



#### Sharp increase in fisheries-related deaths of dolphins and whales off British coast

Numerous dead whales, dolphins and porpoises have washed up on Cornish shores lately, most of them after lethal encounters with nets and other fishing gear.

Approximately 250 dead cetaceans are being found on Cornish beaches each year, representing a fivefold increase since 2000. The real numbers are likely to be significantly higher, as most carcasses are carried out to the sea or towards the French coast.



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These figures are much higher than expected, and they illustrate the threats cetaceans are facing despite legal protection, here and on a global scale. An analysis of data going back all the way to 1911 showed the increase in fisheries-related deaths, with common dolphins and harbour porpoises being affected most severely.

Pair trawlers from neighbouring European countries using giant nets are thought to be responsible for most of the deaths. The data support calls for restrictions on certain types of fishing methods used in waters harboring cetacean, in order to avoid this type of by-catch.

268 harbour porpoises were found dead last year around Britain's coasts, making the Harbour porpoise the worst-hit species. Another common victim of commercial fishing is the short-beaked common dolphin, with an especially high death rate in the warm waters off South-East England.

Mark Simmonds from the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society said: "Thousands of animals are probably dying each year." Progress on the political side is slow and dominated by the commissioning of more research.

#### Cape Verde, Santa Maria - Educational Dolphin Manuals distributed to school

On July 11th of 2008, the TUI Team Cape Verde visited Kim Barbosa School in Santa Maria, on the Atlantic islands of Cape Verde.

With the help of the Dolphin Manual the schoolchildren were playfully introduced to the importance of dolphin and whale conservation and the needs they have. "They were excited about the presented materials and participated enthusiastically" Service Coordinator Alexander Lohse gladly stated.

TUI has an ongoing cooperation with Kim Barbosa school and has supported the refurbishing of classrooms as well as the renovation of the schools kitchen and teachers room.

The Year of the Dolphin puts special emphasis on education and awareness building on the topics of dolphin and marine conservation. Activities such as this, carried out in schools and at tourist destinations worldwide, are an important contribution to the

attainment of this goal.

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