



Watch out for whales and dolphins

As most will know the Cetacean (whales, dolphins and porpoises) population off the west coast of Scotland is one of the most bio-diverse in Europe; nearly 1/3 of the world's species have been encountered in the Hebridean waters. Now you have the chance to get involved in the important research data collected and develop a greater understanding of these magnificent mammals. National Whale & Dolphin Watch (NWDW) 2008 will run from the 21st June until the 29th June. The event is co-ordinated by the SeaWatch Foundation (SWF) and events are to be held the length and breadth of the UK.

This is the seventh consecutive NWDW and the results from the week will provide a 'snapshot' of cetacean distribution around our country. Organising an event is extremely easy; it's a simple case of pick a good vantage point and keeping a keen eye on the sea. The Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trusts (HWDT) Sightings Officer, Natalie Ward, is offering her assistance in the watch. "It's a brilliant opportunity to get involved locally in gathering valuable cetacean distribution data and we have a real chance of some sightings". On Saturday 21st June meet Natalie outside the HWDT shop at 11am before walking to Rubha nan Gall (Tobermory) lighthouse for a two hour watch. Alternatively join the watch between 1-3pm at Ardnamurchan lighthouse on Monday 23rd June. Natalie will be at hand to aid identification and answer any questions you may have.

Watches have been organised all round the UK coast from Lambaness in Orkney to St. Ives Bay in Cornwall. So grab a pair of binoculars and join hundreds of people in assisting with the valuable research. For more information about NWDW or to download sightings forms please visit the SeaWatch Foundation website at www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk and follow the 'events' link. For more information on the watches coordinated by HWDT contact Natalie on sightings@hwdt.org.

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