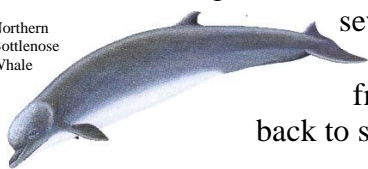


# Penzance B.S.A.C Conservation Officer's Report August 2008

A young Northern Bottlenose Whale stranded on the coast of Hampshire on 1st April and it was suffocating under its own weight as it lay in the mud. The local fire brigade, with the help of several members of the public, managed to get it into a sling and return it to the water, but a vet discovered that it was a very sick animal, suffering from kidney failure. It would die a lingering death within days if it went back to sea, so it was returned to a harbour and given a lethal dose of anaesthetic.

Northern Bottlenose Whale



A 7 ft, 450 pound dead Blue Marlin was found in the surf on Saundersfoot Glen Beach, Pembrokeshire on Thursday 7th August. It was hauled ashore with a Land Rover by local fishermen and taken to the South Wales Sea Fisheries Officer for identification. Marlin are usually found well offshore in deep water in tropical seas and are known to migrate toward the north Atlantic but not as far as the UK. The fishermen disposed of the fish in a watery grave well out to sea. Had it been one that they caught on rod and line it would have made about £4000 at Billingsgate Market.



The largest number of reported sightings during July was of Ocean Sunfish, 35 in total, these were mainly of single fish, but 9 were seen off Gwennap Head on the 26th and 7 on the 28th. They were seen all the way around the coast from Pendeen on the north coast to Looe on the south. There was 27 sightings of Harbour Porpoises from Bawden Rocks off St. Agnes, on the north coast to Nare Point near Helford on the south. Bottlenose Dolphins with 23 sightings came next, from the Camel Estuary around the coast to Fowey. There were 15 other reports of unidentified dolphins which were probably Bottlenose Dolphins except for one sighting of a pod of 30 off The Runnelstone which



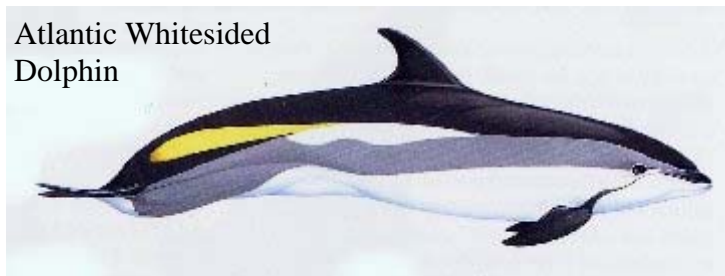
Cyanea lamarckii

were probably Common Dolphins. There were 8 positive sightings of Common Dolphins, from the Camel Estuary on the north coast to The Manacle on the south where the largest pod of about 40 were seen. There was only one report of Risso's Dolphins, that was of 2 off Tater du. A Whitesided Dolphin stranded alive at Hayle but was in a very bad state, and euthanasia was used to give it an easy death. Basking Sharks were reported 18 times, from Tintagel on the north coast to Helford on the south. A Minke Whale was seen off Gwennap Head and an unidentified whale off Porthgwarra. 21 sightings of Grey Seals were from Concleave Strand, between Dizzard Point and Bude, all the way around the coast to Whitsand Bay in southeast Cornwall. A



Compass Jellyfish

Atlantic Whitesided Dolphin



Thresher Shark was seen of Merthen Point, near St. Loy, and a Portuguese-man-of-war was seen near The Runnelstone. Two Cyanea Lamarckii jellyfish and 12 Compass Jellyfish were seen off Praa Sands and Compass Jellyfish were also seen of The Runnelstone and 100s were seen between Botallack and Cape Cornwall

on the 27th. Hundreds of Goose Barnacles were also found stranded alive at Newtrain Bay east of Trevoze Head