



Any Fin Goes: Updates on Cetacean monitoring in Guernsey's Bailiwick



La Société

For nature, history and
science in Guernsey

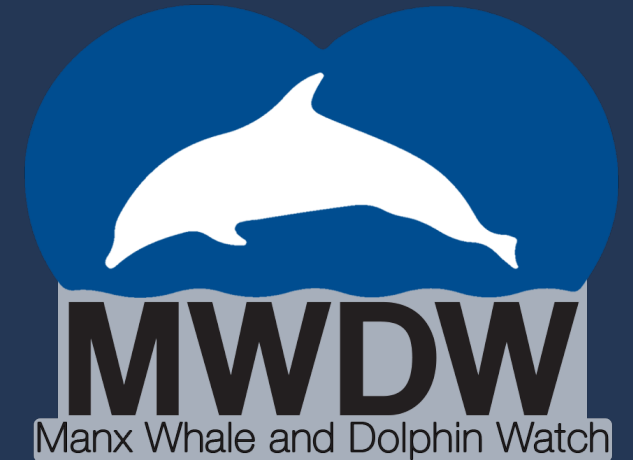
DOLFIN

Project background

- Established 2019, GBRC collaboration
- Initially focussed on Bottlenose dolphin, but record all cetaceans
- Citizen science-based project
- Drawing on success of cetacean monitoring programmes elsewhere
- Sightings reported to Sea Watch Foundation



SJ DOLPHIN WATCH



 **DOLFIN**

sea watch
FOUNDATION



Cetaceans found in the Channel Islands

Toothed whales

- Dolphins
 - Atlantic common dolphin
 - Bottlenose dolphin
 - Risso's dolphin
 - Atlantic White-sided dolphin
 - Long-finned Pilot whale
- Porpoises
 - Atlantic Harbour porpoise

Baleen whales

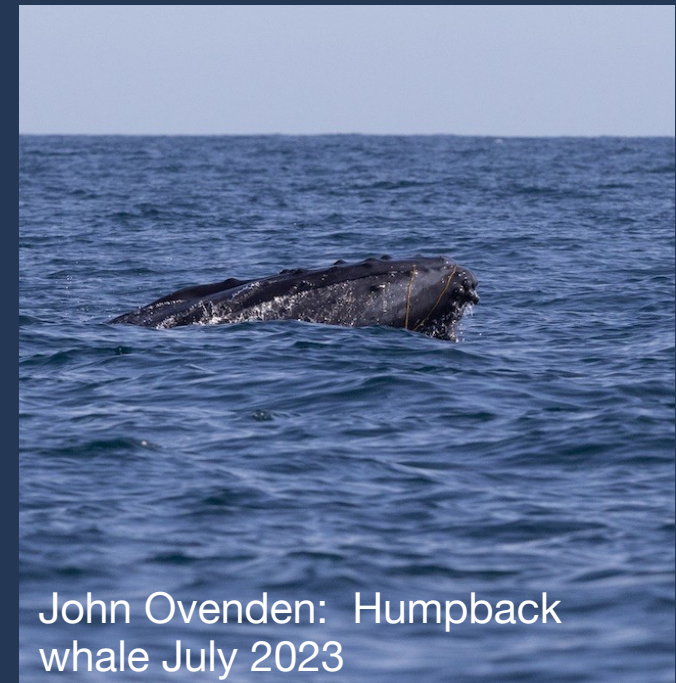
- Minke Whale
- Sei Whale
- Fin Whale
- Humpback whale



Chrissie Johns: Risso's August 2023



Richard Seager/ Out the Blue:
Bottlenoses June 2023



John Ovenden: Humpback
whale July 2023

What do we do?



Objectives

- Improving understanding of cetacean abundance and distribution with the Guernsey's Bailiwick.
- Improving public awareness and responsible interaction with marine mammals

Approaches

- Run public and volunteer watch surveys from land & sea
- Collect public sightings through data upload & social media input
- Developing photo ID database (Bottlenose dolphin specific)

Effort-based sighting watches

Advantages

- Able to determine species, number of individuals & behaviour
- Recording associated animals
- Recording for abiotic factors including cloud cover
- Human pressure recording possible
- Large range of monitoring area
- Able to obtain Fin records (Photo ID)

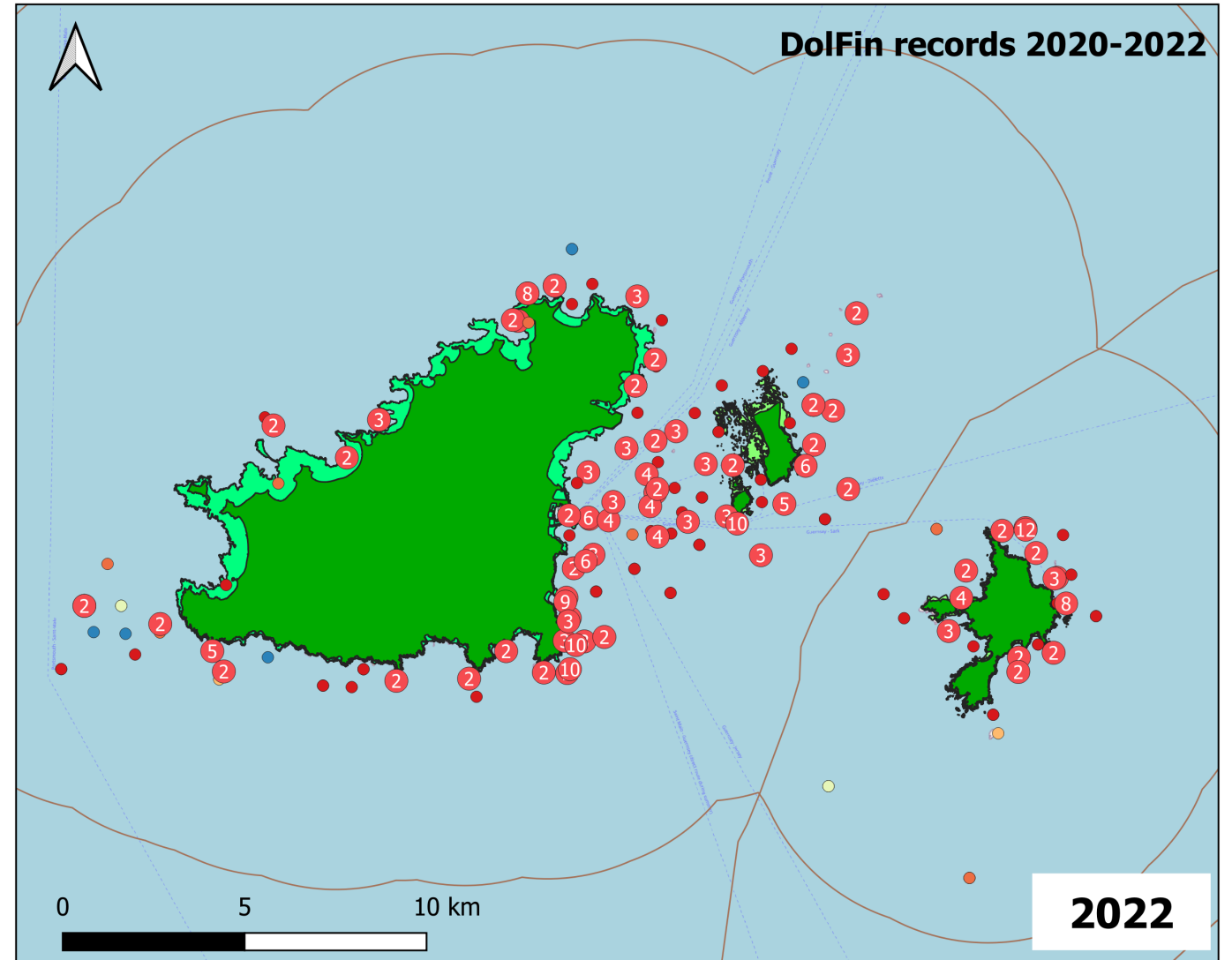
Disadvantages

- Limited to experience and skills of observer
- Weather and light dependant monitoring
- Can be intrusive for cetaceans
- Time intensive
- No standardised approach for analysis of effort-based sightings



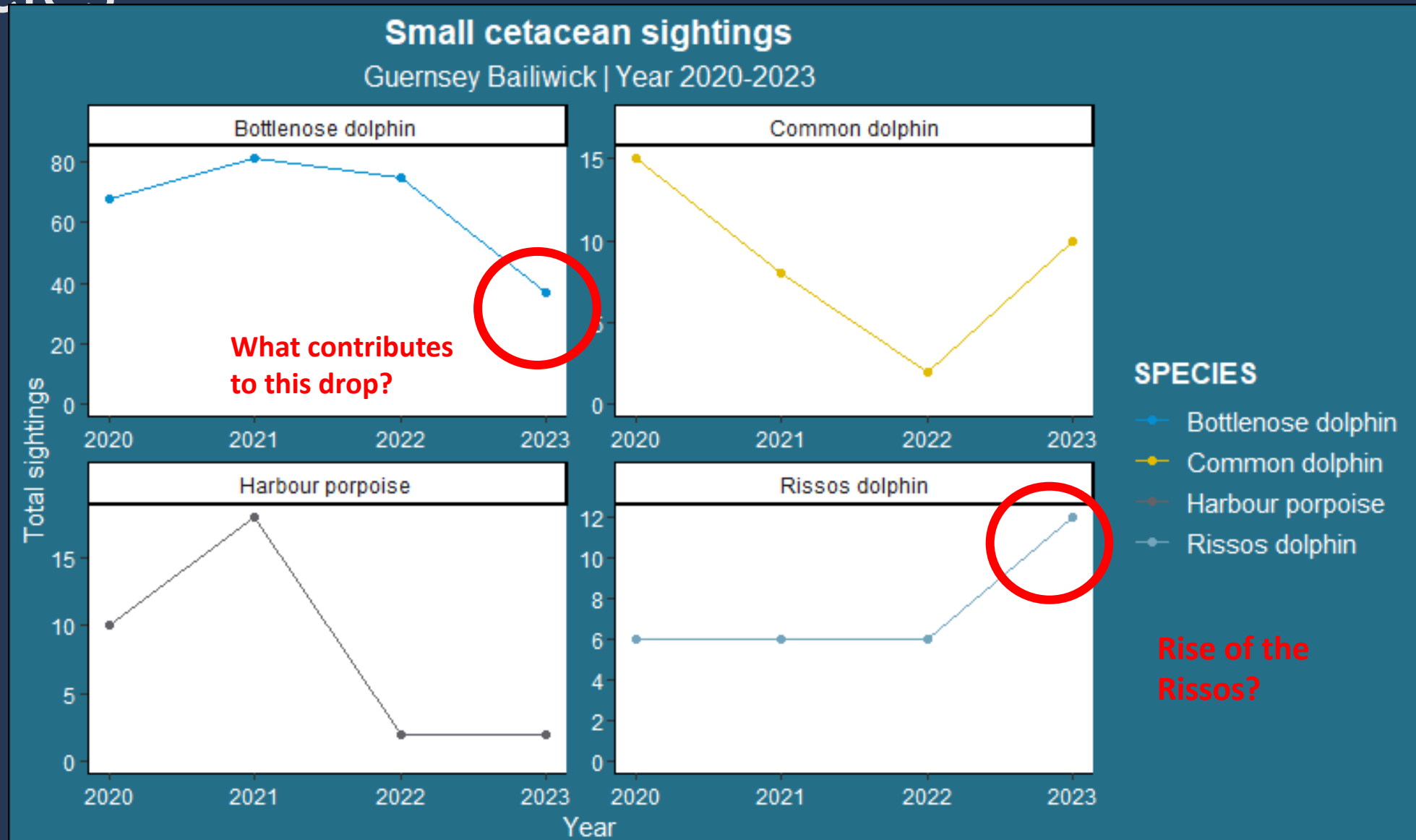
Initial outputs (2020-2022)

- Showing fully validated sightings only (e.g. by trained recorder or accompanied by footage).
- Recorded by casual sightings sent in from public, or dedicated surveys.
- Alderney sightings also added (but not shown in map due to scaling).
- Over 300 cetacean sightings gathered between 2020-2022.



- Cetacean sightings**
- Common dolphin
 - Bottlenose dolphin
 - Harbour Porpoise
 - Minke whale
 - Rissos dolphin
 - Unknown dolphin

Quick case studies of individual species



Opportunities for future joint approaches



- Expansion of acoustic monitoring and joint analysis across Channel Islands?
 - Do visual survey and sightings frequency for cetaceans match acoustic frequency?
- Updating bottlenose Fin ID and expanding it across CI region, with further comparisons possible with Normandy/ SW bottlenose consortium.
- Risso dolphins understudied species, future collaborations with photographic ID this species also possible?

Thank you for your time!
Questions welcome

