

A first photo-identification catalogue of the bottlenose dolphins using the northeast English (Northumberland-Durham) coastline



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Compiled by

Cetacean Research & Rescue Unit (CRRU)



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The following catalogue has been compiled thanks to the contribution of many individuals, boat operators and other interested parties and photographers from the Northumberland-Durham region. The images and information contained herein represent a *snap-shot* of the most identifiable (“marked”) bottlenose dolphins sighted along the northeast English coastline between 2014 and 2016 inclusive. When browsing through the records, please note that the information presented is in no way final or complete, as the catalogue will continue to be updated as further images are received and additional matches of known individuals are made.

The Cetacean Research & Rescue Unit (CRRU) relational database, against which the dolphins in this catalogue have been matched, contains comprehensive information on the individual sightings histories for these animals from a 21-year monitoring study in the Moray Firth from 1997 to present. Information on the sex, age and known calving histories have subsequently been contributed to this catalogue for a large number of the identified individuals, with cross-referenced ID numbers to both the CRRU and Aberdeen University Lighthouse Field Station (AULFS) catalogues, which can be viewed on-line at: www.crru.org.uk/bottlenose_archive.asp and www.abdn.ac.uk/lighthouse/research/bottlenose-dolphins/dolphin-catalogue respectively.

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Introduction

The bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) is a cosmopolitan species found throughout the world's oceans and seas. In European waters, the species occurs regularly along the Atlantic seaboard, from Portugal to the west coast of Ireland, although its distribution is believed to have contracted during the last century and particularly in the North Sea. The Moray Firth in northeast Scotland (57°40'N, 3°30'W) contains one of just two resident coastal populations of these dolphins in British waters and the only population in the North Sea. Studies conducted since the late 1980s have greatly increased our understanding of these animals in northeast Scottish waters and assisted in their management. However, animals identified in the Moray Firth range far beyond the inner firth Special Area of Conservation which is currently designated for their protection—travelling throughout the wider, outer Moray Firth, along the Grampian coastline to Tayside and Fife, and even further south to Northumberland in northern England.

In recent years, an increased number of sightings of bottlenose dolphins from the Northumberland-Durham region have been reported by local tour boats operators / wildlife enthusiasts. Opportunistic photographs taken of a number of well-marked individuals previously recorded by the research teams in Scotland (some of haven't been seen by the researchers for many years) revealed repeated sightings of the same individuals using the region from one year to the next. Both males and females, formerly recorded in the Moray Firth were identified from a long-term database maintained by the CRRU of approximately 350 animals from the outer southern Moray Firth. The following catalogue is the result of a targeted effort by the CRRU to collate as many images as possible from northeast England, in order to establish a first photo-identification catalogue for this region.

Knowledge of an individual's use of space and habitat provides vital information on the availability of resources and the sensitivity of that area to impending threats. Consequently, a better understanding of the number and fidelity of the individual dolphins using the Northumberland-Durham coast is considered to be especially useful for informing impact assessments concerning marine development and exploration activities taking place along this coastline; thus serving to increase our predictive power for the potential consequences from ongoing development projects affecting the animals using this region.

ND001

Spinnaker

CRRU#632/AULFS#881

ADULT MALE



RIGHT DORSAL

LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√	√				

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 3

ND002

Salami

CRRU#102/AULFS#227

ADULT FEMALE (5 KNOWN CALVES)



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√	√	√			

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 12

ND004

Deliah

CRRU#596/AULFS#1054

ADULT FEMALE (3 KNOWN CALVES)



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√		√			

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 8

ND006

Barbara

CRRU#627/AULFS#1119

ADULT FEMALE (1 KNOWN CALF)



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√	√				

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 6

ND008

Doosh-Doosh

CRRU#517/AULFS#1118

ADULT FEMALE (1 KNOWN CALF)



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√					

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 4

ND009

White Tip

CRRU#619/AULFS#1062

ADULT FEMALE (1 KNOWN CALF)



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√	√				

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 6

ND011

Munt

CRRU#633/AULFS#1121

ADULT UNKOWN SEX



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√					

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 2

ND012

Barracuda

CRRU#002/AULFS#102

ADULT MALE



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√	√				

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 2

ND013

Aye-Aye

CRRU#387/AULFS#1002

ADULT FEMALE (2 KNOWN CALVES)



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√					

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 1

ND015

Gelato

CRRU#626/AULFS#1115

ADULT UNKNOWN SEX

RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√					

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 2

ND016

Dexy

CRRU#624/AULFS#1123

ADULT UNKNOWN SEX

RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√					

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 1

ND018

CRRU#621/AULFS#1043

ADULT FEMALE (1 KNOWN CALF)

RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√					

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 1

ND020

Squiggle

CRRU#625/AULFS#1058

ADULT FEMALE (1 KNOWN CALF)



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√		√			

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 4

ND023

CRRU#645

ADULT UNKNOWN SEX



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√					

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 3



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√					

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 3

ND025

Chips

CRRU#178/AULFS#344

ADULT FEMALE (3 KNOWN CALVES)



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		✓	✓	✓			

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 8

ND027

Runny Paint

CRRU#055/AULFS#116

ADULT FEMALE (2 KNOWN CALVES)



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√	√	√			

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 11

ND028

Paint Splotch

CRRU#634/AULFS#1052

ADULT FEMALE (1 KNOWN CALF)



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√					

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 3

ND029

Doris

CRRU#516/AULFS#1037

ADULT FEMALE (1 KNOWN CALF)



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√					

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 4

ND033

ADULT UNKNOWN SEX



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√		√			

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 4

ND035

Mary-Lee

AULFS#1096

ADULT FEMALE



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√		√			

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 3

ND037

Black 'N' Decker

CRRU#149/AULFS#020

ADULT MALE



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√	√	√			

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 5

ND038

Pilot

CRRU#032/AULFS#068

ADULT FEMALE (2 KNOWN CALVES)



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√		√			

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 7

ND039

Morlock

CRRU#623/AULFS#1050

ADULT MALE



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√		√			

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 4

ND041

Cocoa

CRRU#635/AULFS#1156

ADULT UNKNOWN SEX



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√	√				

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 2

ND044

CRRU#554/AULFS#1048

ADULT MALE



RIGHT DORSAL

LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√					

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 1

ND045

AULFS#1150

Floppy Fin

ADULT UNKNOWN SEX



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√	√				

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 2

ND046

CRRU#556/AULFS#1047

ADULT MALE



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√	√				

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 2

ND050

CRRU#560/AULFS#1076

ADULT FEMALE (1 KNOWN CALF)



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√					

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 1

ND054

Tay

CRRU#529/AULFS#1064

ADULT FEMALE (1 KNOWN CALF)



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS			√				

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 1

ND056

Guinness

CRRU#078/AULFS#009

ADULT FEMALE (2 KNOWN CALVES)



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS		√		√			

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 3



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS				√			

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 3

ND059

Illusion

CRRU#384/AULFS#1039

ADULT UNKNOWN SEX



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS				√			

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 3

ND060

AULFS#1089

ADULT UNKNOWN SEX



RIGHT DORSAL

LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS				√			

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 1

ND062

Fea

CRRU#423/AULFS#886

ADULT MALE



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS				√			

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 1

ND063

CRRU#593/AULFS#1091

ADULT UNKNOWN SEX



RIGHT DORSAL



LEFT DORSAL

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SIGHTINGS				√			

NO. OF RECAPTURES = 1

APPENDIX A: Contributors to the Catalogue

Ownership and copyright of the cetacean images and associated data included in this catalogue belongs to several researchers, boat tour operators and interested members of the public (referred to collectively as the 'contributors'). The contributors to date are listed below:

Contributing photographer	Year(s)
K Robinson (CRRU)	2014, 2015, 2016
A Douglas (Serenity Boats)	2014, 2015, 2016
D Bennett	2014, 2015
T Goodings	2014
A Smith	2014
M Skinner	2014
R Balfour	2014
S Levy	2014
S Wales	2015
M Kitching (Northern Experience Wildlife Tours)	2016
I Rackham	2016
C Murray	2016
A Wiseman	2016