

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke breaching the surface of the ocean. The tail is dark grey with a lighter, almost white, patch on the underside. The water is a deep blue with some white foam from the splash. The text "Whales and Dolphins around Sligo" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

Whales and Dolphins around Sligo

The coast from south Donegal to Sligo was identified as a high biodiversity 'Area of Interest' for potential MPA designation, in Fair Seas 2022 report 'Revitalising Our Seas'.

- Glencolumbkille to Easky
- Smallest (0.29% maritime area)
- Interest: Breeding seabirds, high Elasmobranch species richness, commercially exploited species (whiting, herring, sprat), Cetaceans

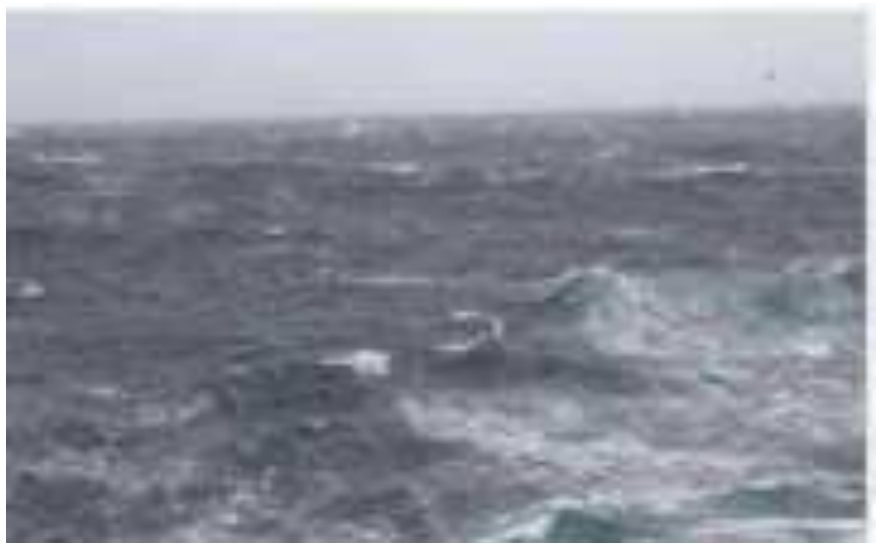
One of 16
areas of
interest for
MPA
designation in
Irish waters



Cetaceans

- **Bottlenose Dolphins**
- **Harbour Porpoise**
- Minke Whales
- Common Dolphins
- Humpback Whales
- Fin Whale
- Killer Whales
- Risso's Dolphins





- Weather/sea conditions
- Luck
- Viewing spot-headland

Sligo IWDG

- 2019
- >50 members
- Sharing and co ordinating sightings, pictures, live strandings, training, events

Irish Whale
and Dolphin Group



Live Strandings

Mullaghmore
August 2023





Bottlenose Whales
Rossnowlagh
August 2020





Live Stranding Training





IWDG
International Women's Day Group

Dead strandings



Each stranding provides an opportunity to learn more

Sperm Whale Streedagh April 2019









Teamwork! Collecting a Common dolphin for necropsy





Cuvier's beaked whale, Trá Bhuí
March 2020





Cuvier's beaked whale Mullaghmore

Minke
whale
Streedagh
Aug 2019





Minke whale, Yellow strand



Sowerby's beaked whale Streedagh Aug 2019

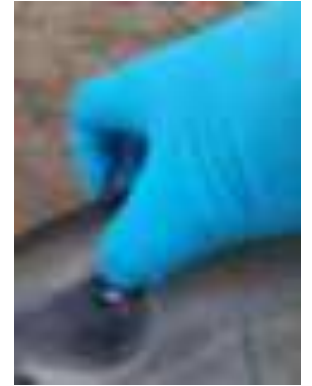


Minke whale
Cliffony
February 2024

Fin whale Trá Bhuí



Stranding Network





Sightings



Land Based Sightings

- Mullaghmore
- Enniscrone
- Aughris Head
- Rosses Point
- Strandhill
- Easkey
- Ballinful/Lislarry





Organised Land based watches

- Mullaghmore Head
- Aughris Head



www.wjgfi.com
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WHALE WATCH

Ireland 2023

10th Edition 2023

Locations: Mullaghmore Head, Co. Donegal
Shannon Park, Co. Kerry
Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare
Cape Inis, Co. Kerry

Wild Whales and Dolphins
Ireland







































Boat sightings

























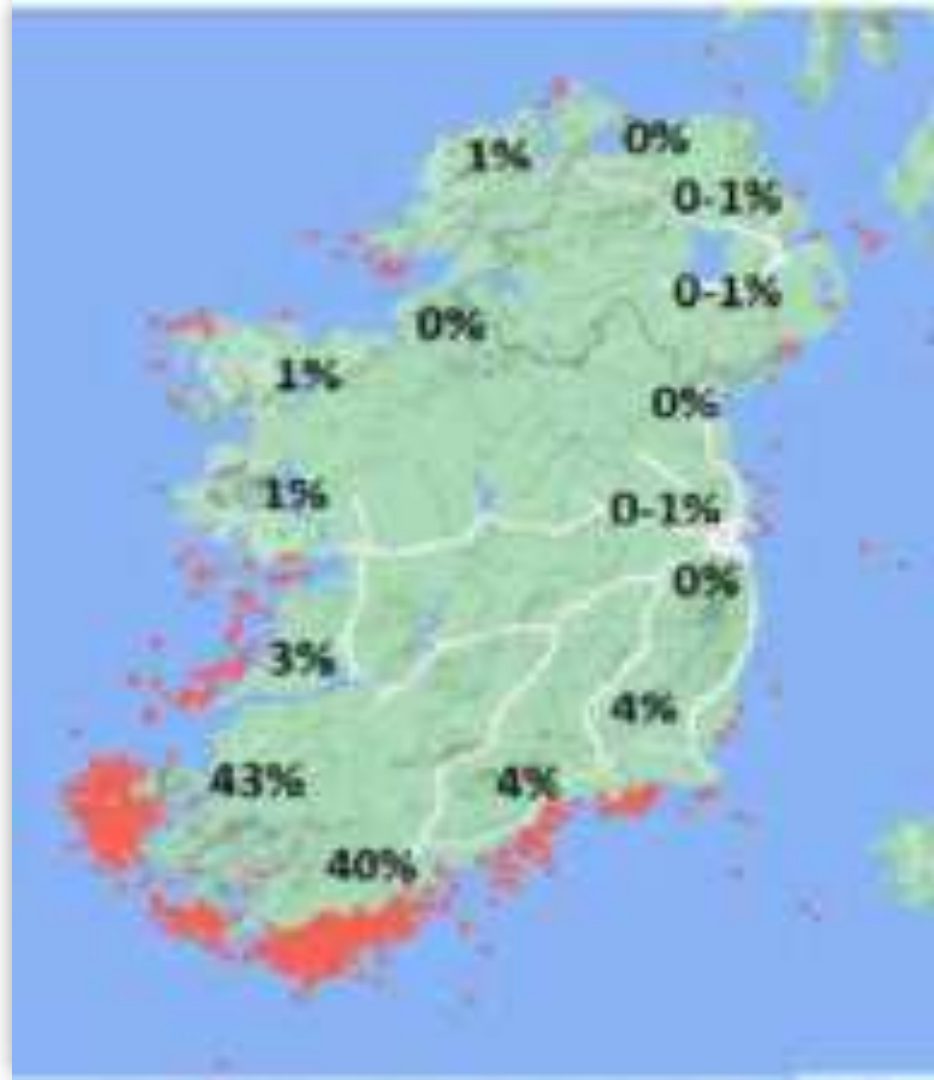
HUMPBACKS

Humpback Whale Sightings 2009 – 2018



<https://iwdg.ie/humpback-whale/>

Distribution of humpback sighting records ($n=1,360$) 1984 -2022



- <https://iwdg.ie/irelands-large-whales-on-the-move/>



































- Bubble net feeding

























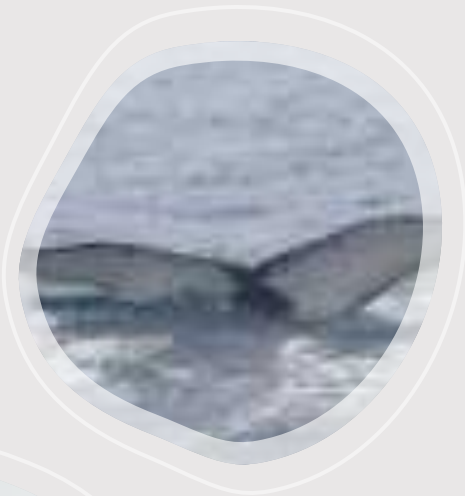


Individuals identified in Donegal Bay 2023

- HBIRL024
- HBIRL047
- HBIRL067
- HBIRL089
- HBIRL102
- HBIRL107
- HBIRL125
- HBIRL126







HBIRL 24 and HBIRL125



The power of citizen science!

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CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ALL WATERCRAFT ENCOUNTERING WHALES AND DOLPHINS IWDG

WARNING! IT'S YOUR CHOICE

- 1. Observe the IWDG Code of Conduct for all watercraft.
- 2. Observe the IWDG Code of Conduct for all watercraft.
- 3. Observe the IWDG Code of Conduct for all watercraft.

WATERCRAFT OPERATORS:

BEFORE YOU SET OFF:

WHILE YOU ARE ON THE WATER:

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A WHALE OR DOLPHIN:

IF YOU ARE A PASSENGER:

IF YOU ARE A CHILD:

REMEMBER!

WHILE YOU ARE ON THE WATER:

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A WHALE OR DOLPHIN:

IF YOU ARE A PASSENGER:

IF YOU ARE A CHILD:

Google

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Search for 'iwdg code of conduct'

Code of Conduct When Encountering Whales and Dolphins

International Whaling Commission provided the scientific justification of the IWDG

Many thanks to the
following for their
images

- Molly Bell
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