



Human Activity and Wildlife Interactions

Disturbance of Marine Mammals in the SW

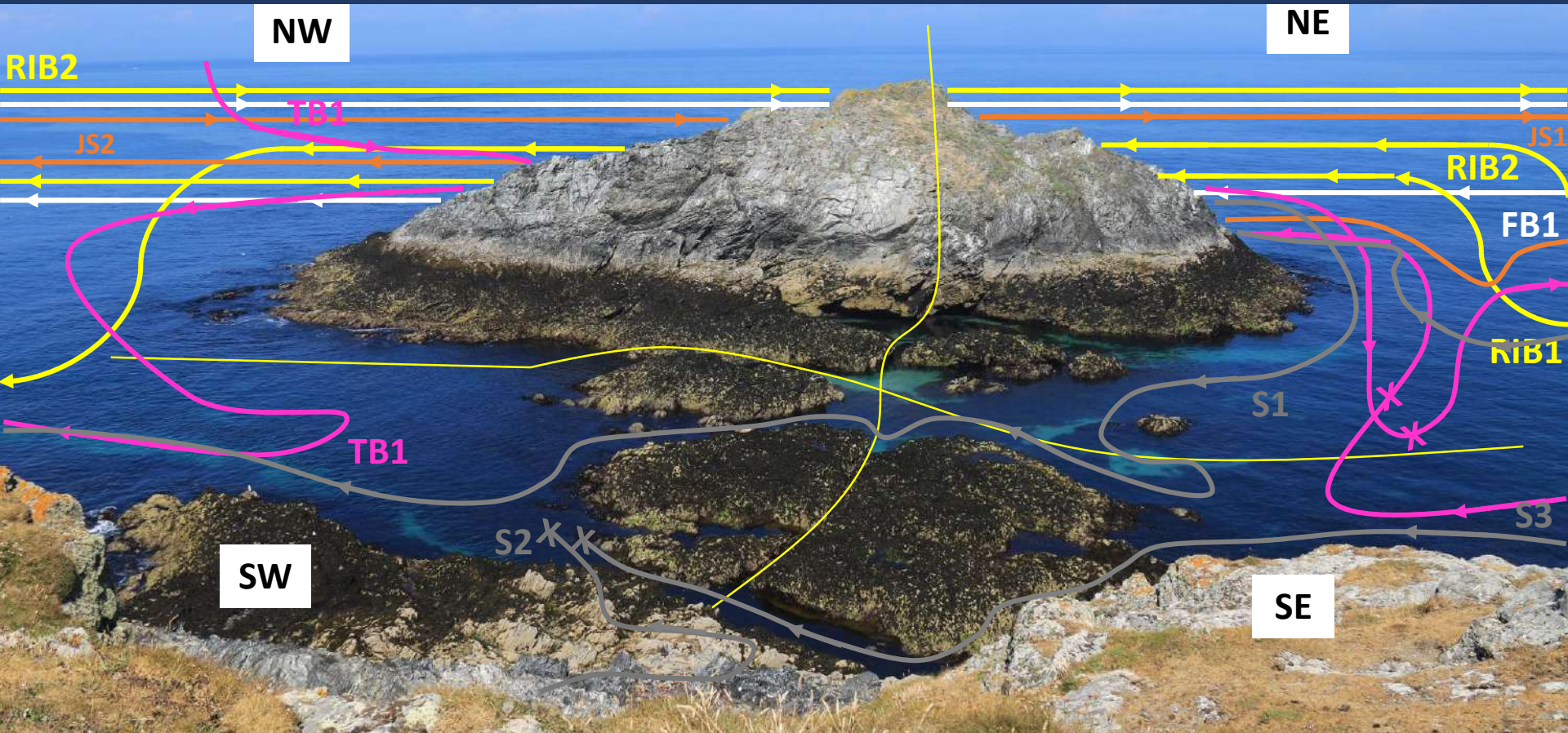
Katie Bellman – Seal Research Ranger (CSGRT)

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Growing Tourism Industry



Increased Human Activity



- Kayak - **K**
- Tripper Boat - **TB**
- Paddle Board – **SUP**
- Inflatable Boat – **RIB**
- Fishing Boat – **FB**

- Private - **P**
- Jet ski – **JS**
- Snorkeller/Swimmer - **S**
- Other – **O**
- Walkers - **W**

Potential Impacts

- **Disturbance** – change of behaviour in response to anthropogenic stimulus
- **Habituation** - diminishing of an innate response to a frequently repeated stimulus
- **Injury and Fatality**

Short term – easier to observe
Long term – cumulative impact



NOT ALL INTERACTIONS ARE NEGATIVE

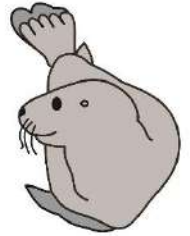
MAJORITY OF DISTURBANCE IS NOT INTENTIONAL

Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code Group



**Cornwall
Wildlife Trust**

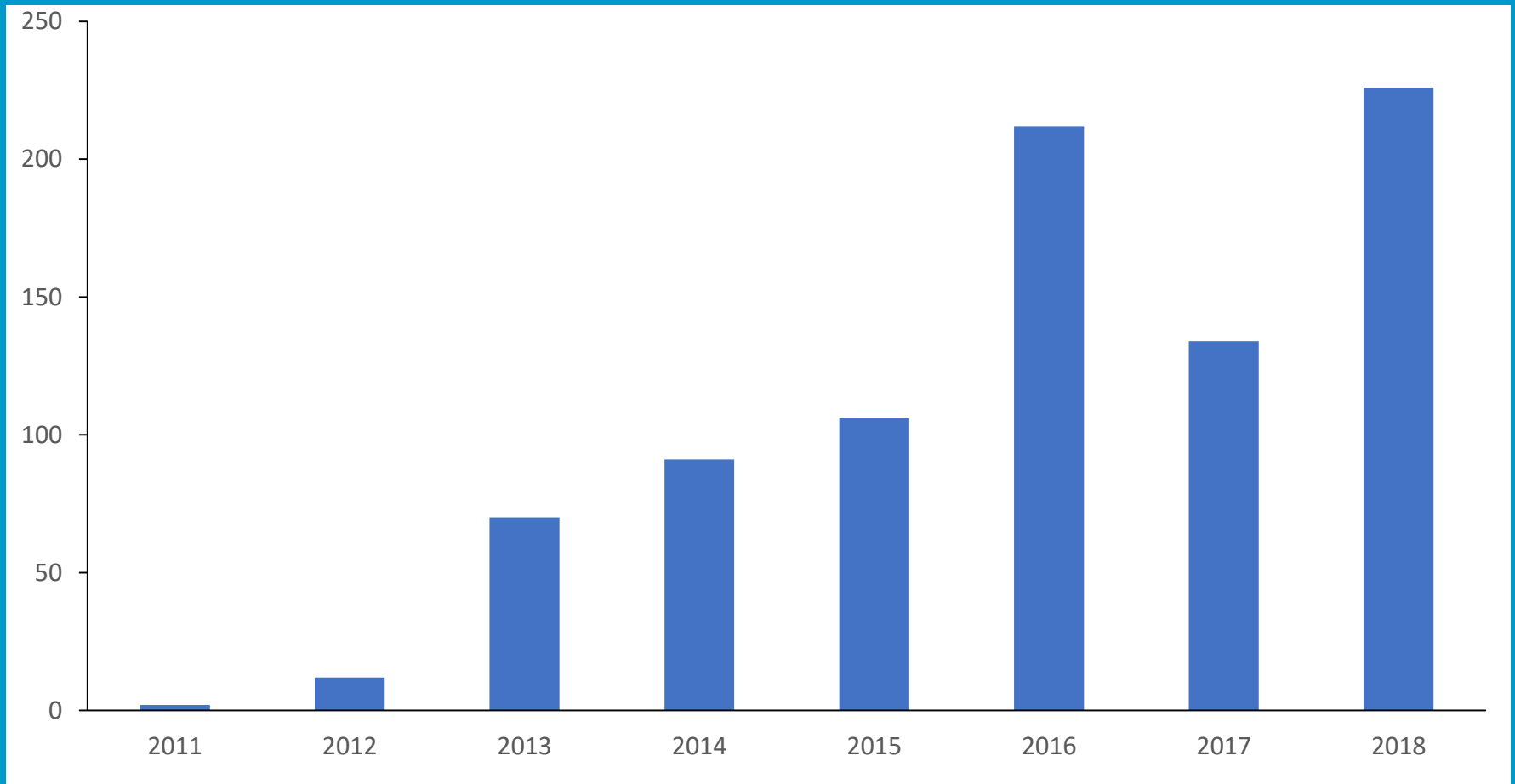
Cornwall
SEAL
Group
Research
Trust



Cornwall Marine
& Coastal Code
Group



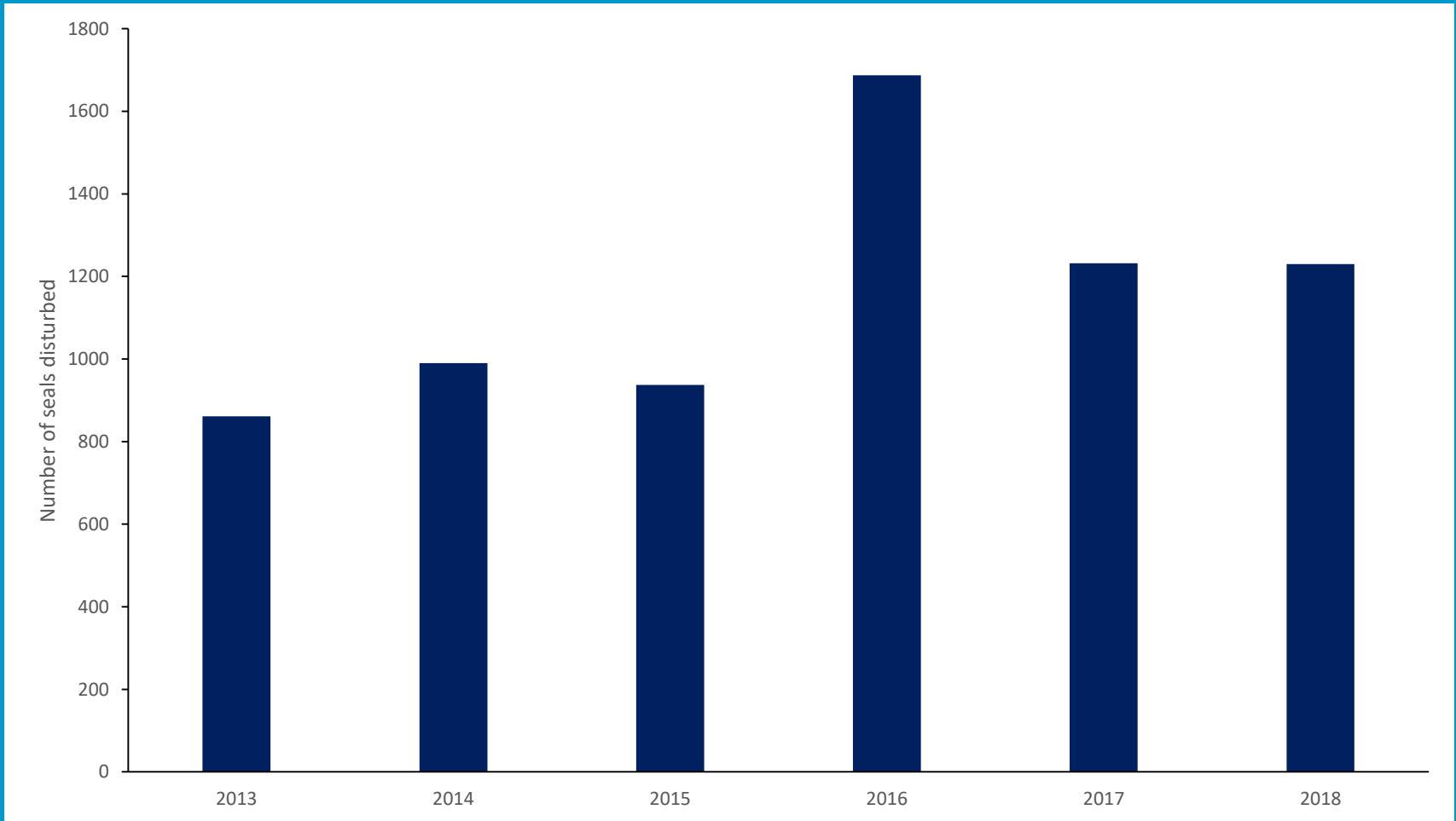
Inter-annual data of disturbance reports



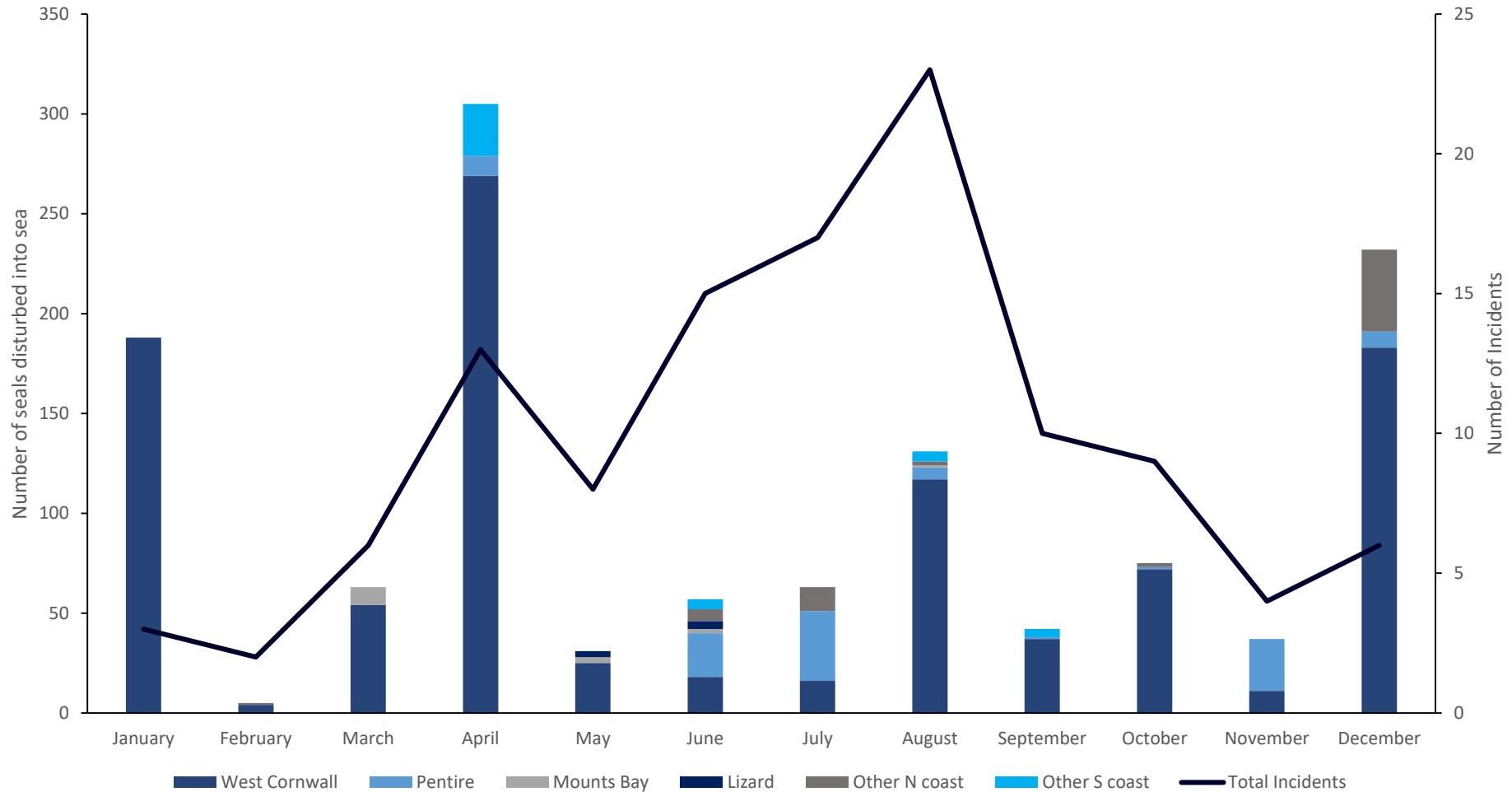
Seals



Number of seals disturbed into sea 2013 - 2018



1230 seals flushed into sea in **116** incidents

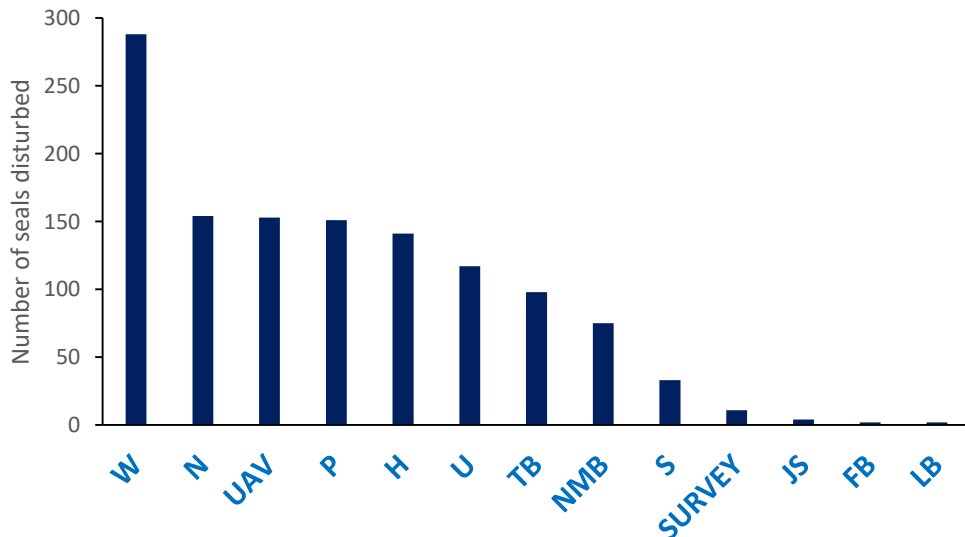
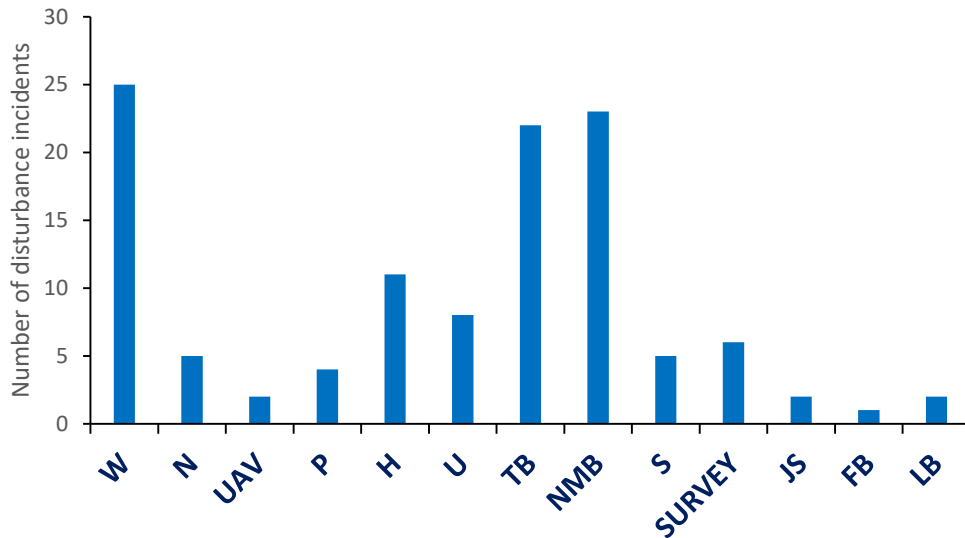


Seal Disturbance



Cause of Disturbance

2018



W – walkers and coastal users

N – natural

UAV – unmanned aerial vehicle

P – plane

H – helicopter

U – Unknown

TB – commercial tripper boat

NMB – non-motorised vessels

S – swimmers

SURVEY boat

JS – jet ski

FB – fishing boat

LB – recreational motorised vessel

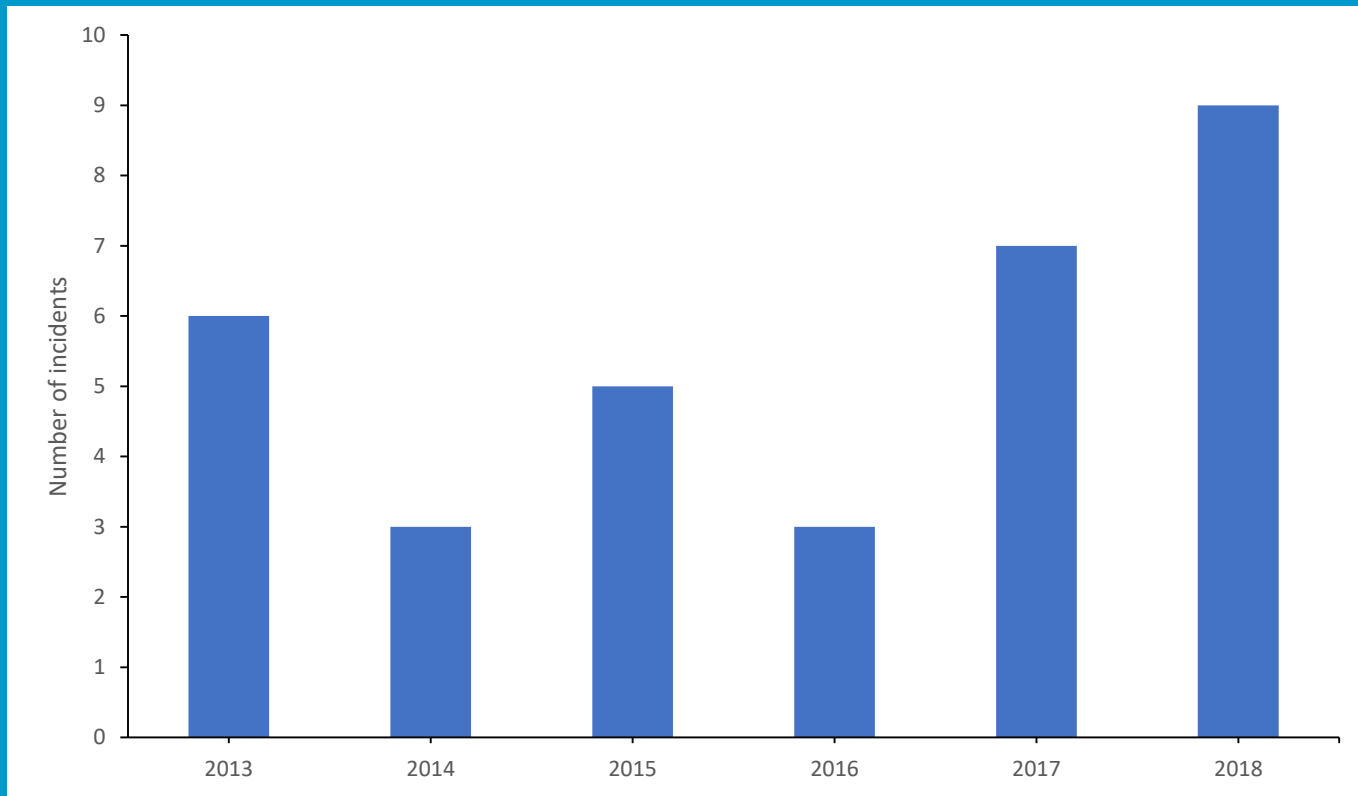
Cetaceans



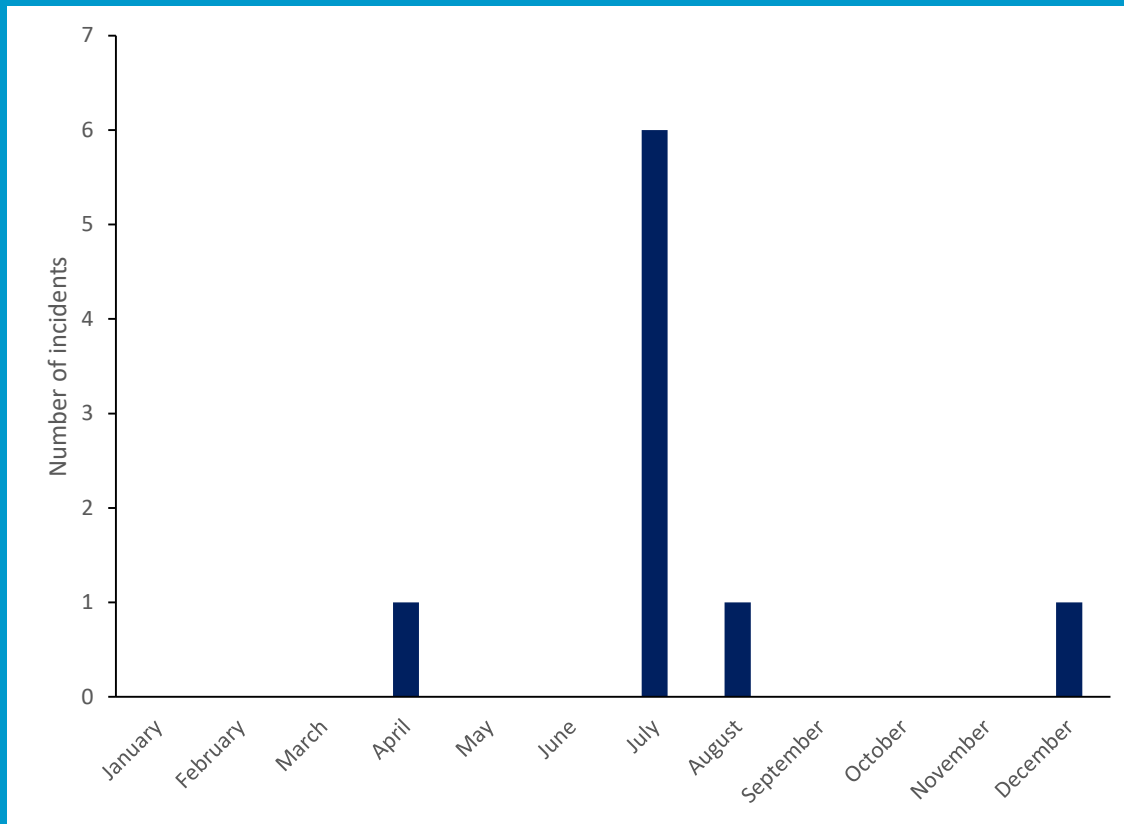
Cetacean Disturbance



Cetacean disturbance incidents 2013 - 2018



9 incidents affecting 3 species



Species affected



Cetacean Disturbance



Recording Disturbance



- Record incident using **wide angled** view
- Note details
- Report incident to **CMCCG Disturbance Hotline**
- Send any photo/video evidence of seal disturbance to sue@cornwallsealgroup.co.uk
- If an emergency – **Ring 101**
- **DO NOT** engage during or after incident

Where/When

Species

How many animals affected

Cause of disturbance/Identifiers

Duration of incident

To report a disturbance incident ring the emergency hotline:

0345 201 26 26

- **New systematic survey protocol** (developed by CSGRT)
- **Focusing on offshore haulout sites around Cornwall**
- **Recording:**
 - human activity levels
 - seal activity
 - seal and human activity interactions
- **Pilot study starting April 2019**
 - University of Plymouth
 - University of Bristol
 - University of Exeter
 - Cornwall College Newquay
 - CSGRT volunteers





Thank you for listening

Any questions?

For any further info please contact
Katie Bellman – Seal Research Ranger (CSGRT)

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