

Acoustic monitoring of bottlenose dolphins & harbour porpoises in Cardigan Bay SAC.

IMPORTANT INFO FOR ALL REGULAR SEA USERS IN ABERPORTH-NEW QUAY-ABERAERON AREA.

WHAT?

A long term monitoring study of dolphins and porpoises in Cardigan Bay SAC since 2005 using static acoustic data loggers called T-PODs/C-PODs moored in the sea bed logging animal clicks up to 12 weeks at a time. For a new ground breaking experiment we have deployed 44 PODs in a 1km square area off New Quay Fish Factory head.



WHY AND WHO?

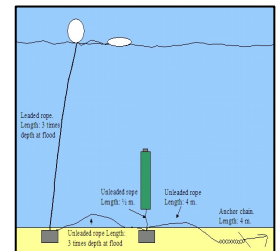
The study has already increased our information on the animals' use of their habitat and allowed us to monitor these protected species more efficiently, as required by the law. The new study will help us quantify animal density from acoustic detections. The research is conducted by Hanna Nuuttila, a PhD student from the University of Bangor. Local fishermen have been informed and their co-operation and understanding is *crucial* to the success of the experiment.

WHERE?

The study area lies between New Quay Head and Birds Rock. 6 rows of 6 buoys start from 680m (0.4nm) north from Fish Factory head and continue approx 1 mile out. Each data logger has set of two buoys, one medium yellow with smaller blue or red buoy. They have 'POD' written on them and are also marked with numbers and letters such as A0, A1, A2 etc.

WHY AVOID?

We realise that some disturbance to fishing, sailing or other activities will be created and we ask for your understanding. The experiment depends on the safe return of each of the data loggers so we want to avoid entanglement with your boats or fishing gear. Each POD has a lot of thick leaded line that will cause damage to propellers and has a set of three heavy (20kg) weights on, which will create a tangled mess if pots are shot over them or if the area was to be trawled. If the loggers are moved we need to deploy them exactly where they were so we ask you to please report any entanglement and let us know the number of the buoy that you caught.



This important research will help us manage the coastal area and monitor protected species more effectively to the benefit of local wildlife, your livelihood and the area as a whole. The more we know, the better we can preserve our marine environment from detrimental industrial development such as oil or gas exploration or large scale commercial fisheries, and retain more opportunities for coastal communities, including inshore fisheries, recreational activities, tourism and wildlife watching!

We want to work together with the local community and hope that you will see the benefit in learning more about our marine wildlife and are proud that such an experiment is taking place in New Quay.

So, please watch out for the buoys and avoid driving through the area and particularly please avoid deploying strings of pots or trawling in this designated research area. The experiment lasts only for few months and all the crabs and lobsters will be waiting for you (like a mini marine reserve) when we leave!

For enquiries call Hanna 07795 242445 or Brett on 07831 270870 or Email info@seamor.org
Your participation is needed and much appreciated – THANK YOU!



DETAILED LOCATION:

The grid lies within 1km square, bottom right corner 680m (0.4nm) north of Fish Factory Head.

Outside corner coordinates of the box to avoid are listed here together with bearing from corner to corner starting from top left running clockwise.

A0	52°	14.042 N	4°	22.595 W	To F0 094°
F0	52°	14.042 N	4°	21.717 W	To F5 184°
F5	52°	13.5 N	4°	21.717 W	To A5 273°
A5	52°	13.5 N	4°	22.595 W	To A0 004°

