

Agenda Item 4.6: Review of new information on population distribution, sizes, structures and bycatches of small cetaceans

**Aerial survey of the cetaceans along the coasts of Brittany:
preliminary results**

Submitted by: France



NOTE:
**IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING
THEIR OWN COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**

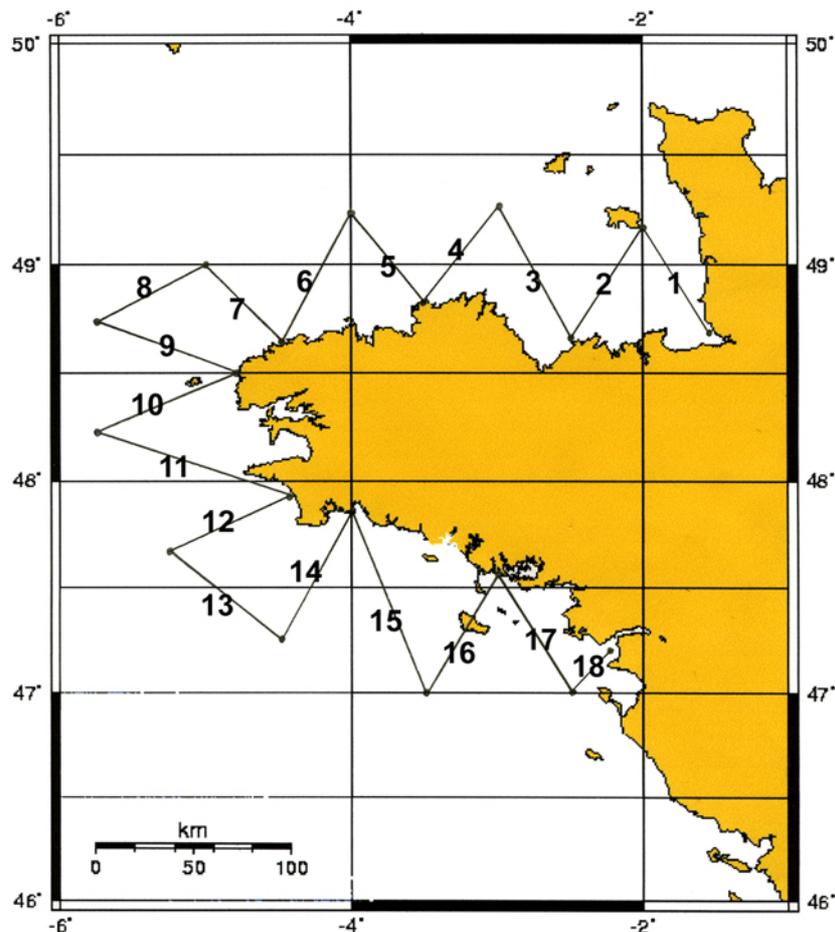
Aerial survey of the cetaceans along the coasts of Brittany: preliminary results

Marine Mammal Research Laboratory, Oceanopolis Brest 2006

Conducted in the framework of a regional funding "Contrat Nature: Les mammifères marins de Bretagne - Suivi et sensibilisation".

This aerial survey is a part of a large programme on the marine mammals in Brittany (monitoring of the species, opportunistic sightings, public awareness, web site). It is funded by the Region of Brittany and 3 of the 4 Departments of Brittany.

The survey has been conducted from 9 to 11 August 2005 when the weather conditions were adequate (low wind speed, sea state maximum 3, good visibility). The sampling area defined was based on the depth line of 100 m around the coast, about 30 km far from the south coast line. The distance surveyed from the coast was thus about 30 km. The area extending from the bay of Mont Saint Michel to the estuary of Loire was covered. A total of 18 transects was carried out representing an observation effort of 7 h 14 min. and a total of 1500 km travelled. The SCANS II protocol was used with the same plane equipped with a bubble window (speed: about 95 knots; altitude: about 180 m). The crew was comprised of two observers and a data recorder.



Preliminary results

A total of 30 sightings were recorded, 21 groups were identified as harbour porpoises, 6 as common dolphins, 1 as bottlenose dolphins, 1 as Risso's dolphins and 1 as unidentified small delphinids.

Most of the harbour porpoises were encountered along the north and the west coast of "Finistère" (western part) whereas the common dolphins were seen in south Brittany.

N° Transect	species	Individual number
1	Bottlenose dolphin	6
2	—	
3	—	
4	Common dolphin	~ 10
5	Harbour porpoise	4
6	Harbour porpoise	1
	Harbour porpoise	4
	Harbour porpoise	4
	Harbour porpoise	2
7	Harbour porpoise	1
	Harbour porpoise	1
8	Harbour porpoise	1
	Harbour porpoise	1
	Harbour porpoise	2
9	Harbour porpoise	2
	Harbour porpoise	1
	Harbour porpoise	2
	Harbour porpoise	1
	Harbour porpoise	3
Harbour porpoise	2	
10	—	
11	Harbour porpoise	~ 10
	Harbour porpoise	2
12	Common dolphin	~ 50
	small delphinids	~ 20
13	Common dolphin	2
	Risso's dolphin	1
14	—	
15	Common dolphin	~ 20
	Common dolphin	4
16	Common dolphin	~ 40
17	—	
18	—	