

Cetacean BAP species

This Cetacean Project will look at management measures and activities to help protect the 15 cetacean species (dolphins, porpoises and whales) on the current BAP list for Cornwall.

The seas around the south west are amongst the richest areas for spectacular animals including whales and dolphins. There are current projects which aim to monitor these species, such as Seaquest Southwest¹³ a marine recording project run jointly by Cornwall and Devon Wildlife Trusts. Another ongoing project run by Cornwall Wildlife Trust is the Seaquest Netsafe Project, this gathers data on cetaceans which will help develop strategies to protect them. Cornwall sadly receives the highest numbers of dead dolphin strandings each year, in response to this the Marine Strandings Network was set up to record these animals and retrieve them for post mortem examination.

This BAP project aims to combine all the hard work which is currently ongoing and will seek to combine all information gathered. This will help develop and implement management measures and/or activities to conserve these cetaceans and the ecosystem through working closely with the fisheries industry and consumers. Key areas to focus on are summarised below:

- Inshore cetacean populations and cetacean bycatch around Cornwall, through effort based sightings and underwater acoustic monitoring at specific sites

- Data from stranded animals through the Marine Strandings Network.
- Testing of bycatch mitigation measures with inshore netters and promoting responsible fishing practices.

Lead organisations include Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Marine Management Organisation, Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, and the commercial fishing industry.

Key BAP species:

- Minke whale
- Sei whale
- Fin whale
- Common dolphin
- Long-finned pilot whale
- Risso's dolphin
- Atlantic white-sided dolphin
- White-beaked dolphin
- Sowerby's beaked whale
- True's beaked whale
- Killer whale
- Harbour porpoise
- Sperm whale
- Bottlenosed dolphin
- Cuvier's beaked whale



Dolphin watching. Photo by Joana Doyle

¹³[www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/conservation/living seas/Seaquest_southwest](http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/conservation/living%20seas/Seaquest_southwest)