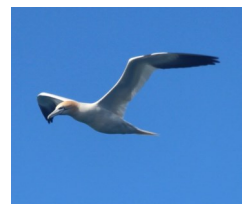
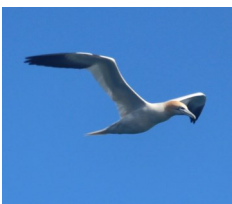


Friends of Penzance B.S.A.C. Conservation Officer's Report July 2015



Information on the oceans has been gathered from specially tagged seals. The data transmitted from remote and icy locations, is now available online to academics around the world. Seals wearing sensors built at the University of St Andrews have produced nearly 400,000 environmental profiles of the Southern Ocean. The sensors are said to be “non–evasive” and fall off when the seals moult, and the university said they are the only devices



of their kind that can be attached to animals. The tags send short pieces of information periodically to researchers via satellites which is processed in St Andrews and shared with international scientists and the Met Office for use in weather forecasting. The information sent back gives details about the seal's immediate physical environment. Changes in the polar oceans have global ramifications and a significant influence on weather and climate. Sustained observations are required to detect, interpret and

respond to changes and a strategic system of observations combining a range of platforms is critical in maintaining the flow of information. The fact that animals have collected the data is an interesting innovation in ocean observation, but perhaps of more general importance is that data from these remote and inaccessible places now gives a much clearer picture of the state of the world's oceans.

Pioneering satellite technology designed and developed in the UK would allow analysis to identify and monitor illegal fishing practices in marine reserves as well as alert them to suspicious vessels. The UK is responsible for the fifth largest area of ocean in the world, measuring 6.8m sq km, over twice the size of India, and nearly 30 times the size of UK. That's a great responsibility but also a great opportunity. We have a duty to look after our seas. Healthy marine ecosystems under full protection will help create greater future productivity. Three proposed reserves in UK waters around the Pitcairn Islands in the Pacific, and Ascension Island and South Sandwich Islands in the Atlantic, would more than double the size of the world's existing marine protected areas. In fact it has recently been announced that 322,009 square miles of ocean surrounding the Pitcairn Islands has become the newest and largest single marine reserve in the world. Given its extremely remote location, this part of the ocean remains unpolluted. It hasn't been over-fished and is still teeming with marine wildlife. Now it will be protected from illegal fishing and other threats for future generations

There were only 4 reported sightings of Bottlenose Dolphins during July, 2 of them were of the solitary dolphin known as Clet off Falmouth, and 8 were seen in the surf with surfers at Sennen on the 18th and a pod of 4 was seen in Mounts Bay on 26th. 17 reports of Common Dolphins were from Fal Bay and Mounts Bay around to Pendeen with pod sizes from 6 to a 100 plus. Rissos Dolphins were also seen 17 times, three of which were small pods in Fal Bay, the rest in Mounts Bay with multiple pods seen on the 23rd. 31 reports of Harbour Porpoises were again from Fal Bay and Mounts Bay around to Pendeen with pods up to 30. 4 Minke Whales were seen, 3 in Mounts Bay and 1 off Pendeen. 5 Basking Sharks seen were early in the month, all in Mounts Bay. The 24 Ocean Sunfish seen were all in Mounts Bay, in ones or two except 8 seen on the 18th. 16 sightings of Barrel Jellyfish were all from Fal Bay, where Compass Jellyfish and the blue Jellyfish *Cyanea lamarckii* were also seen. A Moon Jellyfish was seen in Mounts Bay on the 18th