

PLYMOUTH TO SANTANDER / SANTANDER TO PLYMOUTH on the Val de Loire
22nd to 24th August 2001

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF ROUTE

PLYMOUTH TO SANTANDER AND RETURN

22nd August to 24th August 2001 on the Brittany Ferries~Val de Loire

For details of observations see pages 2-4

deg	min	sec	time / date	comment
			12.00 hrs 22nd	Set off from Plymouth
			13.05	first Harbour Porpoise
49 04	26 44	00 11	16.00	First Minke Whale, 41 Harbour Porpoises seen prior to this position in approx. 3 hrs
44 04	32 06	14 21	07.30 hrs 23rd	First Fin Whale 5 hrs north of Santander
43 03	56 47	17 44	10.00	Atlantic White-sided Dolphins(2)
			11.15	Docked at Santander
			13.30	Left Santander
43 03	58 53	44 23	14.55	Pilot Whales
44 03	01 54	54 32	15.35	Cuvier's Beaked Whales
44 04	20 01	00 20	16.45	N.Bottle-nosed Whale and calf
44 04	43 07	10 14	17.49	
45 04	16 16	09 46	19.32	
45 04	21 18	38 15	19.50	Fin Whale
49 04	25 40	44 27	08.27 hrs 24th	Minke Whale
49 04	32 36	59 01	08.55	Bottlenosed Dolphins
			11.30	Docked Plymouth

Observations

Time 22nd August	Position Sea state variable 1-3	No.	Details & Species
13.05 – 13.44	48.37.49 04.32.23	13	HARBOUR PORPOISE 3+2+1+3+3+1
13.52 – 15.16	MAX AT 14.07. 48.28.13 04.42.06	28	HARBOUR PORPOISE 3+10+9+6 <i>HP sightings were unusually high</i>
16.49		01	HARBOUR PORPOISE
18.00		06	HARBOUR PORPOISE
13.46		01	BASKING SHARK
15.25	49.26.00 04.44.11	01	MINKE WHALE >E
16.00	49.15.43 04.53.36	01	MINKE WHALE >E
16.03	ditto	01	MINKE WHALE >E
15.38		c.10	RIZZO'S DOLPHIN
16.55		03	RIZZO'S DOLPHIN

23rd August			
06.55 am		07	FIN WHALE >E
07.20	44.32.14 04.06.21	01	FIN WHALE
06.55		12	STRIPED DOLPHIN
07.30		14	Striped/common Dolphins
08.20		20	STRIPED DOLPHIN
08.45		03	STRIPED DOLPHIN
10.22		08	STRIPED DOLPHIN
10.25		04	STRIPED DOLPHIN
10.27		04	STRIPED DOLPHIN
10.29		02	STRIPED DOLPHIN
10.35		02	STRIPED DOLPHIN
08.35		03	BEAKED WHALE Sp.
09.06	44.01.22 03.54.10	3+4	SPERM WHALE >N
09.23		12	COMMON DOLPHIN
10.00	43.56.17 03.47.44	02	ATLANTIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN

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23rd August pm			Sea state variable 0-3
14.45		03	N.BOTTLE-NOSED WHALE
16.45	44.20.00 04.01.20	02	N.BOTTLE-NOSED WHALE <i>mother and calf</i>
14.55	43.50.44 03.51.23	C.10	PILOT WHALE >S
15.00		01	PILOT WHALE >N
16.30	44.20.44 04.00.28	12	PILOT WHALE >S
15.17		01	Large RORQUAL sp.
15.25		15	COMMON DOLPHIN
15.35	44.01.54 03.54.32	04	CUVIER'S BEAKED WHALE
16.17	. This group was seen by all on the ship but only this observer was positioned to see the breaches well.	04	Beaked Whale sp. One of which was tentatively identified as <i>Sowerby's</i> primarily by K. Mostert (mostert@pzh.nl) after 3 breaches alongside the vessel. His sketch shows a long snouted <i>ziphid</i> with white underside shading to dark grey with a prominent dark eye 'spot' on a pale 'face'. Proportions are similar to Bottle-nosed Dolphin.
16.30	44.20.44 04.00.28 Note: several observers independently claimed FKW prior to this encounter also.	02-04	<i>FALSE KILLER WHALES</i> 'Blackfish' with Pilot Whales of similar size and tall pointed dorsal fins-not juv. Pilots – these were as large as adult pilots and fins were very tall.
17.10	44.23.37 04.01.21	05	STRIPED DOLPHIN
17.49	44.43.10 04.07.10		
17.53		20	MIXED STRIPED + COMMON DOL.
19.10	45.09.15 04.14.47	06	STRIPED DOLPHIN
19.29	45.16.09 04.16.46	01	FIN WHALE
	45.21.38 04.18.15	01	FIN WHALE
	45.29.07 04.20.25	02	SPERM WHALE

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24th August 01			Sea state 3
06.30–07.00 am		c.30	HARBOUR PORPOISE
07.34		05	HARBOUR PORPOISE
08.07		07	HARBOUR PORPOISE
08.34		06	HARBOUR PORPOISE
08.57		03	HARBOUR PORPOISE
07.05		01	MINKE WHALE
08.27	49.25.44 04.40.27	01	MINKE WHALE
08.55	49.32.59 04.36.01	08	BOTTLE NOSED DOLPHIN

Special thanks go to all observers present & Peter Stevens for supplying recordings and GPS readings and to K Mostert for his observations and expertise.
 Richard Smith and Philip Bristow.