

Sea Trust Newsletter No9



F s'Jacob

Autumn -Winter 2006-7



Having put in hours of work to convince the people running the United Nations Year of the Dolphin 2007 campaign that we were suitable “Official Supporters” it was rather a proud day when we were the first cetacean group to feature on the website. Sea Trusts New Years Day

porpoise watch at Strumble Head attracted 50 odd people and was featured on the front page of the YoD 2007 website. We later discovered the campaign was being sponsored by a company that sends it clients to captive dolphin shows all over the world.

We told the UN that Sea Trust was totally against such exploitation and that the company should stop sending people to such places THE UN THEN DUMPED SEA TRUST!!! so much for the UN YoD 2007 then!

I was too late to scan the English version of the UN's account of our event so this is the German version.

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Delphin pate werden



Erstes Sea Trust-Event zum Jahr des Delphins 2007

Obwohl die Kampagne zum Jahr des Delphins 2007 in Monaco von einem Fürsten ausgerufen wurde, fand einer der ersten Wal- und Delphinsichtungen im Jahr des Delphins am Neujahrstag in keiner weniger historischen Grafschaft statt: Strumble Head in Pembrokeshire, Wales.

Zwar war kein Vertreter eines Königshauses zugegen, aber das Schauspiel war königlich, da Schweinswale die Ausdauer derjenigen belohnten, die den Winterstürmen zu Beginn des Jahres des Delphins trotzten.

Nachmittags sichtigten die Teilnehmer die für Strumble Head typischen Schweinswale, die selbst in der rauen See eines von Westen heraufgezogenen Orkans gut zu sehen waren. Am zweiten Weihnachtstag zählte Cliff Benson, Leiter von Sea Trust S&W Wales 53 Schweinswale (*Phocoena phocoena*) und einen Rundkopfdelphin (*Grampus griseus*) in der Nähe der Landzunge. Er wurde erneut am Freitag, den 29. Dezember gesichtet, aber er schien sich noch nichts vom Jahr des Delphins zu ahnen. Dennoch wußten alle kleinen Verwandten des Rundkopfdelphins davon und zeigten sich einer kleinen Gruppe, die in der Aussichtshütte von Strumble Head Zuflucht gesucht hatte.

Die erstaunliche Meeresfauna von Strumble Head ist jedoch bedroht durch geplante Öl- und Gasförderung. Sea Trust und andere Artenschutzorganisationen versuchen, die walische Regierung davon zu überzeugen, daß dieses Vorhaben dem Geist der Rio Konventionen entgegen gesetzt ist und zudem eine Verletzung der EU Arten und Habitats Richtlinie bedeutet.

Unser Neujahrsvorsatz ist die Rettung der Schweinswale und Delphine für künftige Generationen. Wir erwarten Ihre Unterstützung.

Sea Trust S&W Wales www.seatrust.org.uk ist Teil des Wildlife Trust S&W Wales. Seatrust wird von Stena Lines unterstützt, Environment Wales und ist offizieller Unterstützer des YoD.

UNEP CMS TUI

http://www.yod2007.org/de/News_und_Events/News-Archiv/20070105_Sea_Trust... 22/02/2007

So hypocrisy rules OK in the UN, we who use all our time and resources protecting dolphins are discarded in favour of a company who sends people to see dolphins that have been hunted down, seen their companions butchered and then sold into captivity to do tricks for tourists. There has been quite a lot of publicity about the Taiji Dolphin massacres in the news recently and Sea Trust Volunteers have been emailing and giving their us support

Hi Cliff,

I'm sure you have already seen the message below but in case you haven't I'm passing it on.

Saw the article in the Telegraph today though I was already up to speed thanks to your emails and the blog. I fully support your stand, and the work of Sea Trust is ongoing, not just for one year.

All the best, Paula

Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2007 9:41 PM

Subject: Dolphin Petition

no need to watch the first which is a video, but sign the second which is a petition

<http://www.glumbert.com/media/dolphin>

<http://www.petitiononline.com/qolfinho/petition.html>

Well in the end perhaps something good will come of it all!

Fishguard's got Bottle(s)



Several years ago local character and fisherman Rolf Kelly told me he often saw Bottlenose Dolphins around Fishguard Harbour. I thought at first he meant porpoises as many of the fisher folk lump them all together. They are so used to seeing them they sort of take them for granted. As Sea Trust began to get better known locally, more and more people would ring me up and say they had seen dolphins. It became obvious that they were commonly to be found in Fishguard and Newport bays during the summer months. Sadly Rolf passed away a couple of years ago but whenever I see Bottle's around Fishguard I think of him.

This autumn they seemed to be particularly attracted to Fishguard Harbour both Lower Town and also the Goodwick side. This email from Steve Berry (7th September) shows how close to shore they were coming in;

Hi Cliff

2 B. N. Dolphins in close at the harbour early evening in very shallow water near the flag poles, seemed to be feeding. Water was so shallow that at one point one of them was not in deep enough water to cover its self completely. Present for about half an hour then moved into deeper water but still inside the harbour when I left.

all the best

Steve



Another email from our Wildlife Trust C.E. Maddie Havard shows how she winds down after a hard week!

Sorry should have given you this info sooner....on Saturday 020906 at about 5.30pm we saw two (possibly 3) BND (or at least large dark dolphins) feeding in Fishguard Harbour.

We were sitting at the end of the old harbour (by the slip) looking out to Goodwick, the dolphins were fishing across the mouth of Lower Fishguard Harbour, clearly visible moving between the furthest mooring buoys and the harbour marker on the left.

Didn't have your phone number with me sorry...visitors from Australia were delighted!

Madeleine

Obviously she was en route to the "Ship" in lower town to crack a few tinnies with some antipodeans!

In View of the oil and gas drilling threat and the status of Bottlenose Dolphins and Porpoises we decided to try and get some data on these animals as I described on a UK Cetnet posting....



Hi Cetnetters,

last year we at Sea Trust decided to have a look at the area south of the Cardigan Bay SAC for which we have a growing number of records of habitual Bottlenose activity. We hired a local boat and surveyed the area from Strumble north with licenced Photo ID specialist Janet Baxter of Friends of Cardigan Bay. We had several encounters which bore fruit photographically. The photographs were handed over to Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Group who have an extensive photographic catalogue and pioneered such work in Cardigan Bay. The results were considered well worth the effort

A year later despite being unable to secure funding for an extended project, we have combined our efforts/resources for a pilot study using two boats. Steve Hartley surveying from the north with CBMWG, and Sea Trust aboard Mark Deane's "Wandrin Star" from the south, our rendezvous point being Ynys Aberteifi. (Cardigan



Both boats encountered dolphins and porpoises and substantially achieved the goals of the exercise. This is a first and shows the value of

local groups of experienced volunteers working together to achieve maximum synchronized and comprehensive coverage of a large target area. Janet and Steve's photographs will be compared and analyzed in Newquay by CBMWG volunteers and published on our websites ASAP (www.cbmwg.org www.seatrust.org.uk)



We believe the Cardigan Bay Marine Special Area of Conservation should be extended by about ten miles to Strumble Head in the south from its present southern boundary adjacent to Ceibwr Bay. Strumble head is the natural southern geographical boundary of Cardigan Bay and this year alone has provided sightings of Common, Risso's and Bottlenose Dolphins, Minke, Fin and Humpback Whales. It is also probably the most

important single breeding area for Harbour Porpoise in Wales/ Southern Britain. As I have made plain in recent postings, this still does not guarantee it any degree of protection in fact even Marine SAC status seems ineffectual as a protection from any commercial exploitation the Oil and Gas industry are planning.

(All Photographs in this piece courtesy of Janet Baxter and are her copyright)

The importance of our work and proposed Oil and Gas exploration
As one respected cetacean expert commented in correspondence on the subject;

"Anyone looking from outside must despair of the attempts at UK's marine conservation efforts." Certainly from the inside and despite a plethora of NGO's all claiming to be working for cetacean conservation, there's very little evidence of British cetacea being any better protected than they were twenty years ago. If anything the threats seem even larger".

The Department for Trade and Industry made the whole of British coastal waters available to oil and gas companies to apply for licences to explore and drill for oil. They wasted no time in plumping for three blocks locally, two in the Cardigan Bay Special Area of Conservation and one just off Strumble Head. The fact that Strumble Head was never included in either the Cardigan Bay SAC or the Pembrokeshire SAC has been a sore point for some time. On the other hand the fact that the DTI did not exclude the

SAC's from this proposed fossil fuel exploration bonanza shows how little they feel such designations should be respected. Sea Trust and other organizations kicked up and thankfully, the Countryside Council for Wales produced a compelling series of reasons why the oil companies proposals should be looked at in much more detail. For the moment the decision has been delayed but it is by no means revoked. It is certainly not safe to drop our guard. Thankfully we have lots of relevant data for the Strumble Head area and can make available to the DTI and CCW. This is the Statement first sent out by CCW.

**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
THE COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

CCW Position on 24th Oil & Gas Licensing Round and Cardigan Bay

Introduction

The Countryside Council for Wales champions the environment, landscapes and coastal waters of Wales as sources of natural and cultural riches, the foundations for economic and social activity, and as places for leisure and learning opportunities. Our aim is to make the environment a valued part of Welsh life.

Cardigan Bay

The CCW considers Cardigan Bay to be of great importance to the conservation of many species, in particular bottlenose dolphins, grey seals, sea birds and coastal and subtidal habitats.

Many of the features of interest, including dolphins and porpoises, are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994. Others are also listed as species or habitats of principal importance for nature conservation in Welsh territorial waters under Section 74 of the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000.

Large areas of the bay have been designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the European Habitats Directive. These areas protect a range of marine features, including river and sea lampreys, bottlenose dolphins, grey seals and some coastal habitats, for their European importance.

There are several coastal Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated for birds under the 1979 EC Birds Directive and also significant stretches of the coastline are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

DTI Consultation

The CCW is aware that the DTI have received a licence application for 3 blocks in Cardigan Bay under the 24th Offshore licensing round for Oil and Gas. We also understand that the DTI are currently undertaking an appropriate assessment of the licensing round itself.

CCW were consulted during the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) of the licensing round for the UK. In commenting jointly with the JNCC, English Nature and the Countryside Agency on the Environmental Report consultation, CCW agreed that, based on the projections of the likely scale and location of activities, no blocks should be excluded from the licensing round since individual project consenting would provide adequate spatial, temporal and operational controls (option 3).

Assessments

SEAs and 'plan level' appropriate assessments, under the Habitats Directive, are designed to look at the possible effects of a plan, such as an oil and gas licensing round, at a strategic level.

In agreeing that the licensing round should proceed under 'option 3', CCW took account of the fact that any proposals for oil and gas exploration would be subject to project-specific assessment. In the absence of an SAC or SPA, such assessment would take place under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive and Regulations.

Projects that are likely to have an effect on the features of the SAC or SPA, regardless of whether they are located inside or outside the site, would be subject to appropriate assessment under the Habitats Directive, as well as EIA. These arrangements provide the ability to withhold approval for a project, or to require mitigation measures to be put in place to prevent adverse effects on habitats and species.

Designation of an area as an SAC or SPA does not automatically exclude an activity or development from taking place in or near that area. It ensures that the effects of a proposed project upon the site, and the features for which the site is designated, are fully assessed before the project is allowed to proceed. A project that will have adverse effects, or whose effects cannot be predicted, may not proceed unless there are no alternative solutions and it is necessary for imperative reasons of over-riding public interest. Some projects can also be amended following assessment to enable them to be implemented without having adverse effects.

Summary

The DTI will consult the CCW on any project likely to affect nature conservation in Welsh territorial waters.

CCW will oppose any project that could cause significant harm to nature conservation. However, we understand that the marine environment is an important economic resource and recognise the benefits that activities, such as oil and gas development, can bring.

CCW is committed to working with the DTI, developers and others to ensure that impacts upon nature conservation are avoided and that development proceeds in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Prepared by Andy Hill (a.hill@ccw.gov.uk)

Marine Industries Liaison Officer,

Countryside Council for Wales

30th June 2006

CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU

THE COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

We later received this update after the DTI realized that they were not going to get away with granting licences unopposed.

Update on CCW's Position on the 24th Oil & Gas Licensing Round

The Countryside Council for Wales champions the environment, landscapes and coastal waters of Wales as sources of natural and cultural riches, the foundations for economic and social activity, and as places for leisure and learning opportunities. Our aim is to make the environment a valued part of Welsh life.

This update should be read in conjunction with CCW's original position statement released on 30th June 2006.

In March 2006 the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry invited applications for oil and gas exploration and production licences in the 24th Seaward Licensing Round. A number of the oil and gas blocks applied for are in Welsh waters (Cardigan Bay and off the north coast of Wales).

Under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 the DTI are required to assess the implications of oil and gas licensing for European Sites and carry out an appropriate assessment (AA) if there is likely to be a significant effect on the integrity of these sites.

The DTI began consultation on a draft AA of the 24th Licensing Round in November 2006. In commenting on a draft version of the AA, CCW agreed with the DTI that many of the effects of oil and gas activities that may arise subsequent to the licensing of oil and gas blocks would be mitigated by the existence of a robust regime for assessing the project-specific impacts. However, CCW did not agree with the DTI's overall conclusion that the draft AA had established with sufficient robustness or certainty that the plan would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site or potential European Sites because of concerns about:

1. An apparent presumption created by the plan in favour of subsequent oil and gas project activities, and the influence of the plan on consenting of subsequent projects.
2. The absence of any specific consenting mechanism for seismic survey works in territorial and internal waters.
3. Important omissions from the AA in relation to potential European Sites, and certain weaknesses in the assessment of potential impacts.

The DTI has now revised and finalised the AA making it clear that subsequent oil and gas activity will be subject to the necessary environmental assessment procedures. In addition, legislation has been amended to ensure that seismic survey work is subject to a consenting process within the 12 nautical mile territorial waters limit. The Dee Estuary pSAC and Liverpool Bay pSPA, absent from the earlier draft, have also now been included in the assessment.

Furthermore, the DTI has temporarily removed oil and gas blocks in Cardigan Bay from the Licensing Round to allow further consideration of the effects of licensing these blocks.

CCW has now advised the DTI that we agree with the overall conclusion of the revised AA that the 24th Licensing Round will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site or potential European Site.

Exploration and development licenses have since been awarded for the oil and gas blocks offered under the 24th Licensing Round. CCW will work with the DTI to ensure that any AA subsequently undertaken for the blocks excluded from the 24th Licensing Round is comprehensive and scientifically robust. In addition, we will provide advice, as appropriate, on proposals for projects that result from the 24th Licensing Round. Date of Issue 5/03/2007

Oral Answers to Questions, House of Commons.

Trade and Industry

The Secretary of State was asked-

Oil and Gas Licences

1. Mark Williams (Ceredigion) (LD): When he expects to announce the award of licences under the 24th licensing round for oil and gas exploration; and if he will make a statement. [116319]

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Mr. Alistair Darling): I

hope to announce the great majority of the awards soon, but in light of concerns we are deferring our decision on a small number of awards to allow for further consideration of the impact that oil and gas could have on the environment.

Mark Williams: I thank the Secretary of State for that answer and I am glad that he and his officials are taking time to consider the valid environmental concerns expressed by the Countryside Council for Wales and the delegation of constituents whom I brought to meet his colleague, the Minister for Science and Innovation, in the autumn. Given that concerns have been expressed, and given that Cardigan bay is protected by the precautionary principle in the European Union habitats directive, will he use the opportunity of the coming days and weeks to exclude the Cardigan bay special area of conservation from the 24th licensing round?

Mr. Darling: I agree with the hon. Gentleman that the environmental considerations are important and I am aware of the concerns about dolphins, not just in Cardigan bay but in the Moray firth. It may help the House if I say that we will go ahead with the award of licences in about 239 blocks. There are four blocks-three in Cardigan bay and one in the Moray firth-for which we are carrying out an appropriate assessment of the risks. I hope that that assessment can be carried out expeditiously so that we can reach a decision one way or another, but I understand the hon. Gentleman's concern. Under the law, we have to carry out an assessment and I hope that we can do so fairly quickly.

In the end money talks and oil and gas multi nationals will use whatever they can to keep the oil slurping into the barrels and the profits into their bank accounts. The thing is that whatever profit they make is never enough. We tend to avoid politics, and people from all mainstream political persuasions are welcomed onto the Sea Trust fold. At the end of the day though, politics will decide this issue. I asked several local politicians to attend a meeting we held in Haverfordwest and all made their excuses.

It should however be pointed out that the only politician to have come out strongly in favour of unleashing the oil companies on our pristine coasts is Stephen Crabb MP.

I guess it's a brave stand to take with a very small majority but it hardly fits in with the green image his leader seems to be trying to promote. Is encouraging the oil companies to drill for oil in our pristine waters a vote winner? Perhaps the environment is too important a subject for party politics but it would be good to know where all those standing for office in this springs forthcoming elections stand

Sea Trust Blog/Website

I am not sure what blog means but it actually allows me and others to post messages and comments onto the website on a day to day basis without having to bother Mark Dean our website host who so generously gives of his time and talents. It has been set up by James Davis who has also streamed some of my film onto the blog. It's a really excellent way of getting our message over within the group and to the outside world, thanks James.

Speaking of our website we get a weekly report of what and who is logging into our website and it makes fascinating reading.

This week we had nearly 5,000 hits but more importantly just under a thousand sessions served (977) which is the actual number of people logging in to us and viewing our pages. This has steadily increased and we hope to see the thousand mark broken soon.

What is really fascinating is the different countries represented. The USA (600+) is by far the biggest followed by the UK, (300+) this week .

I suppose that is to be expected. Other places represented are China(14), Germany (35), Australia (5) with &Latvia, South Korea, Croatia and Monaco with 1 (Prince Albert perhaps?).

Uruguay is pretty regular and even really small and relatively remote countries like Guam and New Caledonia hit us occasionally which I find exciting!

I am a late convert to IT, but in this context it really does bring the world here to west Wales and allows us to show our marvelous wildlife off around the globe.



These intriguing creatures are known as goose barnacles. *Lepas anatifera* The storms that have lashed our shores over the winter have marooned many creatures that should have been safe offshore. Their name derives from their resemblance to a geese head and neck. Barnacle geese were named after them because in the days before their northern nesting grounds were discovered, people thought the geese hatched out of the barnacles!

A massive stranding of billions of "By the Wind Sailors", *Valella valella* all around the south western shores of England Wales and Ireland occurred in October. They have a small sail that catches the wind and disperses them across the ocean



In the autumn of 2006 this backfired badly as continual westerly winds stranded and killed thousands of billions of them.

Often called jelly fish they are actually a form of colonial hydroid related to the bigger and more famous "Portuguese Man of War" whose sting can be fatal, *Valella* have a sting but it is too weak to harm humans.

Winter Cetacean Sightings



We are indebted to Janet again for this stupendous sequence which she has merged to illustrate some porpoise behavior that the books say rarely happens. Dave Powell in Anglesey, Janet and others including myself regularly witness breaching and I also filmed the same thing this winter during the Christmas Break (See on Sea Trust Blog!) This along with consistent winter born calves in the past few years are insights into porpoise behavior that reward those of us that are year round cetacean observers.

Whilst filming porpoises during the Christmas break I noticed a big splash some way out but given the choppy sea could not be sure of what was the cause. A little bit later I noticed a fin that was unmistakably a Risso's that a moment later breached several times though I only managed to film a splash and a swirling fin

I should point out that this is the kind of view that is more usual if you happen to see Risso's from the shore! Picture is Janet's and I chose it to illustrate the point, she has many better close ups!



It was a nice confirmation of a report from Ian Hotchin via Stevo Lucas;

Hi Cliff

I had some reports from Ian Hotchin this morning somebody saw a couple of Harbour Porpoises and also Risso's Dolphins just before Christmas 17th / 18th December, that was off Strumble Head .

Best regards
Stevo Lucas

Risso's have been seen pretty consistently in the winter in recent years off Strumble. so its another good reason to grab your bins and have a look! A Minke Whale was a first for the winter on a ferry survey in February although it was first reported as a porpoise. The fact that it was seen over a mile away in a pretty choppy sea caused the confusion as well as the solution. It was seen by artist Glenn Ibbitson so I asked him to draw a

sketch of what he had seen. In those conditions it would be almost impossible to see a porpoise. Glenn drew a nice big porpoise shaped back and dorsal. It is a surprisingly easy mistake to make when there is nothing to compare size with as is often the case at sea. I was confident in the fact that it was a Minke because he described it so clearly. I will let you ponder over these two photographs, of Janet's and let you decide which is which! not so easy eh?



Bottle nose dolphin sightings tend to be few and far between in the winter but we have enlisted the help of Skipper, Brian and the crew of the "Lesley M" a work boat based in Fishguard servicing the Aberporth range. Results have been quite encouraging and hopefully we will get a great deal more information on the seasonal habits of Bottle's from Brian and his crew. The pictures are mine taken off the Stena Europe last year and perfectly illustrate why I use Janet's pictures !



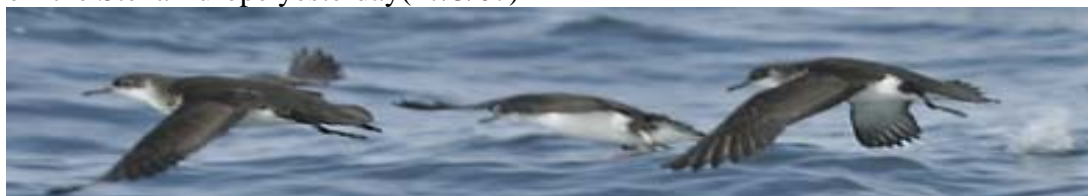
Common Dolphins were seen from the ferry in December and January which our latest winter sightings. February and March are the only months we have failed to spot Common dolphins from the ferry, though conditions have not been helpful.

Coastal Futures 2007- name and shame.

In January Dave Edwards and myself schlepped down to London as Sea Trust were invited to give a presentation at the Coastal Futures Conference by organizer Bob Earl on the possible environmental impacts of oil and gas exploration in Cardigan Bay. I guess it was worth the time and hassle as we got our point over to a high level and influential audience who rewarded our talk with enthusiastic applause.

We could have done without the hassle over our expenses though, as Bob decided not to pay for Dave's travel and hotel bill. Bob sent several emails explaining how crucial it was that our presentations were professional and slick so we spent money on getting some of our film onto the power point. Considering the resources other presenters had (Defra, Royal Haskoning, etc) it seemed necessary, as was Dave's help and backup. Bob must make a good living selling tickets to these events at around £195 +VAT. Of course most people who attend have these tickets paid for by their employers. His miserly attitude cost us (a small charity) money we can barely afford. He can stick his coastal futures in the future!

As I write a hailstorm is doing its best to obliterate the spring that came early in this part of the world but real spring is just around the corner and we saw the first Manxies off the Stena Europe yesterday(17/3/07)



We have several events planned for this year originally intended to celebrate the UN Year of the Dolphin we will continue with the programme and it will give us an opportunity to point out just how hypocritical they are

- New Years day – Launch of the UN Year of the Dolphin, to include a Sea Trust Cetacean Watch at Strumble Head look-out. 14.00 – 16.00
- Sea Trust / Dolphin Awareness raising gig in the Queens Hall Narberth, March 30th.
- Sea Trust / Cetacean watch, Easter egg rolling competition including prize for best dolphin decorated egg, Easter Monday (9th April??) Strumble Head 14.00 – 16.00
- Sea Trust/ Cetacean watch/Wild Flower Ramble May 5th/6th Strumble Head 14.00 – 16.00
- Sea Trust, National Biodiversity week, Porpoise Picnic June 11-14th Strumble Head. 11.00-14.00
- Sea Trust/ Evening Porpoise Picnic 16th August 19.00 - 21.00
- Dolphin-athon/ UN Year of the Dolphin “Stena Europe” ferry, 1-7th September (Fishguard-Rosslare)
- UN Cetacean watch/ Strumble Seal pup watch October 6/ Strumble Head 11.00 - 15.00
- more events and opportunities to take part will be added

Stena - Sea Trust weekly Dolphin Watches aboard the Stena Europe; ring 01348 404477 from May 5th 2007 for details

Reports and Thanks

We will be soon publishing our latest report on the demography and seasonality of Common dolphins and other cetaceans we have seen over the past couple of years as the culmination of a three year funding from CCW. Thanks to Sarah Earl, Dave Edwards, Lyndon Lomax Janet Baxter, Andy and Brian Rickard and Nick o’ Sullivan Mark and Kathy Deane for their help in this, also Stefan Richards and Dave Thomas. A special word for Catherine Davis for lots of hard work and support behind the scenes

As usual lots of thanks to all our volunteers and supporters with Stena Line employees really coming up trumps, particularly Carl Milne and Ian Davies for helping with office space. This year thanks to one of our volunteers Vanessa Mellor (part of the Stena security team), we have two European Voluntary Service Volunteers coming to help us. They are Susan van den Nieuwenhuizen from Holland and Laura Fusco from Italy. Completing a neat series of connections they will be lodging with Sea Trust

supporter Becky Hotchin. Thanks to all our supporters and volunteers also Ali' of Environment Wales and CCW, roll on spring!

allthingsgood, Cliff.