on the 29th October 2010. This animal was not attended by the Strandings Co-ordinator due to the state of decomposition shown in the digital image received from the coastguard. Unfortunately, a species could not be confidently attributed to this dolphin using the image provided. Straight edged cuts are shown in the image which may have been caused by a knife or a marine propulsion system or other rotating mechanical equipment.



Plate 9. *Cetacean species indeterminate SW2010/358.*

Photo by: Swansea Coastguard

4.4 Live Strandings.

Only one live cetacean stranding was reported in 2010.

SW2010/396 was a 2.12 metre male common dolphin that was found live-stranded at Jubilee beach near Dale within Milford Haven on the 17th December 2010. The animal was refloated several times by members of the public before Terry Leadbetter, Welsh Marine Life Rescue, RSPCA, and British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) attended. The animal was supported in the icy water by a volunteer from BDMLR while its body condition was assessed and a joint decision was made to euthanase the animal due to its emaciated appearance. The carcass was collected the following day and stored for examination. Cause of death was:- Parasitism, cardiac stomach (heavy).



Plate 10. *The live-stranded common dolphin SW2010/396 at Dale.*

4.5 Tagging.

Occasionally dead cetaceans are encountered at sea by various research groups undergoing surveys off the Welsh coast. These groups are encouraged to retrieve any carcass whenever possible to enable it to be included and examined through the 'Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme'. If the carcass is in a state of advanced decomposition or cannot be recovered for any other reason, I have requested that these groups tag the carcass and leave it at sea. Numbered tags have been supplied by Marine Environmental Monitoring to each group, these consist of a yellow plastic cable-tie with a unique number allocated to each group, these have been allocated as follows.

- 1 Not allocated ⁶.
- 2 Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Group. (CBMWG).
- 3 Sea Watch New Quay.
- 4 Sea Trust.
- 5 Friends of Cardigan Bay (FoCB, Sarns Project).

The tag can be conveniently tied around the tail-stock, pectoral fin or, in the case of advanced decomposition, any exposed rib.

The purpose of these tags is to stop animals being recorded twice but also it is of interest to record the date/time and position when tagged and the eventual date and location of any landfall the carcass may make. Over time this may enable a better understanding of how these carcasses are affected by tidal currents and wind direction.

No carcasses were tagged in 2010.

⁶ Number '1' was not used as it may not have been readily identified by persons subsequently reporting the stranded carcass.

5. OTHER MARINE ANIMALS REPORTED TO THE NETWORK.

5.1 Marine Turtles.

There were no reports of stranded marine turtles in Wales received during 2010. However, 7 reports of sightings of marine turtles were received around the Welsh coast during 2010. All were Leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*). These are listed below.

T2010/001 was reported alive off Aberystwyth north beach, Ceredigion, on the 27th of February 2010.

T2010/003 was reported alive half a mile off Aberarth, Ceredigion, on the 21st of May 2010.

T2010/007 was reported alive off Traeth Llyfn near Abereddy, Pembrokeshire, on the 5th of June 2010.

T2010/010 was reported alive in the Burry inlet, Carmarthenshire, on the 30th of June 2010.

T2010/017 was reported alive off Ynys Lochtyn, Ceredigion, on the 30th of August 2010.

T2010/018 was reported alive off Saundersfoot, Pembrokeshire, on the 1st of September 2010.

T2010/019 was reported alive off Pendine, Carmarthenshire, on the 2nd of September 2010.

Further marine turtle reports outside of Wales can be found in the British Isles & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Reports at; <http://www.strandings.com/Wales.html>

5.2 Sharks.

As of 2007, Defra requested that stranded basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) investigations be included within the project.

No sharks were reported during 2010.

6. SAMPLES.

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

Additional to this, samples (mostly skin, muscle & teeth) have been taken from a further 11 animals during 2010 by the Strandings Co-ordinator and volunteers. Animals sampled are listed below.

2 bottlenose dolphins.

9 harbour porpoises.

7. FUNDING.

Marine Environmental Monitoring continued to be funded in Wales by The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)/ Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) contract during 2010.

Defra, through the Zoological Society, London, continued to cover transportation costs and the Environment Agency also maintained support of a high-powered microscope through 2010.

8. PUBLICITY.

The Strandings Web-site has been maintained to provide details of the 'UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme'. 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. A 'Seal' and 'Turtle' page have been created on the site and related information and annual reports will be posted here:-

Seals: www.strandings.com/Seals.html

Turtles: www.strandings.com/Turtlepage.html

Posters and leaflets produced to increase awareness of the project have continued to be distributed throughout the coast of Wales. Turtle Codes have also been distributed throughout the Welsh coast.

The UK CSIP now also has a web-site up and running and this can be found at www.ukstrandings.org

9. LEGISLATION.

In 2007 new legislation came in to force, the "Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) (amendment) Regulations 2007". This makes changes to the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994.

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

Annex IV includes all cetaceans and all marine turtles.

For research and educational purposes the current licensing authorities are the three government statutory conservation bodies, Countryside Council for Wales, Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage.

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

10. EQUIPMENT.

The National Strandings reporting answer-phone 01348 875000 was found to be not working on two occasions during 2010.

The first on 10th May with a problem at the exchange, repaired the same day.

The second on 18th August when a tree blew down taking the telephone line with it.

11. TRAVEL.

In excess of 4,611 miles were covered on the project in retrieval and transportation of animals in 2010.

The European Cetacean Society conference in Stralsund, Germany 21-24 March was attended.

The Military Underwater Sound Stakeholders Forum in Southampton was attended 19th May and 18th November.

The CSIP conference in London 25th November was attended.

A veterinary cetacean pathology workshop 15th December was attended in the Republic of Ireland.

12. ADMINISTRATION.

In excess of 30 copies of *post-mortem* examination reports were posted out to finders and associated interested parties concerning each relevant stranding.

13. CAUSE OF DEATH.

Animals pending from 2009.

SW2009/383 was a 1.64 metre male striped dolphin found freshly dead at Ynyslas, Ceredigion on the 27th November 2009. On post-mortem examination the cause of death was found to be live-stranding.

The provisional causes of death for the 15 selected cetaceans in a suitable condition for necropsy in 2010 are given in **Table 5**.

These carcasses underwent a full *post-mortem* examination at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL).



Plate 11. *Striped dolphin SW2009/383 at Ynyslas.*

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

Table 5.

SWNumber	Family/Genus	Species	County	Locality	Cause of Death
SW2010/133	Phocoena	phocoena	Conwy	Abergele	Physical trauma, by-catch
SW2010/152	Phocoena	phocoena	Denbighshire	Rhyl	Physical trauma, dystocia
SW2010/212	Phocoena	phocoena	Swansea	Caswell Bay	Starvation/hypothermia (neonate)
SW2010/227	Phocoena	phocoena	Gwynedd	Fairbourne	Starvation/hypothermia
SW2010/228	Phocoena	phocoena	Ceredigion	Ynyslas	Not established
SW2010/244	Phocoena	phocoena	Ceredigion	Tresaith	Starvation/hypothermia
SW2010/262	Balaenoptera	acutorostrata	Gwynedd	Pwllheli	Starvation/hypothermia
SW2010/272	Phocoena	phocoena	Ceredigion	New Quay	Physical trauma, bottlenose dolphin attack
SW2010/274	Phocoena	phocoena	Ceredigion	Ynys Lochtyn	Physical trauma, bottlenose dolphin attack
SW2010/281	Phocoena	phocoena	Gwynedd	offPwllheli	Acute haemorrhagic enteritis (possible)
SW2010/306	Phocoena	phocoena	Pembrokeshire	Newport	Starvation and physical trauma, acute
SW2010/323	Phocoena	phocoena	Neath Port Talbot	Aberavon	Physical trauma, by-catch
SW2010/340	Phocoena	phocoena	Ceredigion	Mvnt	Parasitism, pulmonary (heavy) and possible haemorrhage, pulmonary
SW2010/346	Grampus	griseus	Ceredigion	Gwbert	Physical trauma, acute (possible by-catch)
SW2010/396	Delphinus	delphis	Pembrokeshire	Dale	Parasitism, cardiac stomach (heavy)

14. LIST OF SCIENTIFIC NAMES USED IN THIS REPORT.

Table 6.

Common name.	Scientific name.
Bottlenose dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
Common dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>
Grey seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>
Leatherback turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
Minke whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>
Risso's dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>
Striped dolphin	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>

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

Swansea Coastguard, Milford Haven Coastguard, Holyhead Coastguard for reporting strandings plus the many auxiliary coastguards who assisted in searching, securing carcasses and recoveries etc.

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

16. APPENDICES.

- Appendix 1. Cetacean stranding data 2010.
- Appendix 2. Marine turtle data 2010.
- Appendix 3. Seal data 2010.

Appendix I.

SW Number	PM	Family/Genus	species	Sex	Length	Condition	Date	County	Locality	Grid	Reported by	Comment
SW2010/076		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	moderate decomposition	15-Mar-10	Ceredigion	Tresaith	SN277516	Rod Penrose	Tail-fluke and jumble of skin only.
SW2010/078		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	fresh	18-Mar-10	Swansea	Lougher	SS550976	Barry Stewart	Seen dead, stranded on mudflats in centre of Lougher Estuary by birds. No sex or length info available as viewed through a scope from shore. Unable to attend.
SW2010/101		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	18-Mar-10	Swansea	Rest Bay	SN207990	Gareth Evans	
SW2010/102		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.40	fresh	22-Mar-10	Swansea	Port Eynon	SS470850	Clive Morgan SCC	Unable to retrieve carcass. Disposed of by LA.
SW2010/103	d	Phocoena	phocoena	?	1.20	live	23-Mar-10	Ceredigion	off Aberporth	SN260519	Robin Davies via Terry Leadbetter	Entangled in netting, released by Cardigan Lifeboat. Record voided 21st April as animal did not strand.
SW2010/133	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.02	fresh/slight decomposition	24-Apr-10	Conwy	Abergele	SH945788	Holyhead C.G.	Found by MOP dead entangled in beach set net. Net removed. CG and EA to investigate legality of net. Carcass recovered by CG to Rhyll CG base.
SW2010/139		Delphinus	delphis	?	1.51	moderate decomposition	02-May-10	Pembrokeshire	Freshwater West	SR855994	Dave Level	Scavenger damage.
SW2010/151		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	fresh	13-May-10	Ceredigion	off New Quay		Daphna Fiengold	Porpoise observed by Seawatch being attacked and killed by bottlenose dolphins off New Quay, carcass not recovered/found.
SW2010/152	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.60	moderate decomposition	15-May-10	Denbighshire	Rhyll	SJ307827	Holyhead C.G.	
SW2010/153		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	fresh	17-May-10	Ceredigion	Penbryn	SN293526	Steve Hartley	Very fresh carcass by digital image, nothing found.
SW2010/155		Phocoena	phocoena	M	?	mod/advanced decomposition	18-May-10	Anglesey	nr Plas Newydd	SH521682	Erma via Nia Jones	Species, sex confirmed by digital image.
SW2010/166		Tursiops	truncatus	F	2.52	advanced decomposition	18-May-10	Ceredigion	off Mwrnt		Mark Williams	Samples taken when it made landfill at Penbryn SN28521 26th May.
SW2010/161		Cetacean	sp. Indet.	?	?	advanced decomposition	02-Jun-10	Flintshire	Talacre	SJ120850	Dennis	No further info.
SW2010/169		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.63	mod/advanced decomposition	06-Jun-10	Gwynedd	Tywyn	SH578101	Milford Haven C.G.	Skin, muscle and teeth taken by Sai Shipley, LA contacted for disposal.
SW2010/184		Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	advanced decomposition	17-Jun-10	Aberavon	Neath Port Talbot	SS740900	Swansea C.G.	
SW2010/185		Cetacean	sp. Indet.	?	?	advanced decomposition	19-Jun-10	Ceredigion	off Cmtydu		Daphna Fiengold	
SW2010/186		Phocoena	phocoena	?	1.52	advanced decomposition	22-Jun-10	Pembrokeshire	Poppit Sands	SN151489		Lin Gander investigated.
SW2010/187		Cetacean	sp. Indet.	?	?	?	23-Jun-10	Ceredigion	Aberarth	SN475638		Nothing found by Lin Gander.
SW2010/188		Phocoena	phocoena	?	1.50	fresh	26-Jun-10	Gwynedd	Harlech	SH570310		Extensive scavenger damage.
SW2010/197		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	05-Jul-10	Carmarthenshire	Penbrey	SN390005	Gavin Hall, Park Ranger	Disposed of by Rangers.
SW2010/198		Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	advanced decomposition	05-Jul-10	Carmarthenshire	Penbrey	SN370025	Gavin Hall, Park Ranger	Disposed of by Rangers. Neonate SW2010/199 close by.
SW2010/199		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	05-Jul-10	Carmarthenshire	Penbrey	SN370025	Gavin Hall, Park Ranger	Neonate found close to SW2010/198. Disposed of by Rangers.
SW2010/206		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.50	advanced decomposition	13-Jul-10	Pembrokeshire	Tenby	SN134006	Ron Jones	Disposed of by LA.
SW2010/210		Delphinus	delphis	?	?	mod/advanced decomposition	13-Jul-10	Pembrokeshire	Tenby	SN113008	Mick Brown	Digital image received.
SW2010/211		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	?	17-Jul-10	Carmarthenshire	Penbrey	SN390005	Gavin Hall, Park Ranger	Digital image received.
SW2010/212	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	M	?	slight decomposition	18-Jul-10	Swansea	Caswell Bay	SS592876	Craig Jones Lifeguard	
SW2010/227	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	M	?	slight decomposition	29-Jul-10	Gwynedd	Fairbourne	SH611125		
SW2010/228	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	slight decomposition	29-Jul-10	Ceredigion	Ynystias	SN608914	Steve Hartley	
SW2010/229		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.33	mod/advanced decomposition	29-Jul-10	Ceredigion	Mwrnt	SN194519		Removed from beach to Bigny Farm. Taken for disposal.
SW2010/230		Cetacean	sp. Indet.	?	?	?	29-Jul-10	Swansea	Llanmadoc	SS430943	Clive Morgan SCC	Nothing found by SCC, presumed carcass removed by persons unknown.
SW2010/231		Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	mod/advanced decomposition	30-Jul-10	Ceredigion	New Quay	SN402597	Sarah Perry	Council informed for disposal.
SW2010/234		Tursiops	truncatus	M	2.30	mod/advanced decomposition	04-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Borth	SN604922	Milford Haven C.G.	Skin, muscle, blubber, teeth, stomachs and PCF taken. Carcass taken for disposal by LA.
SW2010/237		Phocoena	phocoena	?	1.50	advanced decomposition	05-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Llanhystud	SN524693		Tagged. Moved to top of shingle bank and collected for disposal 23/08/10.
SW2010/238		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	moderate decomposition	05-Aug-10	Pembrokeshire	Newport	SN051403	Sarah Earl via Cliff Benson	Skin blubber and tail-fluke of rear two-thirds of animal only, cut in a rough spiral. Thought to be a prop cut.
SW2010/239		Phocoena	phocoena	M	?	slight decomposition	05-Aug-10	Pembrokeshire	Aber Mawr	SN833347	Cliff Benson	Rear two-thirds of animal only, clean cut, possibly propeller.
SW2010/243		Cetacean	sp. Indet.	?	?	?	09-Aug-10	Pembrokeshire	Tridstone Haven	SM861168	EA	Reported as no eyes no tail. Not attended.
SW2010/244	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	slight decomposition	12-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Tresaith	SN278517	Milford Haven C.G.	
SW2010/248		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.48	advanced decomposition	14-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Mwrnt	SN193519	Janet Savin	On the edge of moderate decomp and would have deteriorated further in transport so sent for disposal.
SW2010/252		Cetacean	sp. Indet.	?	?	advanced decomposition	16-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Aberaeron	SN440619	Hanna Nuotilla	Carcass seen from boat rolling in surf on rocks. Reported as dolphin but species could not be confirmed, reliable source.
SW2010/253		Cetacean	sp. Indet.	?	?	?	16-Aug-10	Ceredigion	off Ynys Lochlyn		Sharron Bostley Sea Watch	Reported to Sharron at sea from a speedboat as a headless dolphin.
SW2010/258		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.50	moderate decomposition	18-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Aberystwyth	SN583821	Lifeguards	Carcass found at council depot 24/08/10, species confirmed and samples taken.
SW2010/262	Y	Balaenoptera	acutorostrata	M	?	slight decomposition	22-Aug-10	Gwynedd	Pwllheli	SH436354	Holyhead C.G.	
SW2010/265		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.45	advanced decomposition	23-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Llanhystud	SN523690	Ailison Heal	Carcass tagged and removed together with SW2010/237 to car park for collection by LA.
SW2010/266		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.40	mod/advanced decomposition	24-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Clarach	SN586837	Anne CCC	Carcass removed to council depot.
SW2010/267		Cetacean	sp. Indet.	?	?	?	24-Aug-10	Swansea	Worms Head	SS400870	NCI Worms Head	Phone photograph of stranding shown to NCI at Worms Head but nothing found by subsequent search by NCI.
SW2010/268		Phocoena	phocoena	?	1.21	advanced decomposition	24-Aug-10	Gwynedd	Harlech	SN693136	Glyn Jones Barmouth HM	Disposed of by LA.
SW2010/269		Phocoena	phocoena	?	2.21	advanced decomposition	24-Aug-10	Gwynedd	Tal-y-bont	SN578212	Glyn Jones Barmouth HM	Disposed of by LA.
SW2010/270		Delphinus	delphis	M	?	moderate decomposition	18-Jul-10	Anglesey	Newborough	SH386650	Mandy McMATH C/W	Retiro report received 24th August.
SW2010/272	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	slight decomposition	30-Aug-10	Ceredigion	New Quay	SN391600	Steve Hartley / MHCG	
SW2010/273		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.04	slight decomposition	31-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Aberarth	SN475639	Ben Sampson	Extensive scavenger damage.
SW2010/274	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	M	?	fresh	31-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Ynys Lochlyn	SN314557	Gary Hartley	
SW2010/276		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	01-Sep-10	Pembrokeshire	Dale	SM813058		Animal found and species confirmed by Phil Newman C/W.
SW2010/277		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	01-Sep-10	Ceredigion	Traeth Bach	SN300535	Ceredigion CC	Species confirmed by Steve Hartley.
SW2010/281	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	fresh	01-Sep-10	Gwynedd	off Pwllheli	SH380300	Holyhead C.G.	Recovered at sea by Highlander II, Tony Bruce.
SW2010/282		Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	advanced decomposition	30-Aug-10	Pembrokeshire	Pwll Cwm	SM999394	Malcolm Barradell	Reported between Porth Gwaelod and Aberbach. Species confirmed by digital image.
SW2010/291		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	mod/advanced decomposition	10-Sep-10	Pembrokeshire	Stackpole	SR799339	Linda Cole NT	Extensive scavenger damage.
SW2010/297		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	slight decomposition	15-Sep-10	Ceredigion	Aberystwyth	SN578798	Chris Horton	Extensive scavenger damage, carcass removed to Glanvynon depot..
SW2010/301		Delphinus	delphis	M	1.04	moderate decomposition	21-Sep-10	Carmarthenshire	Penbrey	SN380010	Gavin Hall, Park Ranger	Extensive scavenger damage.
SW2010/304		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.60	advanced decomposition	24-Sep-10	Newport	Newport Wetlands	ST366821	Kevin Dupe C/W	
SW2010/305		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.19	advanced decomposition	26-Sep-10	Gwynedd	Tywyn	SH575008	Milford Haven C.G.	Disposed of by LA.
SW2010/306	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	fresh	26-Sep-10	Pembrokeshire	Newport	SN050401	Freddie	
SW2010/307		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.21	moderate decomposition	24-Sep-10	Swansea	Mewslade	SS413873	Paul Griffiths	
SW2010/311		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	?	28-Sep-10	Pembrokeshire	Amroth	SN170071		Nothing found.
SW2010/312		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	fresh	29-Sep-10	Vale of Glamorgan	Aberthaw	ST020661	Andy Woolmer/Matthew Dawkins	One of two animals caught in set net. Possible mother.
SW2010/313		Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	fresh	29-Sep-10	Vale of Glamorgan	Aberthaw	ST020661	Andy Woolmer/Matthew Dawkins	One of two animals caught in set net.
SW2010/323	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	moderate decomposition	30-Sep-10	Neath Port Talbot	Aberavon	SS900740	Clive Rodgers	One of two animals caught in set net.
SW2010/324		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.21	fresh	01-Oct-10	Vale of Glamorgan	Cold Knap Point	ST103660	Andrew Britton	Carcass refloats.
SW2010/325		Delph/Stenella		?	2.10	advanced decomposition	04-Oct-10	Carmarthenshire	Penbrey	SN380010	Gavin Hall, Park Ranger	Disposed of by LA.
SW2010/326		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	slight decomposition	10-Aug-10	Anglesey	Rhosneigr	SH310740	Bob Reid	Porpoise dorsal fin with small left and right area of flank attached. Edges of flanks irregular. Retro report 6th Oct.
SW2010/327		Delphinus	delphis	F	1.20	moderate decomposition	07-Oct-10	Pembrokeshire	Gelliswick	SH310740	Sandra Davis Pembs CC	Almost out in half by prop?
SW2010/332		Cetacean	sp. Indet.	?	?	advanced decomposition	08-Oct-10	Carmarthenshire	Penbrey	SN380010	Gavin Hall, Park Ranger	Disposed of by LA.
SW2010/333		Delphinus	delphis	?	1.30	moderate decomposition	11-Oct-10	Pembrokeshire	Saundersfoot	SN137046	Peter Scourfield HM	Almost out in half by prop?
SW2010/334		Phocoena	phocoena	?	1.00	mod/advanced decomposition	11-Oct-10	Pembrokeshire	Wisemans Bridge	SN145060	Rod Penrose	Disposed of by LA.
SW2010/340	Y	Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	slight/moderate decomposition	19-Oct-10	Ceredigion	Mwrnt	SN193519		
SW2010/343		Phocoena	phocoena	F	?	moderate decomposition	20-Oct-10	Denbighshire	Rhyll	SJ308025	Holyhead C.G.	Disposed of by LA.
SW2010/346	Y	Grampus	griseus	F	?	moderate decomposition	24-Oct-10	Ceredigion	Gwbert	SN160487	Dan Worth	
SW2010/349		Phocoena	phocoena	M	1.04	moderate decomposition	27-Oct-10	Carmarthenshire	Penbrey	SS398998	Gavin Hall, Park Ranger	Disposed of by LA.
SW2010/358		Cetacean	sp. Indet.	?	4	moderate decomposition	29-Oct-10	Swansea	Fall Bay, Rhossili	SS413873	Swansea C.G.	
SW2010/359		Phocoena	phocoena	F	1.50	advanced decomposition	05-Nov-10	Ceredigion	Clarach	SN585841	Ceredigion duty officer	Most of head and tail-fluke missing, left for LA disposal.
SW2010/360		Delph/Stenella		M	1.12	advanced decomposition	07-Nov-10	Carmarthenshire	Penbrey	SN398998	Gavin Hall, Park Ranger	Disposed of by LA.
SW2010/389		Phocoena	phocoena	F	3	mod/advanced decomposition	18-Nov-10	Pembrokeshire	Freshwater East	SS020979	Jane Minett	Disposed of by LA.
SW2010/390		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	24-Oct-10	Ceredigion	Aberarth	SN475638	Peter Davies	Retiro report.
SW2010/391		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	advanced decomposition	30-Nov-10	Anglesey	Benllech	SH525829	Andrew Lordsey	
SW2010/396	Y	Delphinus	delphis	M	2.12	live	17-Dec-10	Pembrokeshire	Dale	SM811069	Cliff Benson	
SW2010/403		Phocoena	phocoena	?	?	?	31-Dec-10	Anglesey	Benllech	SH522826	David Parry	Possibly the remains of SW2010/391?

Appendix 2.

RecordKey	PM	Species	Height	Strand	Alive/Dead	County	Location	GridReference	Notes	ReportBy
T2010/001		LBT	SEA	ALIVE	CEREDIGION	Aberystwyth North Beach	SN583820	Turtle seen from shore for 45 minutes and with telescope. Large head.	Robert Dobson	
T2010/003		LBT	SEA	ALIVE	CEREDIGION	Off of Aberarth	SN430657	Large (approx. 7ft) Turtle seen and heard from boat for two minutes. Approx half mile offshore . Flat calm, abundant large jellyfish.	L.H.Davies	
T2010/007		LBT	SEA	ALIVE	PEMBROKESHIRE	near Traeth Llyfn, St Davids peninsula	SM798317	Turtle seen from cliff top swimming parallel with shore approx 80 metres out	Charlie Willatts	
T2010/010		LBT	SEA	ALIVE	CARMARTHENSHIRE	Burry inlet	SS442972	seen feeding on jellyfish	Dean Houghey	
T2010/017		LBT	SEA	ALIVE	CEREDIGION	Off Ynys Lochtyn	SN310557	Seen from land off headland, heading south. 6' x 4'.	John Alistair Webb	
T2010/018		LBT	SEA	ALIVE	PEMBROKESHIRE	Saundersfoot	SS141040	Seen from boat, dived and came up again before swimming off. Between harbour wall and Monkstone	John Davis	
T2010/019		LBT	SEA	ALIVE	CARMARTHENSHIRE	off Pendine, Carmarthen Bay	SN280029	Seen from EA survey boat eating barrel jellyfish, large healthy specimen. 2-3 metres.	Anna Prior	

Appendix 3.

SS_No	pm	species	Sex/ad-tip to h	Condition	Date	County	Locality	Grid_ref	reported by	Comment
SS2010/001		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		04-Jan-10	Gwynedd	Harlech	SH565315	Stringall	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/008		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		18-Jan-10	Ceredigion	Aberystwyth	SN579800	Shirly Cotton	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/009		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		27-Jan-10	Gwynedd	Aberdaron	SH170263		L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/016		Halichoerus grypus	? adult	advanced decomposition	15-Feb-10	Gwynedd	Hellsmouth	SH265275	Emily Cunningham	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/043		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		29-Mar-10	Ceredigion	Tan y Bwlch	SN579802	Wildlife Trust	
SS2010/059		Halichoerus grypus	? adult	advanced decomposition	27-Apr-10	Gwynedd	Hell's Mouth	SH280265		L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/074		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		29-May-10	Ceredigion	Aberystwyth	SN578815	Police	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/078		Halichoerus grypus	F juv		05-Jun-10	Pembrokeshire	Strumble Head	SM893413		
SS2010/087		Halichoerus grypus	? juv		16-Jun-10	Pembrokeshire	Freshwater West	SR883997	NT	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/088		Halichoerus grypus	? juv	advanced decomposition	16-Jun-10	Ceredigion	Penbryn	SN290523	Vicky Wade	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/089		Halichoerus grypus	? juv		21-Jun-10	Flintshire	Talacre	SJ120850	Vicky Hicken	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/090		Halichoerus grypus	? juv		27-Jun-10	Ceredigion	Llanrhystud	SN528698	Morfa Caravan Park	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/104		Halichoerus grypus	? headless		10-Jul-10	Gwynedd	Criccieth	SH495376	Brian Gifford	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/105		Halichoerus grypus	? headless		15-Jul-10	Carmarthenshire	Burry Port	SN002443	Emma CCC	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/109		Halichoerus grypus	? headless		24-Jul-10	Carmarthenshire	Pendine	SS270070	Tony Gray	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/125		Halichoerus grypus	? headless		29-Jul-10	Ceredigion	Borth	SN606890	Peter Squires	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/127		Halichoerus grypus	? headless		01-Aug-10	Ceredigion	off New Quay		Gemma Veneruso SWF	One of two bloated seals floating off New Quay.
SS2010/128		Halichoerus grypus	? headless		01-Aug-10	Ceredigion	off New Quay		Gemma Veneruso SWF	Two of two bloated seals floating off New Quay.
SS2010/129		Halichoerus grypus	? headless	advanced decomposition	02-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Traeth Gwyn	SN400597		Possibly 127 or 128 making landfall.
SS2010/130		Halichoerus grypus	? headless		03-Aug-10	Pembrokeshire	Aber Mawr	SM881344		L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/131		Halichoerus grypus	? headless		04-Aug-10	Gwynedd	Dinas Dinlle	SH434570		L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/138		Halichoerus grypus	? headless		12-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Aberystwyth	SH583824		L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/139		Halichoerus grypus	? headless		13-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Aberporth	SH257517	Milford Haven C.G.	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/140		Halichoerus grypus	? headless		13-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Borth	SH607890	Mrs Jones	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/141		Halichoerus grypus	? headless		14-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Aberporth	SH259516	Milford Haven C.G.	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/142		Halichoerus grypus	M headless	mod/advanced decomposition	15-Aug-10	Pembrokeshire	Newport	SN052403	Milford Haven C.G.	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/145		Halichoerus grypus	M headless		18-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Llanrhystud	SN522687	Cliff Bates CCC	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/154		Halichoerus grypus	? headless		23-Aug-10	Gwynedd	Hells Mouth	SH270273		L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/155		Halichoerus grypus	? headless		24-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Aberaeron	SN456633	Steve Hartley	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/156		Halichoerus grypus	? headless		24-Aug-10	Gwynedd	Trefor	SH375475		L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/157		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		25-Aug-10	Gwynedd	Llandrwnog	SH567286	Chris Tutton	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/158		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		25-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Llanrhystud	SN523687	Mrs Jones	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/159		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		25-Aug-10	Pembrokeshire	Aber Bach	SM883350	Valerie Aate	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/160		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		25-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Llanon	SN507670	Michael Hayes	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/161		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		29-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Cwmttydu	SN355576	Pauline Betts	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/162		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		31-Aug-10	Pembrokeshire	Marloes	SM782075	Mrs Walter	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/163		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		31-Aug-10	Ceredigion	Wallog	SN590858	Mrs McCae	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/164		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		01-Sep-10	Pembrokeshire	Newport	SN051397	George Potts	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/177		Halichoerus grypus	M adult	advanced decomposition	05-Sep-10	Ceredigion	Aberaeron	SN464636	Trudy TIC	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/178		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		05-Sep-10	Pembrokeshire	and Abereiddy.	SM800320	Patrick	
SS2010/180		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		07-Sep-10	Pembrokeshire	Newport	SN051396		Nothing found.
SS2010/195		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		10-Sep-10	Denbighshire	Prestatyn/Rhyl	SJ040830	County council	L A removed for disposal.
SS2010/200		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		14-Sep-10	Ceredigion	Ynyslas	SN603941	CCW	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/201		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		14-Sep-10	Ceredigion	Borth	SN907606	CCW	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/202		Halichoerus grypus	M adult	fresh	15-Sep-10	Ceredigion	Llangrannog	SN310543	Mrs Powell	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/203		Halichoerus grypus	? adult	slight decomposition	15-Sep-10	Gwynedd	Llandanwg	SH567283		L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/204		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		12-Sep-10	Gwynedd	Fairbourne	SH610131	ZSL	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/205		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		15-Sep-10	Ceredigion	Aberystwyth	SN583823	Cliff Bates CCC	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/206		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		16-Sep-10	Gwynedd	Dinas Dinlle	SH435565	Jeanette Widden	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/207		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		16-Sep-10	Pembrokeshire	Newport	SN052404	Graham PCNP	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/208		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		16-Sep-10	Pembrokeshire	Broad Haven	SM859135	Kerry Pratt	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/210		Halichoerus grypus	F adult		17-Sep-10	Gwynedd	Porth Ychain	SH210360	Pete Wilkinson	Phot's sent, female giving birth to perhaps twins. L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/211		Halichoerus grypus	M adult	advanced decomposition	17-Sep-10	Ceredigion	Llanon	SN505666	Rohan Barker RSPCA	Reported as shot. AD. Carcass tagged and L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/212		Halichoerus grypus	M adult	moderate decomposition	17-Sep-10	Ceredigion	Llanon	SN505667	Rohan Barker RSPCA	Reported as shot. MD. Carcass tagged and L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/217		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		18-Sep-10	Pembrokeshire	Traeth Llyfn	SM802319	Lucy, St Davids TIC	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/218		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		18-Sep-10	Ceredigion	Llanon/Aberaeron	SN490649		
SS2010/219		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		20-Sep-10	Gwynedd	Yscaden	SH218374	Pete Wilkinson	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/220		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		20-Sep-10	Gwynedd	Cwmistir	SH248397	Pete Wilkinson	L A informed for disposal.

Appendix 3.

SS_No	pm	species	Sex/ad-tip to hi	Condition	Date	County	Locality	Grid_ref	reported by	Comment
SS2010/221		Halichoerus grypus	?		20-Sep-10	Gwynedd	Penllech north	SH207353	Pete Wilkinson	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/222		Halichoerus grypus	?		20-Sep-10	Pembrokeshire	Marloes	SM785072		
SS2010/223		Halichoerus grypus	F	advanced decomposition	20-Sep-10	Newport	St Brides	ST311828	John Prangly NCC	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/224		Halichoerus grypus	M	slight decomposition	21-Sep-10	Carmarthenshire	Pendine	SN280065	MOD Police	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/227		Halichoerus grypus	?	advanced decomposition	21-Sep-10	Gwynedd	Harlech	SH564323	Ifan Jones	Buried on beach.
SS2010/228	Y	Halichoerus grypus	F	fresh	22-Sep-10	Pembrokeshire	Tenby	SS126994	Ron Jones	
SS2010/229		Halichoerus grypus	F	fresh	21-Sep-10	Pembrokeshire	Porth Cadnaw	SM721253	Malcolm Barradell	
SS2010/235		Halichoerus grypus	?		24-Sep-10	Ceredigion	Tan y Bwlch	SN579805		L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/236		Halichoerus grypus	? adult	advanced decomposition	24-Sep-10	Gwynedd	Tywyn	SH563029	Sal Shipley	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/237		Halichoerus grypus	M adult		24-Sep-10	Ceredigion	Cei Bach	SN415600		L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/238		Halichoerus grypus	? pup		26-Sep-10	Ceredigion	off	SN440640	Daphna Fiengold	
SS2010/239		Halichoerus grypus	? pup		26-Sep-10	Pembrokeshire	Newport	SN050402		L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/240		Halichoerus grypus	F		27-Sep-10	Ceredigion	Cei Bach	SN415600	Laura Mears CBMWC	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/241		Halichoerus grypus	? pup		27-Sep-10	Ceredigion	Cei Bach	SN415600	Laura Mears CBMWC	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/242	Y	Halichoerus grypus	? pup	fresh	27-Sep-10	Pembrokeshire	Poppit Sands	SN150487	Dan Worth	
SS2010/245		Halichoerus grypus	?	advanced decomposition	28-Aug-10	Gwynedd	Tywyn	SH569022	Sal Shipley	
SS2010/246		Halichoerus grypus	? pup	advanced decomposition	19-Sep-10	Gwynedd	Tywyn	SH585989	Sal Shipley	
SS2010/261		Halichoerus grypus	?		02-Oct-10	Gwynedd	Tywyn	SH575008	Karen Hill	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/262		Halichoerus grypus	?		29-Sep-10	Pembrokeshire	St Justinians	SM723251		L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/270		Halichoerus grypus	?		07-Oct-10	Pembrokeshire	Manorbier	SS060974		L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/271		Halichoerus grypus	? adult		08-Oct-10	Gwynedd	Llanbedrog	SH335317		L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/272		Halichoerus grypus	?	advanced decomposition	08-Oct-10	Gwynedd	Harlech	SH574299	Kate Williamson	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/273		Halichoerus grypus	M	advanced decomposition	11-Oct-10	Pembrokeshire	Coppit Hall	SN141053	Mervyn Dennis PCC	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/274		Halichoerus grypus	M	advanced decomposition	11-Oct-10	Ceredigion	Ynyslas	SN605944	Janet Baxter	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/277		Halichoerus grypus	?		13-Oct-10	Gwynedd	Criccieth	SH497376		L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/278		Halichoerus grypus	?		13-Oct-10	Anglesey	Porth Cwyfan	SH337683	Evan Milner	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/279		Halichoerus grypus	? pup		15-Oct-10	Swansea	Worms Head	SS384876	NCI Worms Head	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/280		Halichoerus grypus	M	slight decomposition	16-Oct-10	Pembrokeshire	Poppit Sands	SN155487	Dan Worth	Prop cut to head? Removed to car park for LA collection.
SS2010/281		Halichoerus grypus	? pup		16-Oct-10	Pembrokeshire	Abercastle	SM851338	Nick Dislyn?	Reported dye-marked.
SS2010/286		Halichoerus grypus	?	fresh?	21-Oct-10	Pembrokeshire	Hakin Point	SM900053	Cathy Lloyd EA	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/287		Halichoerus grypus	F 1.93	fresh	21-Oct-10	Pembrokeshire	Poppit Sands	SN152488		Samples taken, carcass bagged and left in car park for LA collection.
SS2010/290		Halichoerus grypus	?	fresh?	23-Oct-10	Pembrokeshire	Whitesands	SM733270	Milford Haven C.G.	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/291		Halichoerus grypus	M	moderate decomposition	23-Oct-10	Ceredigion	New Quay	SN391598	Ceredigion duty officer	L A informed for disposal. Prop cut to head?
SS2010/296		Halichoerus grypus	?	moderate decomposition	16-Oct-10	Gwynedd	Porth Meudwy	SH164255	Mandy McMath	Headless, clean cut. Retro report.
SS2010/297		Halichoerus grypus	?	slight decomposition	27-Oct-10	Gwynedd	Black Rock Sands	SH528372	Bryn Pritchard Jones	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/319		Halichoerus grypus	?	?	30-Oct-10	Pembrokeshire	Abermawr	SM882346		
SS2010/320		Halichoerus grypus	?	?	31-Oct-10	Ceredigion	Tieff Estuary	SN158500	Dan Worth	removed.
SS2010/321.1		Halichoerus grypus	?	fresh	31-Oct-10	Pembrokeshire	Freshwater East	SS017974	Tim Minett	One of three dead seals reported.
SS2010/321.2		Halichoerus grypus	?	moderate decomposition	31-Oct-10	Pembrokeshire	Freshwater East	SS017975	Tim Minett	Two of three dead seals reported. Headless.
SS2010/321.3		Halichoerus grypus	?	fresh	31-Oct-10	Pembrokeshire	Freshwater East	SS018976	Tim Minett	Three of three dead seals reported. Neonate.
SS2010/322		Halichoerus grypus	?	?	01-Nov-10	Carmarthenshire	Pendine	SN240076	Tony Gray, Warden	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/323		Halichoerus grypus	?	?	29-Oct-10	Swansea	Caswell Bay	SS593874	Clive Morgan SCC	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/324		Halichoerus grypus	?	?	04-Nov-10	Swansea	Caswell Bay	SS593874	Clive Morgan SCC	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/325		Halichoerus grypus	?	?	05-Nov-10	Swansea	Caswell Bay	SS593874	Clive Morgan SCC	L A informed for disposal. Headless.
SS2010/326		Halichoerus grypus	?	?	05-Nov-10	Swansea	Rotherlade	SS610873	Clive Morgan SCC	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/328	Y	Halichoerus grypus	?	fresh	25-Oct-10	Ceredigion	Mwnt	SN193519	Terry Leadbetter	Recovered from rehab centre.
SS2010/329	Y	Halichoerus grypus	?	fresh	03-Nov-10	Pembrokeshire	Stackpole	SR994958	Terry Leadbetter	Recovered from rehab centre.
SS2010/359		Halichoerus grypus	?	?	18-Nov-10	Ceredigion	Borth	SN606905		L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/360		Halichoerus grypus	?	?	23-Nov-10	Gwynedd	Abersoch	SH315284		L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/361		Halichoerus grypus	? juv	advanced decomposition	28-Nov-10	Pembrokeshire	Fishguard	SM949378	Cliff Benson	L A informed for disposal. Headless.
SS2010/362		Halichoerus grypus	?	?	30-Nov-10	Pembrokeshire	Aber Bach	SM995390	Neal	
SS2010/363		Halichoerus grypus	?	?	03-Dec-10	Flintshire	Talacre	SJ110852	Martin Bailey	L A informed for disposal.
SS2010/394	Y	Halichoerus grypus	?	live	27-Nov-10	Pembrokeshire	Whitesands	SM733270	Terry Leadbetter	Taken to WMLR, died.