

15 MILESTONES IN 15 YEARS

MARKING 15 YEARS OF THE ORCA
PARTNERSHIP

01



PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCED

July 2007 - Marine conservation charity Organisation Cetacea (ORCA) and leading ferry operator DFDS announce a new partnership to survey marine wildlife in the North Sea.

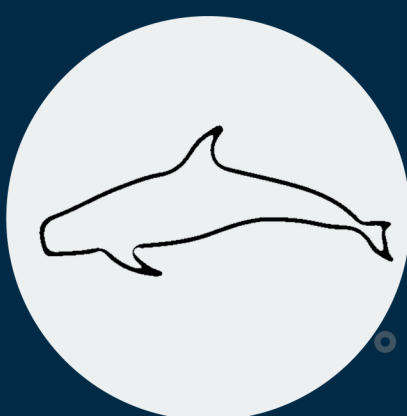
02



SIGHTINGS!

July 2009 - First sighting of a small school of white-beaked dolphin from the deck of King Seaways. This species is under threat from warming sea temperatures.

03



RISSE'S DOLPHIN

July 2013 - The only recorded sighting of a single risso's dolphin is registered from King Seaways. This species is predominantly found in deeper waters and is relatively unstudied.

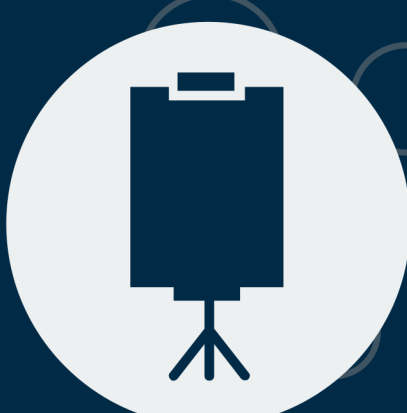
04



WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN

July 2014 - Sighting of an Atlantic white-sided dolphin in the North Sea. This species is usually found in deeper waters in the North Atlantic and are rarely seen close to shore.

05



ORCA WILDLIFE CENTRE

March 2015 - New ORCA Wildlife Centre opens on Newcastle-Amsterdam ferry King Seaways.

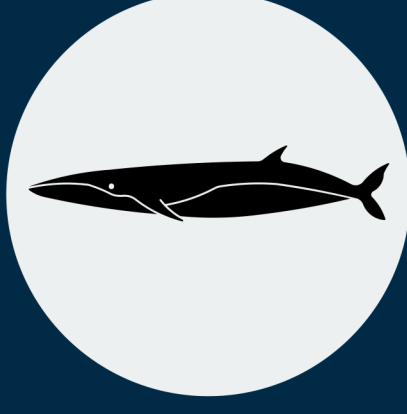
06



OCEANWATCH LAUNCH

July 2015 - ORCA OceanWatch is launched with ferry crews at DFDS trained to spot and report cetacean sightings made from the Bridge of ships, helping to build a comprehensive picture of where whales, dolphins and porpoises are distributed in UK and European waters.

07



FIN WHALE AHOY!

July 2015 - A fin whale, the second largest mammal in the world, is spotted from DFDS ferry Princess Seaways in one of the most spectacular sightings ever recorded from the company's ships.

08



PORPOISE WITH A PURPOSE

April 2016 - 'Porpoise with a purpose' unveiled in the ORCA Conservation Centre onboard. The porpoise was sculpted from marine litter by local artist Izzy Moreau, with the help of school children who collected beach litter.

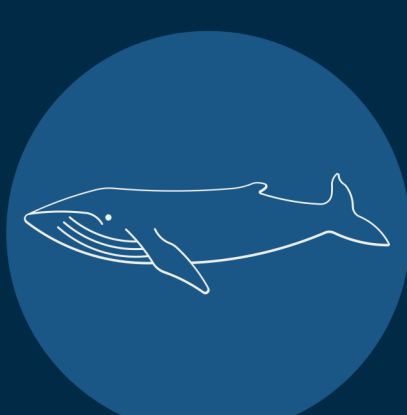
09



WHALE EDUCATION MONTH

October 2016 - ORCA runs its first Whale Education Month, giving school children from across the UK the opportunity to learn more about whales, dolphins and porpoises, and the threats they face.

10



HUMPBACK SPOTTING

January 2017 - A humpback whale is spotted by local fishermen off the mouth of the Tyne, with ORCA scientists from DFDS' North Sea ships confirming its identity

11



MICHAELA'S TALES

March 2017 - Whale Tales of the North Sea event with Michaela Strachan to mark ten years of DFDS' partnership with ORCA. In a surprising development a pink porpoise is spotted from the ship - April fool!

12



CHANNEL LAUNCH!

March 2018 - DFDS extends its partnership with ORCA, launching a new English Channel Ocean Conservationist programme on its Newhaven to Dieppe route.

13



ORCA MEETS ORCA

April 2018 - First-ever sighting of an orca (killer whale) in the North Sea from a DFDS ship. The ocean giant was spotted from DFDS' King Seaways ferry.

14



CETACEAN ENCOUNTERS

October 2018 - Record number of cetacean encounters reported by ORCA scientists across DFDS' routes, with 2,000 wildlife encounters during the March-September sightings season.

15



POST-PANDEMIC RESTART

March 2022 - ORCA Marine Conservation programme with DFDS restarts after a hiatus due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Ocean Conservationist Mathilde joins King Seaways at Ijmuiden in the Netherlands on 20 March to start the ORCA season after a two-year wait.

**DFDS AND ORCA: 15 YEARS OF
PARTNERING TO CONSERVE
MARINE SPECIES**