

# Gower Marine Mammal Project

The Gower Marine Mammal Project was founded in April 1999, with grant aid from the Sustainable Swansea Initiative, to support and extend the work of volunteer cetacean watchers who had been actively logging harbour porpoise activity in the area since the mid 1990's.

## Aims

The project aims to promote greater awareness and understanding of the marine mammals that are found in the seas around South Wales.

The project is particularly concerned with the status of the Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), a Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.

## Objectives

- Collecting and collating data which furthers understanding of cetacean occurrence in the Northern Bristol Channel, and making such data available to any interested parties.
- Public education, both formal and informal - visits to schools/special interest groups, special events such as whale watching trips/field-trips to the seashore.
- Research, both formal and informal - supporting research projects and encouraging volunteer effort.

## Methods

- Encouraging volunteer participation in organised "constant-effort" sea watches through the use of websites, posters, newsletters and direct approach to sea-user groups (fishermen, recreational sailors, surfers and cliff-top walkers).
- Encouraging the submission of records of casual sightings of marine mammals by sea-users through the production of "sightings" forms and ID guides.
- Publishing data in a yearly newsletter and on a public domain website ([www.actinia.co.uk/gmmp/index.htm](http://www.actinia.co.uk/gmmp/index.htm))
- Maintaining close links with allied groups and making data available to them, e.g. Sea Watch National Database.
- Offering multimedia enhanced presentations to special interest and school groups.

## Organisation

The GMMP has no formal structure, but seeks to constructively co-ordinate volunteer effort that furthers the aims and objectives above. Any interested party is encouraged to become involved with the day-to-day operation of the management committee.

The management committee consisting, at present, of an honorary chairman and honorary secretary exists solely to facilitate the aims and objectives above and to apply for and administer any funds that may be available for specific projects.

We have no formal membership arrangement but the hon. sec. maintains a mailing list of interested individuals and bodies. Any such individual or body is welcome to make funding application through GMMP, at the discretion of the management committee.

Because funding is principally obtained through grant aid for specific projects, accountability is principally to the funding body under any such terms as it may impose. Any monies gifted or donated to GMMP are available to further the aims and objectives above, at the discretion of the

management committee. A summary of any such monies shall be included in the end of year newsletter and published on the GMMP website ([www.actinia.co.uk/gmmp/index.htm](http://www.actinia.co.uk/gmmp/index.htm)), or made available on request to any interested party.

In the event of any disagreement within the management committee or in the event of the disbandment of the GMMP, for whatever reason, either of the committee members named on the GMMP bank account is empowered to transfer the balance of gifted and donated monies in the GMMP bank account to The Sea Watch Foundation, a charity that aims to achieve better conservation of whales and dolphins in the seas around Britain and Ireland (Registered Charity no. 1013002. Company Limited by Guarantee no. 2671621). Any unspent monies originally provided by funding bodies for specific projects shall be returned to the funding bodies concerned (subject to any contract entered into with such a body).

## Contacts

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## Signed and Agreed

Name: Rob Colley

Position: Chairman

Date: 1/4/99

Signature:

Name: Howie Watkins

Position: Secretary

Date: 1/4/99

Signature:

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