

North West

Marine Ecosystems

Reporting Annual Change in the North
West Region and Building Social
Capital



Seals and Cetaceans in the North West Region

Sarah Neill and Beth Churn

British Divers Marine Life Rescue

- BDMLR was established in **1988** in response to a **PDV** epidemic.
- Operates a 24/7 marine mammal rescue network in Britain.
- Responds to over **1000** call outs annually (over **2000** in 2020, over **3000** in 2021, over **4000** in 2024).
- Founding member of the MARC.
- Europe's only Large Whale Disentanglement Team.
- Works with many rehabilitation centres, RSPCA, SSPCA, and emergency services.
- Global leader in marine mammal rescue and veterinary expertise alongside the USA, New Zealand and Australia.
- Runs training courses worldwide.



BDMLR Rehabilitation Success Rates

Seals:

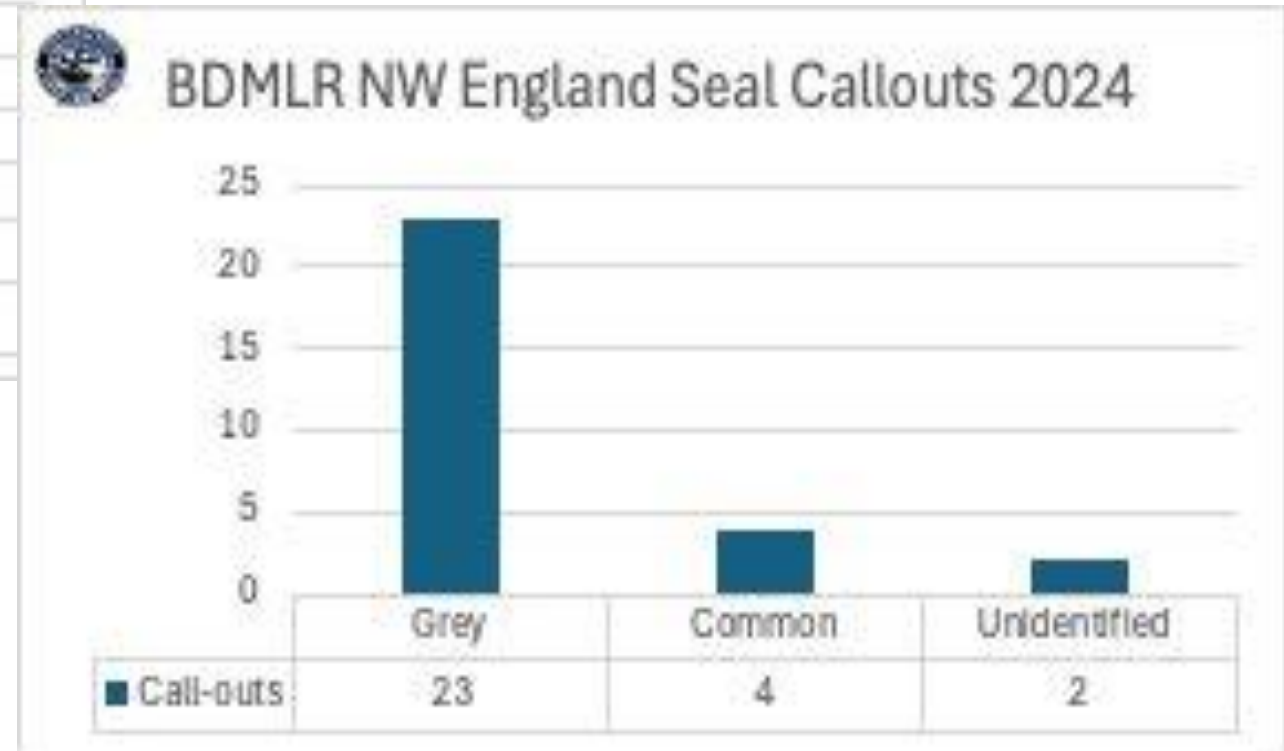
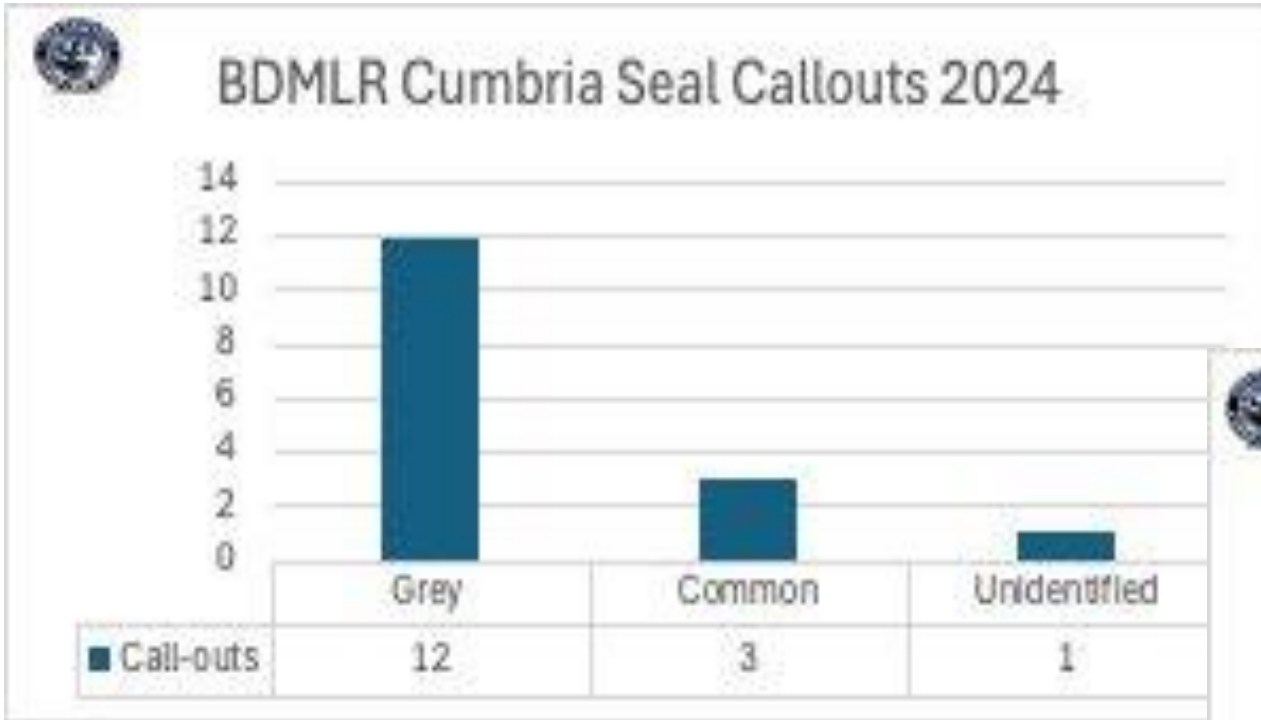
- Over **90%** success rate for **grey seals**
- **40-50%** success rate for **common seals**
- Over **90%** of our **call outs are to seals**

Cetaceans:

- **60%** success rate from **live stranded** animals
- **80%** success rate with those prevented from stranding



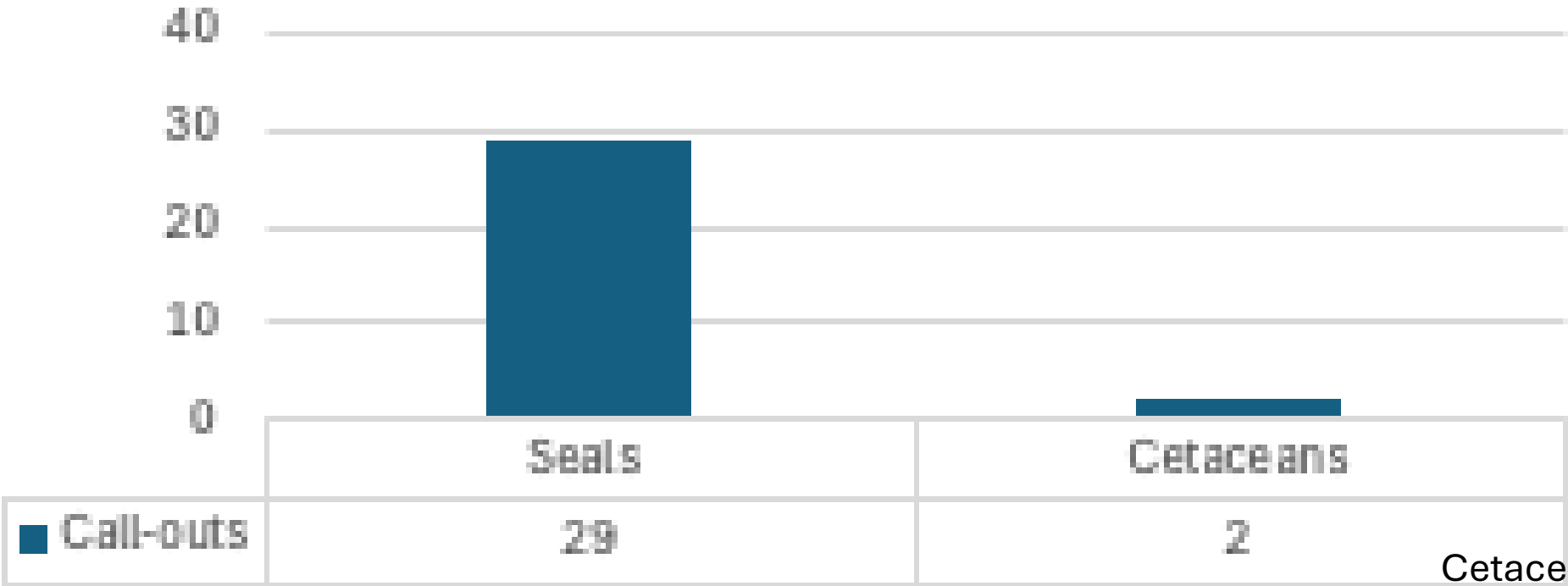
BDMLR Seal Call Outs 2024



BDMLR Seal and Cetacean North West Call Outs 2024



BDMLR NW England Seal and Cetacean Callouts 2024



- Cetaceans:
- 1 harbour porpoise
 - 1 unidentified cetacean



Seal Hospital – Kendal College





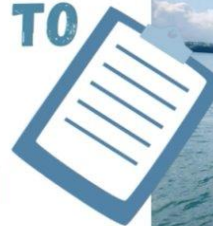
- Working to improve the conservation of whales, dolphins and porpoises in the seas around Britain and Ireland.
- A continuous programme of research and monitoring, provides invaluable information on changes to the status and distribution of cetacean populations and the condition of their habitats.
- This is used to raise awareness of any issues and prompt environmental change to help conserve and protect these species.



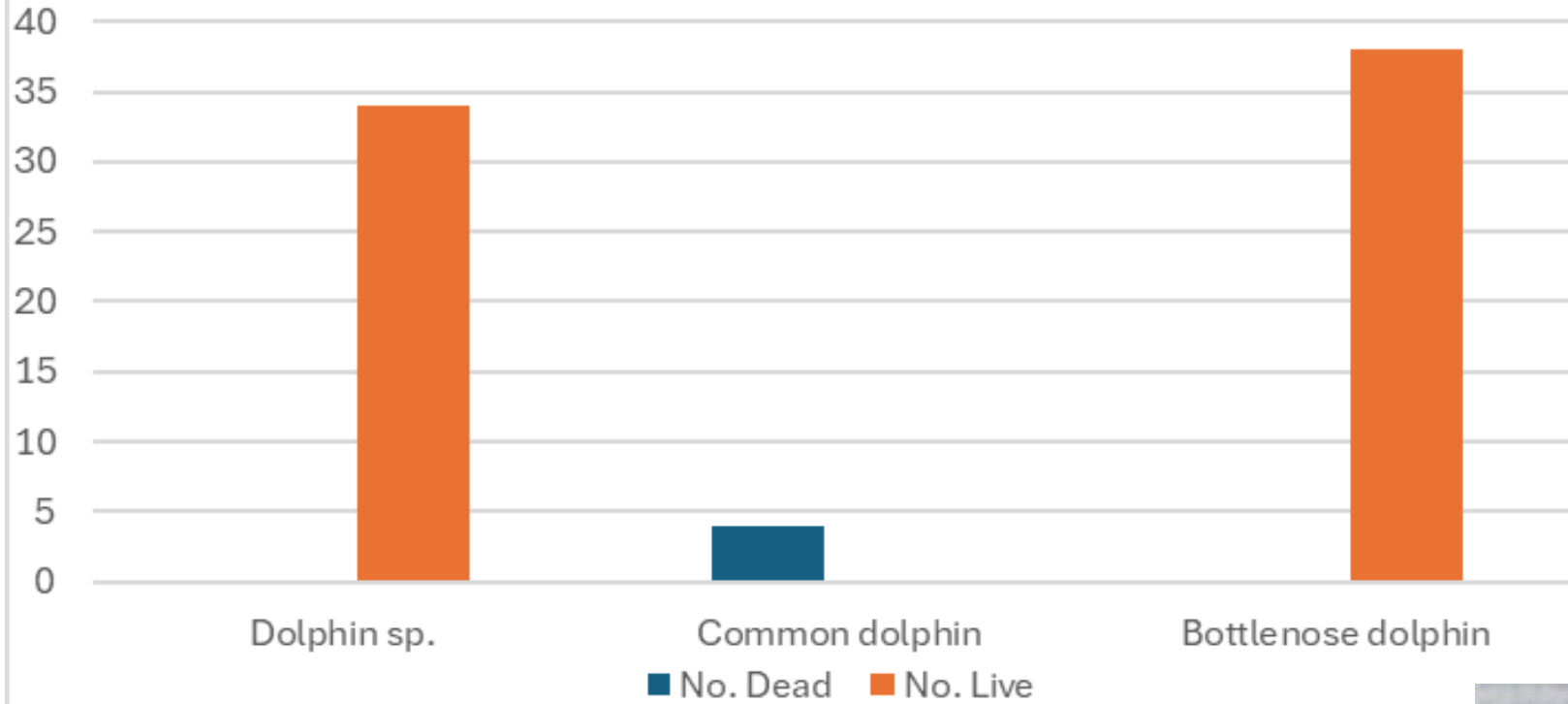
- Sea Watch's work could not be completed without the help of numerous hard-working volunteers, dedicated to providing data and support through recording and reporting all sightings of whales, dolphins and porpoises.
- Sea Watcher App
- Cumbria Whale and Dolphin Watch Facebook Group



**TAKE PART IN
SURVEYS,
LEARN TO
RECORD DATA &
CONTRIBUTE TO
ONGOING
RESEARCH**



Live and Dead Sightings - Cumbria



Species	No. Dead	No. Live
Dolphin sp.	0	34
Common dolphin	4	0
Bottlenose dolphin	0	38

Cumbria Whale and Dolphin Watch Sightings Data 2024



Group by Sarah Neill

Cumbria Whale and Dolphin Watch

Public group · 2.6K members



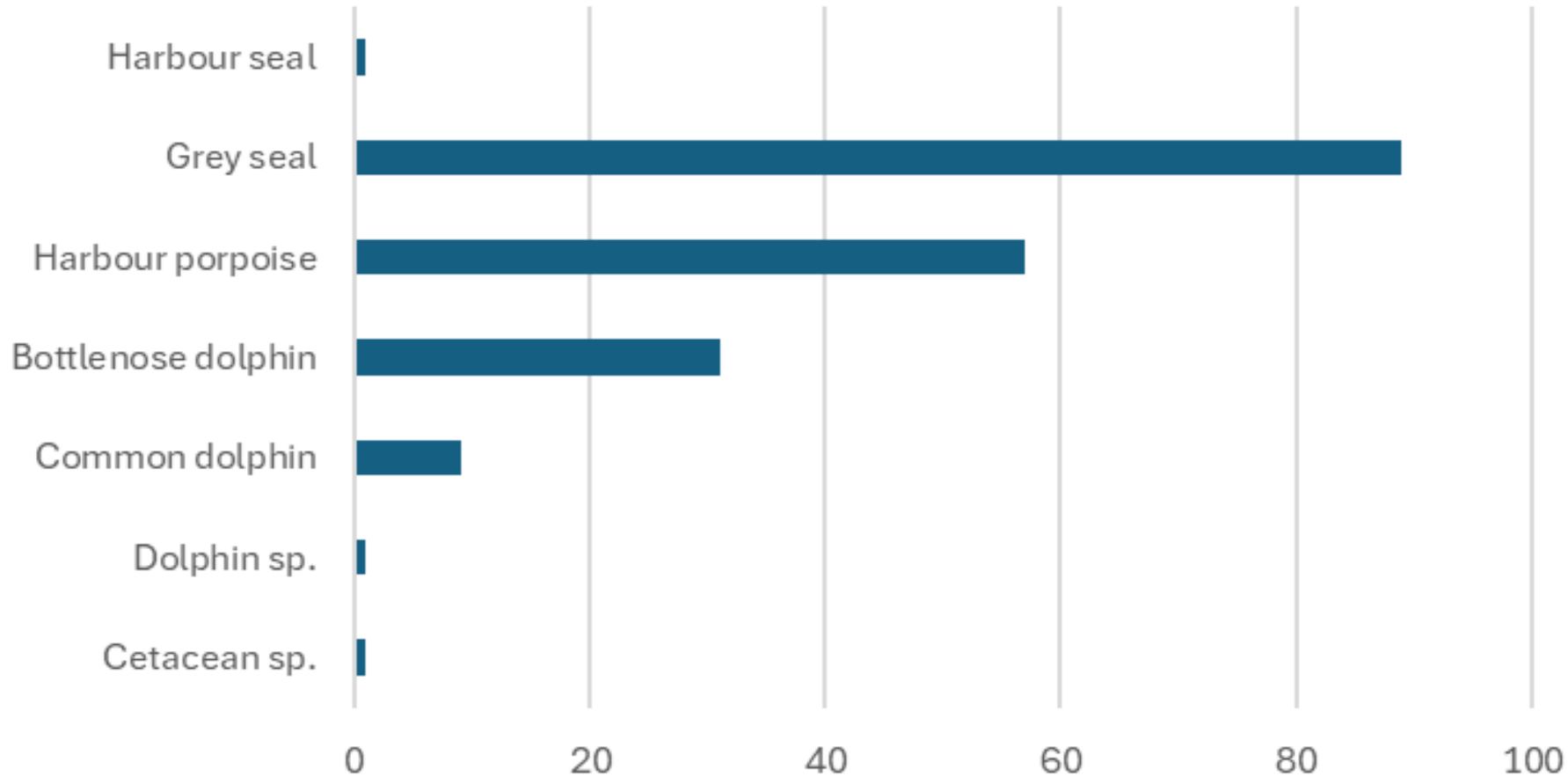
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Sea Watch Live Sightings Data - North West Region 2024

No. Sighted - North West Region



Species	No. Sighted
Cetacean sp.	1
Dolphin sp.	1
Common dolphin	9
Bottlenose dolphin	31
Harbour porpoise	57
Grey seal	89
Harbour seal	1

sea watch
FOUNDATION



Orca
Watch



sea watch
FOUNDATION

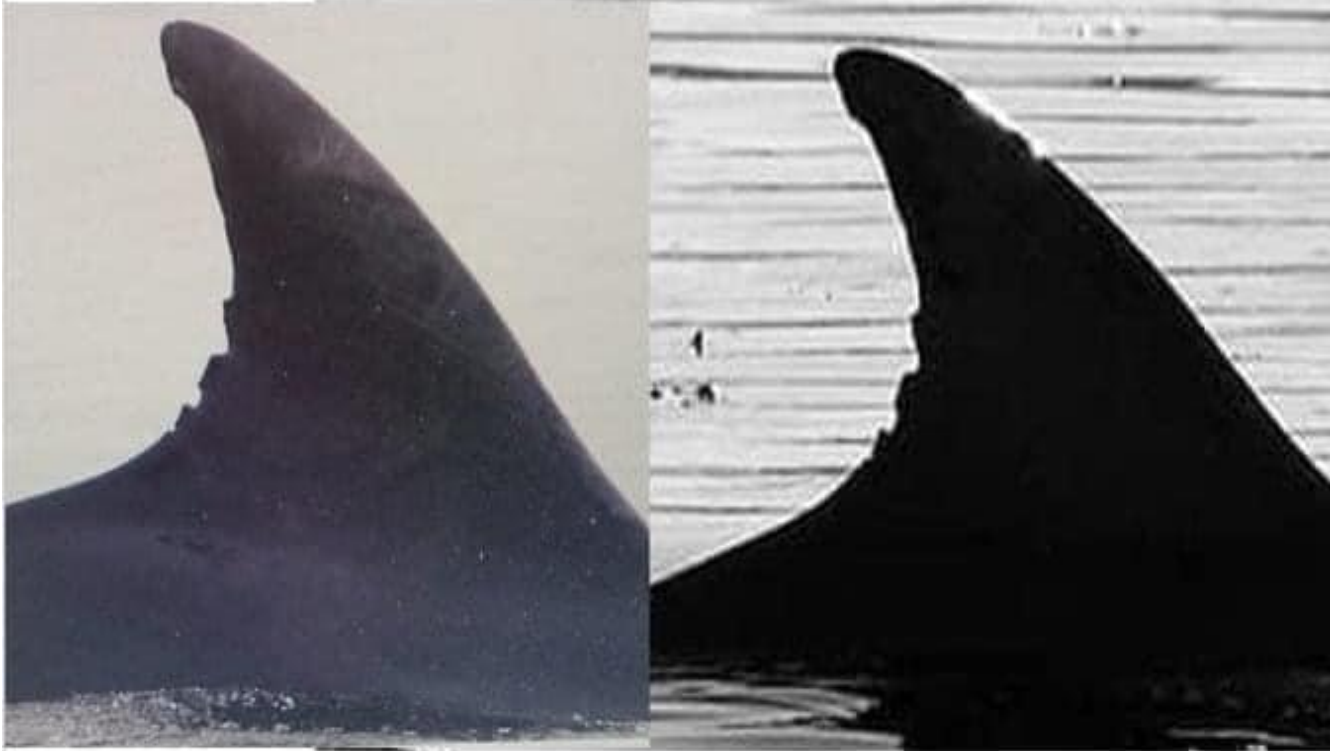
National Whale
& Dolphin Watch



Notable Cases - Kevin Costner

Bottlenose dolphin #8, aka "Kevin Costner"

Irish Whale
and Dolphin Group



Shannon Estuary, Co. Clare, since 1993

River Boyne, Drogheda 23rd April 2021



Rich Clark

Rockcliffe, 2021
Photo: Rich Clark



Rich Clark

Northern bottlenose whale



Ulverston 2020, female
Photo: Sarah Neill



Allonby 2023, male
Photo: Lynn Trussel

Short-finned Pilot Whale



Silloth, 2023. Photo: Ian Finlinson