



White-Sided Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus acutus* (Gray)

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In this way, the animals were escorted down the river on a falling tide into Cork harbour. In an area between Haulbowline Island and Cobh, the dolphins spent approximately 3 h milling and feeding and remained in this area during the incoming tide. However, as the tide began to fall again, they swam further out into the lower harbour and contact was lost with them after the entrance to Crosshaven.

The next day, one of the authors (JL) saw what was probably the same group in the same area between Haulbowline and Cobh. The animals left the area later on that day. Common dolphins are an oceanic species, and while this species is often reported stranded along the Irish coastline, sightings so close to shore, in low salinity water, are rare.

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White-sided dolphin *Lagenorhynchus acutus* (Gray)

On 21 February 1989 a male white-sided dolphin measuring 2.1m in length was found stranded in Dingle Harbour (Q4400), Co Kerry. The identity of the specimen was confirmed from photographic material supplied to Dr Don Cotton (Institute of Technology Sligo). Although the animal was partially decomposed, the following characteristics were evident from the photographs: very blunt beak, black above and white below; tooth count in the lower R jaw was just over 32; sickle-shaped pectoral fin; laterally compressed tail stock; patch of white pigmentation behind the dorsal fin going over the back; and light grey pigmentation extending around the eye socket.

Although there has been a large increase in the number of white-sided dolphins reported stranded on the Irish coast since the 1980s, there was a peak in strandings (28) during 1989-90, mainly from Cos Cork, Kerry and Galway. A significantly greater proportion of male dolphins than females was reported (Berrow, S. D. & Rogan, E. 1997 *Mammal Review* 27: 71-76)

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White-sided dolphin *Lagenorhynchus acutus* (Gray)

On the evening of 24 October 1998, dolphins were seen swimming within a small inlet between Inishnakillew island and Claggan Strand (L973898) in Clew Bay near Kilmeena, Co Mayo. The next day, a white-sided dolphin was reported dead nearby at Mynah Strand. Enquiries revealed that on the previous day several dolphins had stranded in the same area but, despite rescue attempts, these animals died. One of the animals that stranded was removed by truck to a deeper part of the bay by locals, but died in transit. This animal was