



# Northern bottlenose whale perishes in loch

The northern bottlenose whale, the individual sighted on numerous occasions in Loch Eil, has perished. The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) received a report on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October that the deep-diving cetacean was found dead in the loch. It was towed ashore by the Coastguard and staff at the Outward Bound centre; allowing marine mammal scientists to perform a necropsy (an animal autopsy).

Northern bottlenose whales are a deep diving cetacean, preferring the waters of the offshore Atlantic. Although at this time of year it's not uncommon to spot the whales in coastal regions. Unfortunately this particular individual didn't manage to return to open water. Its death may be attributed to various factors and HWDT await the results of the necropsy. Although, considering the topography of the area the whale would have had a difficult time navigating out of the loch and into deeper ocean. Attempts to assist the animal back into the Atlantic would have been futile; it would have been almost impossible to herd the individual the distance between Loch Eil and the Atlantic.

## END ##