

2019

Annual Report



© MWDW / Stuart Boakes



Manx Whale and
Dolphin Watch

CETACEANS IN MANX WATERS IN 2019

Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch

Bryony Manley

“To conserve and protect whales, dolphins, and porpoises (cetaceans) in Manx waters through research and education.”

MWDW TEAM

The Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch team in [year] was as follows:

Trustees and Core Team

Paul Cain – Chairman/Treasurer

Jen Adams – Secretary and Education and Outreach Manager

Bryony Manley – Trustee and Researcher

Tom Felce – Research and Science Support

Dolphineers

Ambrosine Clark – Full-time summer placement from May to September

Anna Richter – Full-time summer placement from May to September

Olivia Stocker – Full-time summer placement from May to September

Gemma Isaacs – Full-time summer placement from May to September

Sam Dresner Barnes – Full-time five-week placement in July-August

Other Volunteers

Chris Kelly – IT and website Support

Richard Coase – Boat Maintenance and Skipper

Neil Barron – Membership Assistance

SPECIES

Through the scientific studies of Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch we have established the regular presence of five species of cetacean in Manx waters.

Bottlenose dolphin – *Tursiops truncatus*

In 2019 there were a total of **95** sightings of bottlenose dolphins combined from boat-based, land-based, and public sightings.

Common dolphin (short-beaked) – *Delphinus delphis*

In 2019 there were a total of **19** sightings of common dolphins combined from boat-based, land-based, and public sightings.

Harbour porpoise – *Phocoena phocoena*

In 2019 there were a total of **210** sightings of harbor porpoise combined from boat-based, land-based, and public sightings.

Minke whale – *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

In 2019 there were a total of **25** sightings of minke whales combined from boat-based, land-based, and public sightings.

Risso's dolphin – *Grampus griseus*

In 2019 there were a total of **79** sightings of Risso's dolphins combined from boat-based, land-based, and public sightings.

BOAT BASED SURVEYS

Table 1: Boat-based survey effort and cetacean sightings during 2019

Number of surveys	16
Dedicated	3
Opportunistic	13
Kilometers surveyed	837
Sea states 0 and 1	399
Sea states 2 and above	438
Number of sightings (individuals)	20 (43)
Bottlenose dolphin	0
Common dolphin	1 (4)
Harbour porpoise	12 (19)
Minke whale	4 (4)
Risso's dolphin	3 (16)

Temporal distribution of boat surveys in 2019

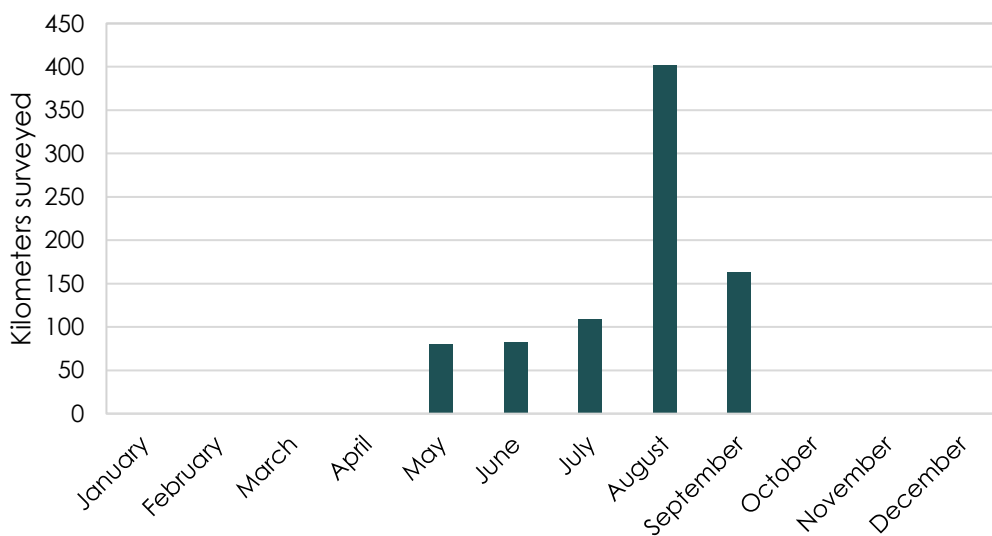


Figure 1: Temporal distribution of the kilometers of boat-based surveying during 2019

LAND-BASED SURVEYS

Table 2: Land-based survey effort and cetacean sighting rate during 2019

Location	Hours of effort	No. of intervals	% cetacean +ve
Calf Lighthouses	14.5	58	20.7
Calf East	14.25	87	14.0
Calf West	11.5	46	15.2
Marine Drive	31	124	7.3
Niarbyl	19.5	78	16.7
Peel Castle	11.5	46	0
Port St Mary	27.75	111	45.0
Sound (cross)	1.5	6	0
TOTAL	131.5	526	

Temporal distribution of land effort in 2019

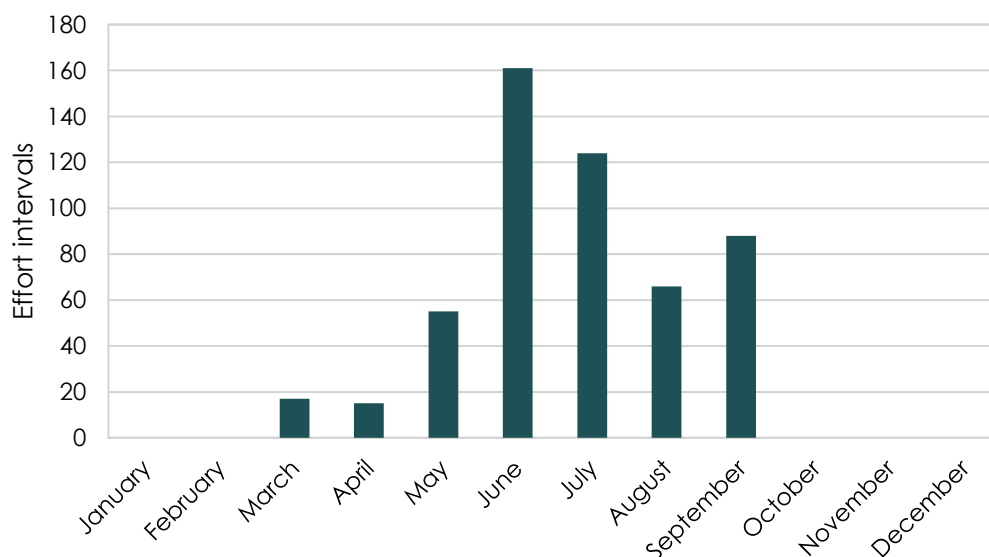


Figure 2: Temporal distribution of land-based effort intervals during 2019

Table 3: Number of cetacean positive intervals, different sightings, and number of different individuals of each species recorded during land-based surveys in 2019

Species	No. of +ve intervals	No. of different sightings	No. of individuals seen
Bottlenose dolphin	4	2	55
Common dolphin	3	1	8
Harbour porpoise	79	57	113
Minke whale	2	1	1
Risso's dolphin	17	8	41
Unidentified small cetacean	1	1	1
Unidentified dolphin	1	1	2
TOTAL	107	71	221

PUBLIC SIGHTINGS

Table 4: Total number of opportunistic sightings, individuals and juveniles of each species observed around the Isle of Man

Species	No. of sightings	No. of individuals	No. of juveniles	% of total sightings
Bottlenose dolphin	93	1816	203	28.9
Common dolphin	15	117	12	4.7
Harbour porpoise	119	286	22	37.0
Minke whale	19	29	3	5.9
Risso's dolphin	59	364	23	18.3
Unidentified small cetacean	14	171	18	4.3
Unidentified large cetacean	1	100	0	0.3
Fin whale	2	2	0	0.6
TOTAL	322	2945	281	

Figure 3: Distribution of public cetacean sightings during 2019

