

The Big Issues – Threats in European Waters

By-catch – Drowning of dolphins and seabirds by accidental capture in fishing nets;

Over-fishing – Industrial fisheries are driving mass failures of seabird colonies and reduced food availability for cetaceans;

Global warming – may force changes in distribution of cetaceans and seabirds, to areas with unsuitable habitat or fewer food sources;

Military activity – anti-submarine measures have been implicated in some mass-strandings;

Pollution – chemicals, heavy metals and plastics causing dangerous algal blooms, impacts on cetacean immune systems and direct damage from ingestion;

Shipping – whale and dolphin collisions with ships and pleasure craft are a significant cause of mortality.

Specific Marineline Research Projects

Balearic Shearwater: distribution and fishery interactions of this critically endangered seabird off south-west England in collaboration with Seawatch SW and the Deep Sea Directory;

Cuvier's Beaked Whale: habitat use in Biscay by this poorly understood deep sea species through a PhD project in partnership with the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton and the University of Aberdeen;

White-beaked Dolphin: photo-identification and population study of a newly discovered Lyme Bay population in the Channel and the population off the coast of North-east England in association with Natural England and Northern Experience;

Western Channel Survey: in-depth survey sponsored by an Interreg grant to comprehensively assess the status of cetaceans and seabirds in the Western Channel.



Join the charity Marineline in pushing back the frontiers of scientific research and helping to conserve our seas – the last great wilderness in Europe. Please support our vital work.

Conserving marine wildlife through research and education

Marineline Discoveries

A decline in cold water species such as the Northern Bottlenose Whale and an increase in warm water species such as the Striped Dolphin in Biscay, a possible indicator of climate change;

The recovery of Harbour Porpoise and Minke Whale numbers in the Channel;

Decreases in Pilot Whales in areas of Biscay subject to high fishing activity;

An increase in the winter immigration of Common Dolphin into the Channel, where they are at high risk from accidental capture in fishing nets.

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