



# Marine Strandings Network



Abigail Crosby  
Marine Conservation Officer, Cornwall Wildlife Trust  
01872 320230  
[abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)





# Marine Strandings Network

Investigating the deaths of marine mammals

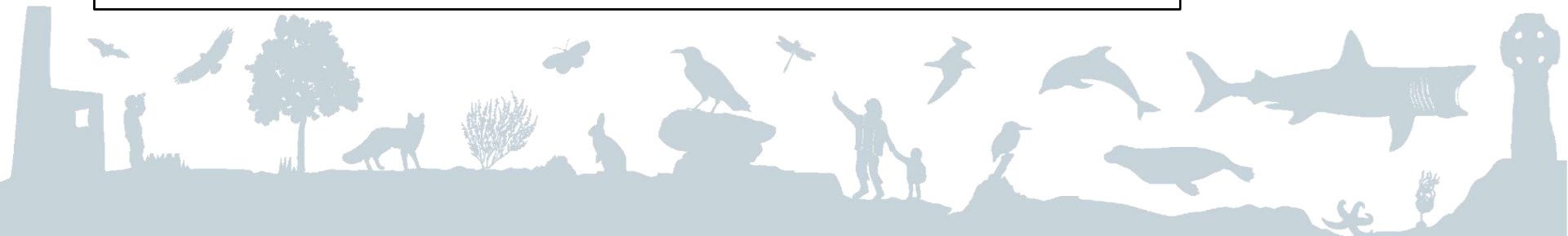
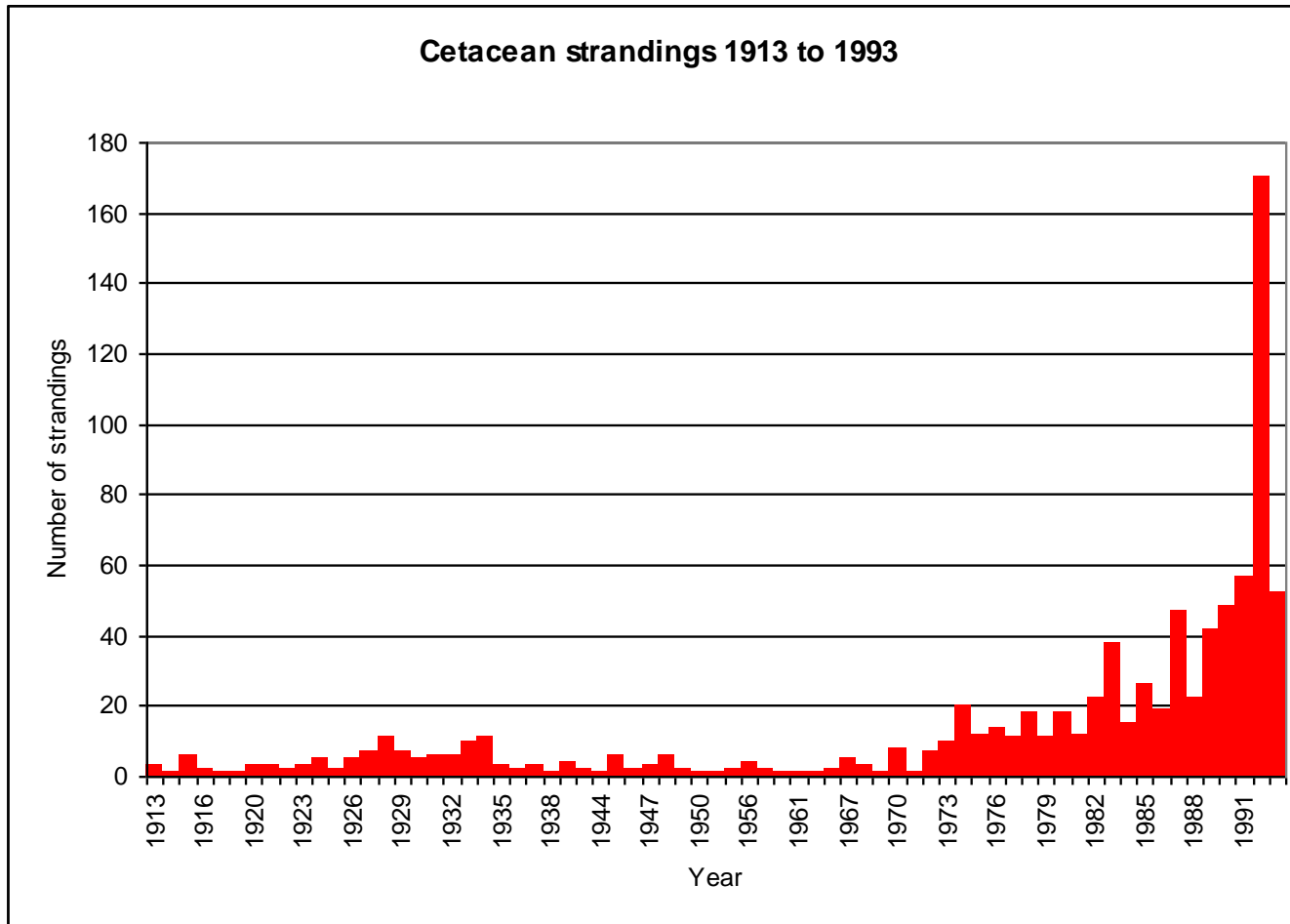


0345 2012626

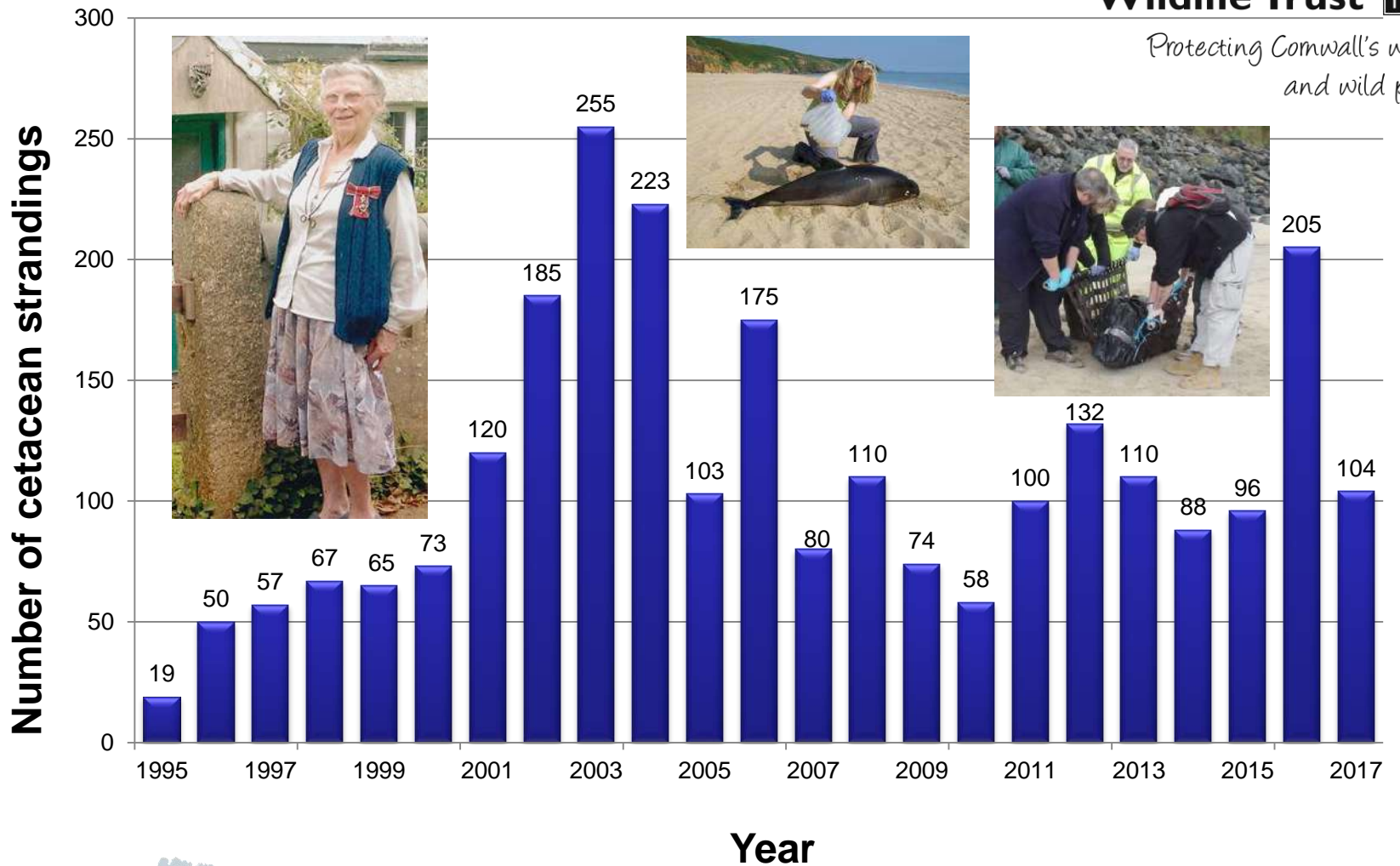
Photo Paul Semmens

# Cetacean strandings 1913-1993

*Protecting Cornwall's wildlife  
and wild places*



*Protecting Cornwall's wildlife and wild places*



Species (common)	Date Found	Location	Cause of Death	Cause of Death
Harbour porpoise	08/03/2015	St Ives	gastric parasitism (heavy)	Gastritis and/or Enteritis
Harbour porpoise	10/04/2015	Porthcurno	physical trauma, bycatch	Bycatch
Short-beaked common dolphin	30/04/2015	Praa Sands	physical trauma, bycatch	Bycatch
Short-beaked common dolphin	02/05/2015	Pentewan Sands	physical trauma, bycatch	Bycatch
Short-beaked common dolphin	06/05/2015	Portwrinkle beach	physical trauma, bycatch	Bycatch
Harbour porpoise	09/05/2015	Whitesands Bay	starvation/hypothermia (neonate)	Starvation (neonate)
Short-beaked common dolphin	21/05/2015	Mawgan porth	starvation/hypothermia	Starvation
Harbour porpoise	12/07/2015	Mawgan Porth	physical trauma, acute (neonate)	Physical Trauma
Short-beaked common dolphin	17/07/2015	Devoran Creek, Perranarworthal	gastric parasitism, heavy (euthanized)	Gastritis and/or Enteritis
Striped dolphin	01/08/2015	Little Petherick Creek	gastric parasitism, heavy (euthanized)	Gastritis and/or Enteritis
Risso's dolphin	03/08/2015	Lamorna Harbour	not established (possible physical trauma)	Not Established
Harbour porpoise	17/08/2015	Fishing cove, Gunwalloe, Lizard	physical trauma, by-catch	Bycatch
Harbour porpoise	22/08/2015	Porthleven	physical trauma, by-catch	Bycatch
Short-beaked common dolphin	30/08/2015	St. Ives	gastric perforation (fundic) and acute peritonitis	Others
Short-beaked common dolphin	09/09/2015	Maenporth	gastric inversion (pending histopathology – potential gastric tumour)	Others
Short-beaked common dolphin	27/09/2015	Swanpool beach, Falmouth	pulmonary abscesses, extensive (pending histopathology)	Others
Harbour porpoise	11/10/2015	Penzance	physical trauma, bycatch	Bycatch
Short-beaked common dolphin	21/11/2015	Porthtowan	physical trauma, acute; live stranding (euthanised)	Physical Trauma
Harbour porpoise	06/12/2015	Maenporth	parasitism, heavy (multiple sites); aged	Pneumonia, Parasitic
Harbour porpoise	08/12/2015	Polkerris Beach	parasitism, pulmonary (heavy)	Pneumonia, Parasitic
Harbour porpoise	15/12/2015	Par	physical trauma, bycatch	Bycatch

# Port mortem data for 2015

## Bycatch Evidence Evaluation Project (BEEP)

This guide illustrates the photos to take for the BEEP. At the stage of the project, we are recording all marks regardless of their cause, to test the method. Please take all the photos listed using a digital camera, regardless of whether marks are present or not. Wear disposable gloves and wash all sand and debris off the animal before you take any pictures to reveal important clues. Continue to do this throughout the examination, taking care not to wash off any netting.

Please use this sheet in conjunction with the latest CWT MSN Cetacean Recording form which is available on the web site at [www.cwtstrandings.org](http://www.cwtstrandings.org). Thank you.



View of animal at stranding site to show location, beach type, rocks etc. which may cause scratches.



Full side view, right, to help confirm species and determine carcass condition (level of decomposition).



Full side view, left, to help confirm species and show level of decomposition, which may be different from the right side.



Head from above to show any/all marks, especially encircling marks or indentations round head or beak.



Head, right side to show any/all marks



Head, left side to show any/all marks.



Blowhole to show any froth and whether open or closed.



Teeth (upper and lower jaw) to show broken/diseased teeth and any cuts/net marks; broken jaw. Take care with sharp teeth.



Baleen plates to help confirm species.



Dorsal fin, both sides, to show any fin-edge cuts, slices or encircling marks.



Tail from above and below to show any fin-edge cuts, slices or encircling marks.



Pectoral fins, especially the edges, to show fin-edge cuts/slices, encircling marks, or abrasions.



Copyright © CWT Marine Strandings Network, 2010. BEEP Reference Sheet



## Seal Evidence Evaluation Protocol (SEEP)

This guide illustrates the photos MSN Callout Volunteers should take when attending a dead seal stranding. Please take photos listed with a digital camera, set to the highest image quality and ensure high quality images are submitted. Ensure to rinse the carcass free from sand and debris before taking the photos. As well as usual protocol, please follow the measure the size of any marks, cuts, abrasions and wounds. If you attend a fresh seal carcass please notify the Hotline Coordinator immediately to start arrangements for PM retrieval.

Make sure to check in with the Strandings Hotline (0345 2012626) when you're off the beach, of



**View of the animal at site**  
Show the animal on location, including beach type with surrounding rocks which may cause damage.



**All sides of the animal**  
Show all sides (left, right above and below) of the entire animal, to help with photo ID and general overview of the condition.



**Head and shoulders**  
Show all sides (left, right above and below) to help with photo ID and give an overview of marks and wounds.



**Overview of body**  
Show all sides (left, right above and below) to help with photo ID and give an overview of marks and wounds.



**Close up of eyes**  
Show both eyes or sockets. Including eyebrows, with close up of any associated bulging eyes, wounds or abrasions.



**Close up of teeth and mouth**  
Show all sides of the mouth area, including teeth, gums, into the mouth, surrounding muzzle and whisker follicles.



**Fore flippers**  
Show all sides (leading, trailing above and below) of each fore flipper, including any wounds, cuts or abrasions.



**Rear flippers**  
Show all sides (leading, trailing above and below) of each rear flipper, including any wounds, cuts or abrasions.



**Flipper webbing**  
Show all sides (leading, trailing above and below) of webbing for all flippers, including any wounds, cuts or abrasions.



**Edges of flipper webbing**  
Show close up of the edges of the webbing for each fore and rear flipper, including any wounds, cuts or abrasions.



**Genital area**  
Show close up of genital area to confirm gender (example of a male).



**Close up of nose and nostrils**  
Show close up of nose, including abrasions, cuts, evidence of froth or parasites.



### Black-throated diver



Winter plumage:

Dagger shaped grey bill with blackish tip usually held horizontally. Upperparts grey and under parts including cheeks white. The boundary between the dark hind neck and white fore neck is linear and clean. Swimming birds display a distinctive pale flank patch.

Similar species:

Great northern diver, red-throated diver, cormorant, shag.

©Ian Fisher

### Great northern diver



Winter plumage:

Dagger shaped bill usually held horizontally, blue-grey/white in colour with black tip. Upperparts are grey brown (scaly in 1st winters). Under parts white from chin to under-tail. Dark semi-collar with white indentation above and pale eye-ring important identification features.

Similar species:

Black-throated diver, red-throated diver, cormorant, shag.

©Andy Elliot

### Slavonian grebe



Winter plumage:

Short straight dark bill with pale tip. Eye red. Head flat with peak at rear. Upper parts dark grey/black. White chin and cheeks. Broad pale grey collar. Flanks predominantly white with clear dark flecks.

Similar species:

Black-necked grebe, little grebe, common scoter.

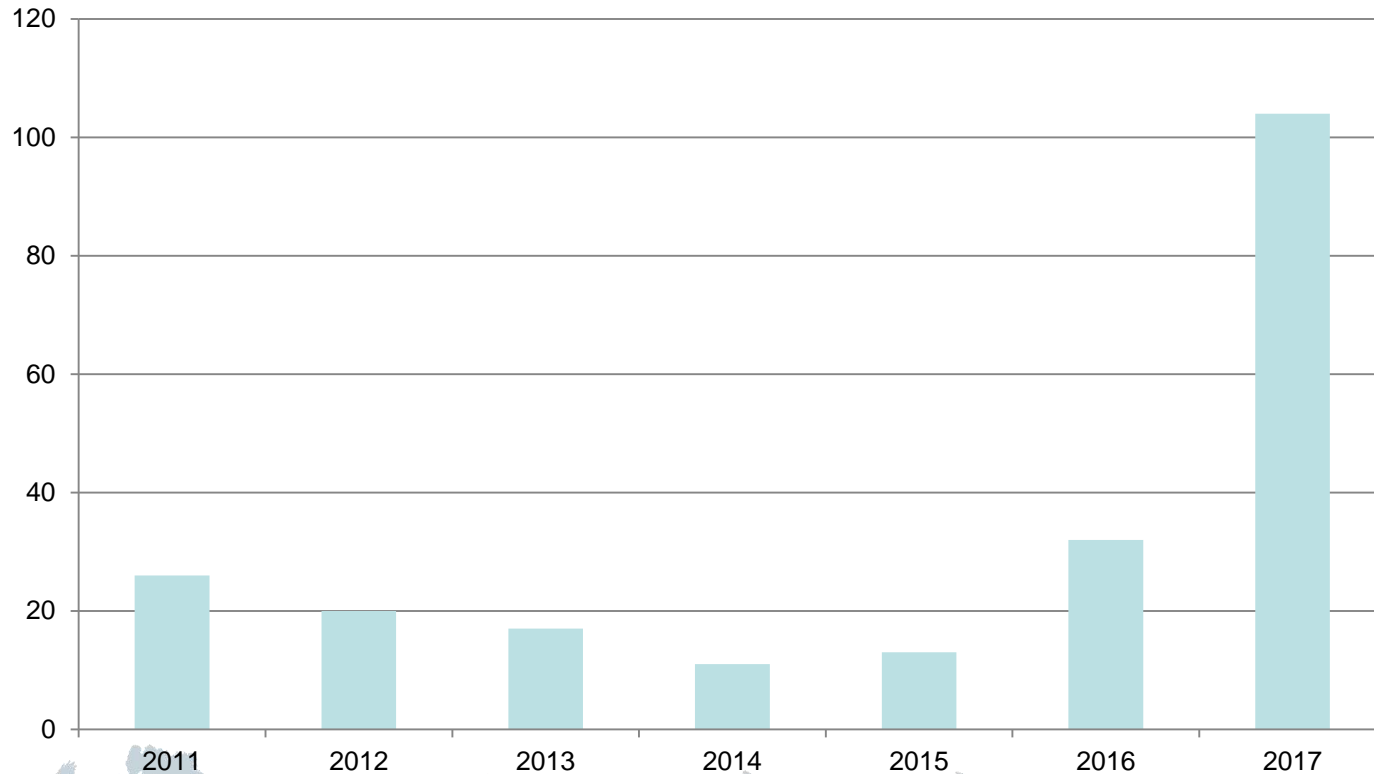
©Pete Walkden Photography

Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay potential Special Protection Area (pSPA)  
Priority Species identification guide produced as part of a joint initiative  
aimed at preventing seabird bycatch as a result of fixed net gear types



# Number of stranded cetaceans between 01/01 and 19/02 between 2011 and 2017

## No. of stranded cetaceans between 01/01 and 19/02





# Thank you

Cornwall Wildlife Trust has over 17,000 members

Are you one of them?

If not then join us today at

[www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/join](http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/join)

or pick up a membership leaflet

Abigail Crosby

Marine Conservation Officer, Cornwall Wildlife Trust

01872 302230

[abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

