

Grouped plan for small dolphins ()

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1. Status of the habitat / species

Please give your most accurate assessment of the status of your species or habitat for the UK and for each country. Leave the row blank where the species or habitat does not occur in that country.

	Amount:	Units:	Year:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	300	Individuals			The total population in UK inshore waters is probably less than 300 individuals.
E					
NI					
S					
W					

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2. Trend in Biological Status

Please give your best estimate of the current trend for your species or habitat for the UK, and each appropriate country, using the following categories. Please give an estimate unless there is absolutely no information on which to assess status.

	Trend:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	Not known		
E			
NI			
S		Informed guess	Bottlenose dolphins in the inner Moray Firth may be declining at a rate of over 5% per annum (Sanders-Reed et al., 1999), but this may be offset by a southward expansion in the range of the species in eastern Scotland since 1990 (Weir & Stockin, 2001).
W			

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3. Status of knowledge

To what extent is our scientific knowledge of the habitat / species (e.g research information, autecological knowledge, knowledge for effective re-introduction or habitat restoration/re-creation) sufficient to deliver the plan targets?

Please give an assessment for the UK overall but if there is significant difference in knowledge between different countries this should be noted.

Status of knowledge:	Know ledge insufficient but research currently underw ay.
Notes:	For bottlenose dolphin know ledge is sufficient to make some impact, but more research is needed

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4. Progress on targets

Each of the revised targets from the 2001 Targets Review is listed below.

For each one please give a qualitative assessment of progress for the UK and each country. You can also enter quantitative information on progress by entering data in each of the target boxes and entering the current amount in the amount box. For more information see Help.

T1: In the short term, maintain the current range of small dolphins.

Target start date:

1999

Target end date: ongoing

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
W	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

T2: In the short term, maintain the current abundance of small dolphins.

Target start date: 1999

Target end date: ongoing

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
W	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

T3: In the longer term, seek to increase the ranges of small dolphin populations where appropriate.

Target start date:	<input type="text" value="1999"/>
Target end date:	<input type="text" value="ongoing"/>
Target units:	<input type="text"/>

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
W	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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5. Current factors affecting the habitat

When your plan was published the factors (threats) that were thought to be causing loss or decline were listed (in section 2). Re-assessing the current situation may help prioritise actions for your species or habitat. In addition, this enables identification of the main threats to biodiversity across all plans. It is useful to assess whether the importance of different factors is changing and whether there are new issues emerging.

The threat section from the original plan is duplicated below, and a first attempt at categorising the threats has been made. Please confirm that you agree with the categorisation of the original threats identified in the plan (by deleting any wrongly categorised threats and adding the correct category). Please also add to the list any significant threats that have emerged recently, being mindful of environmental issues that have increased in profile or been recognised since plan publication (e.g. climate change). Once you are happy that the list contains all the threats identified in the published plan together with any new ones, please rank them in order of severity (1= highest threat). If the situation has changed and one of the published threats is no longer significant, please leave this in the list but give this rank = 0.

Current factors affecting the habitat from the original publication:

2.1 The present status for each of the dolphin species occurring in UK waters is not known sufficiently to evaluate properly the extent to which population changes have taken place. However, four main human activities are recognised as currently likely to be detrimental to dolphins: activities leading to ecosystem changes; interactions with fisheries; boat activities; and contaminant inputs.

- 2.2 Ecosystem changes resulting from the widespread over-exploitation of marine biological resources in European waters have the potential to affect energy budgets and thence reproduction and survival of all UK dolphin species.
- 2.3 All the dolphin species considered here have been recorded as by-catches of various fisheries. There is evidence of substantial numbers of dolphins (mainly common and Atlantic white-sided dolphins) caught in pelagic trawls (targeting tuna, hake, bass, horse mackerel, mackerel and herring) in the south-west approaches to the English Channel and Celtic Sea. Annual by-catch estimates of 1200 striped dolphins and 400 common dolphins were obtained in 1992-93 in French drift-net fisheries for albacore tuna operating between the Azores and southern Ireland. The small UK tuna drift net fleet operating in the Bay of Biscay was estimated in 1995 to have a by-catch of 100 striped dolphins and 60 common dolphins in 1995. Post-mortem studies of 138 common dolphins washed ashore on UK coasts (mainly south-west England) between 1990 and 1995 revealed at least 62% of animals died as a result of by-catch.
- 2.4 Boat activities (merchant shipping, seismic, military and recreational) in coastal waters pose threats to dolphins by direct physical damage (collisions, and propeller damage) and by the sounds introduced into the environment, where potential harm may be caused by direct auditory damage at close distances and interference with navigation, food-finding, and communication further away. The English Channel is one of the most intensively used waterways in the world, and the North and Irish Seas are not far behind. In recent years, seismic activities have started in the Iris Sea, parts of the Channel, and along the Atlantic Frontier, west and north of Scotland and Ireland, following earlier emphasis on the northern and central North Sea.
- 2.5 Contaminants, including organochlorines, may impact the reproductive potential or cause immunosuppression in marine mammals, including dolphins. High concentrations of bioaccumulating chemicals have been detected in the tissues of marine mammals, and long-lived animals such as cetaceans are more at risk of accumulative heavy pollution burdens than shorter-lived ones. In Cardigan Bay, a few years ago the body of a dead bottlenose dolphin calf was found to have one of the highest levels of contaminants such as PCBs, DDT and mercury ever found in a mammal.
- 2.6 Global climate change may also have an effect on small dolphins but impacts on marine mammals are very difficult to predict.

Keyworded factors:

To add factors click the add button, to delete factors check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Rank:	Keyword:
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Accidental mortality Collisions with boats

- Accidental mortality | Fisheries bycatch - netting
- Changes in native species dynamics | Decline in food source / prey
- Human disturbance | Acoustic disturbance / damage to marine animals
- Pollution - atmospheric | Global warming / sea-level rise
- Pollution - freshwater | Industrial / commercial

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6. Constraints (optional)

Select the three most significant constraints to achieving the targets of the plan, and indicate the order of priority (1-3 with 1 being the most significant constraint). Only include constraints that are acting as a real blockage to delivering the plan targets or leading to a substantial delay in their delivery. For each constraint, please indicate whether you feel that it is within the ability of the lead partner or steering group to resolve the constraint.

Constraint 1:	
Constraint keyword:	Country:
Policy, legislation and designation Common Fisheries Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W

Solution:	Solution type:
Reform of the CFP under way. UK developing a Small Cetacean Bycatch Response Strategy	
Able to resolve:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Constraint 2:	
Constraint keyword:	Country:
Research, survey and information Monitoring surveys required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W
Solution:	Solution type:
Able to resolve:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Constraint 3:	
Constraint keyword:	Country:
Funding and incentives EU funding - support required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W

Solution:	Solution type:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Able to resolve:	<input type="checkbox"/>

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7. Steering Group

Please list all organisations that are represented on the steering group for your species/habitat (include all organisations that have contributed either directly or by correspondence within the last 3 years). Where a steering group does not exist please leave this form blank.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Organisation:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brixham Seawatch
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ceredigion County Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cornish Fish Producer's Association
<input type="checkbox"/>	Countryside Council for Wales

- Defence Logistics Organisation (CESO(N))
- Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- English Nature
- Environment Agency
- Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust
- Herpetological Conservation Trust
- Insitute of Zoology
- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- Natural History Museum
- RSPCA
- Scottish Agricultural College
- Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Division
- Scottish Natural Heritage

<input type="checkbox"/>	Sea Fish Industry Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sea Mammal Research Unit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Seawatch Foundation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shetland Fishermen's Association
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Wildlife Trusts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society

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8. Other Groups/Organisations

Please list any additional groups/organisations that are actively involved in implementing your action plan. (This is to try to assess which groups are involved where there is no steering group and any additional contributors). If you do not have any other organisations involved, click [here](#).

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Organisation:
<input type="checkbox"/>	CEFAS

- Defence Estates
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (NI)
- Department of Culture, Media and Sport
- Department of Trade and Industry
- Environment and Heritage Service
- Environmental Investigation Agency
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- HM Customs & Excise
- National Assembly for Wales

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9. Linkages to LBAPs

a) Which of the following most accurately describes your interaction with LBAPs, up to now?

Little or no contact with LBAPs. 

b) If you have been in contact with LBAPs how was it initiated?

c) Irrespective of current contact, how important do you consider LBAP co-ordinated action will be in achieving the targets of the plan? Select from category:

d) If you consider LBAP action to be anything other than unimportant, which of the following forms of engagement do you think would be appropriate? (Note, you may tick more than one category.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Indirect contact (e.g. posting information on UKBAP website, sharing work programmes, meeting schedules, articles in Biodiversity News, newsletter)
<input type="checkbox"/> Provision of generic information on habitat and/or species (e.g. advice and guidance on habitat/species ecology and management)
<input type="checkbox"/> Direct provision of advice (e.g. proactive approach to LBAP, response to consultations from LBAPs, advice on LBAP target setting)
<input type="checkbox"/> Reciprocal attendance at meetings
<input type="checkbox"/> Development of collaborative projects

Other (please specify):

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10. Successes (optional)

Have there been key successes in the implementation of your plan that should be drawn to the attention of government, the wider BAP partnership, or the public? Please give a brief description (i.e. 2-3 sentences) of up to three successes and allocate a topic area to each of them:

Success 1:

Description:

Crow Act improved cetacean protection against reckless disturbance.

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Policy, legislation and designation | Other

Success 2:

Description:

EU ban on the use of large pelagic drift-net

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Policy, legislation and designation | Beneficial changes in EU legislation

Success 3:

Description:

Guidelines aimed at minimising disturbance to cetaceans from
w hale w atching operations and minimising disturbance to
cetaceans from recreation at sea
Designation of candidate SAC's for bottlenose dolphins

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Communication | Best practice guidance

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Thankyou for answering the questions. You have not yet completed all of the questions. You can go back and answer the additional ones or edit the ones you have already answered whenever you want.

Sign-off:

When you have completed all of the questions that you are able to, you must sign off your reporting.

I agree that the steering group (if present) have agreed the information in this report and that the following contact point has also signed it off:

Contact point: <input type="text"/>	email: <input type="text"/>
Your name: <input type="text"/>	

Date:
