

Company registration number: 02671621

Charity registration number: 1013002

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

**Andrews & O'Shea Ltd
Optima House
Mill Court
Spindle Way
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1TT**

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

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Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Mr C D Speedie - Environmental Consultant (Chair - Resigned 2 November 2024) Mr A N Osborn - Solicitor (Acting Chair) Prof G J Pierce - Marine Biologist Prof J R Turner - University Lecturer Mr C M Miller - IT Consultant Ms K-M Davidson - Communications Officer (Resigned 2 November 2024) Dr J R Boran - University Research Development & Zoologist (retired) Ms H Parkinson - Pensions Communications Consultant (retired) Mr G Boyer - Training Consultant Mr J R M Smith - Treasurer Mr M E Baines - Biologist Dr J J Waggitt - University Lecturer (Appointed 2 November 2024) Ms K E Baker - Environmental Consultant (Appointed 2 November 2024)
Secretary	Dr P G H Evans
Charity Registration Number	1013002
Company Registration Number	02671621
	The charity is incorporated in England and Wales.
Registered Office	Optima House Mill Court Spindle Way Crawley West Sussex RH10 1TT
Independent Examiner	Andrews & O'Shea Ltd Optima House Mill Court Spindle Way Crawley West Sussex RH10 1TT
Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc North Street Brighton East Sussex BX1 1LT

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Trustees Report

Trustees' Report: 2023-24

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and Aims The principal objectives of the charity are the study, conservation and protection of cetaceans, promoting awareness, education and training, and encouraging direct participation by the public in the study and conservation of cetaceans in the seas around the British Isles. Dedicated research undertaken by Sea Watch staff along with citizen science efforts involve undertaking vessel surveys, land watches, photo-ID, behaviour studies, the reporting of sightings and strandings, and the monitoring of potential conservation threats. Information gained from those studies is disseminated to the wider public through a variety of media – the charity's website, social media, newsletters, reports, articles, scientific publications, press releases, TV and radio interviews, presentations at conferences, workshops and other public meetings. In recent years, we have put emphasis upon trying to bring together our various sources of surveys and sighting data into one single data management system and to develop ways for anyone to be able to query the data and view the results on maps. We have still some way to go before this ambitious project is fulfilled but we are making steady progress.

Information and advice are not only offered to the public but also provided regularly to intergovernmental bodies (notably United Nations Environmental Programme, European Commission, OSPAR, and ICES), as well as to statutory authorities in the UK such as Defra, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot, and Natural England), national environmental consultative bodies such as CEH, CEFAS, non-governmental environmental organisations (WWF, The Wildlife Trusts, Whale & Dolphin Conservation, HWDT, etc), industry (oil and gas, shipping, fisheries, recreational), and other stakeholders in the marine environment. Various collaborative projects have been undertaken during the year with Bangor, St Andrews and Sheffield Universities, the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH), and the Centre for Research into Ecological and Environmental Monitoring (CREEM).

Staff Sea Watch's full-time staff comprise the Director (Peter Evans), Monitoring Officer (Katrin Lohrengel), Sightings Officer (Simone Evans), Communications & Outreach Officer (Claudia Afeltra), Scottish Officer (Craig Mackie) and Wellbeing for our Seas Project Lead (Jenny Bond). Staff at Bodorgan, Anglesey were supported by a part-time Research Officer (Ben Murcott) and Education Officer (Elan Jones), along with a team of volunteer interns, and in New Quay, Ceredigion by a volunteer Research Assistant (Thomas Jones), Education & Outreach Assistant (Josi Alpert-Sandler), NWDW Assistant and others that join seasonally through our long-standing internship programme, learning about and participating in marine mammal research and conservation. The Adopt-a-Dolphin scheme continues to bring in some income, thanks to its part-time Administrator, Kirsten Hintner, although its main function remains educational.

Volunteers The work of Sea Watch Foundation has always depended heavily upon the help of a dedicated team of volunteers and students assisting in ongoing research and education projects, as well as data inputting, analysis, and various administrative tasks from Sea Watch offices in England and Wales. Our main field office, Paragon House, in New Quay, West Wales, remained closed throughout the year, as our landlord Ceredigion County Council worked on the building to tackle the serious damp problems we have been encountering over the last few years. This was finally completed and the building reoccupied by us on 1st April 2024. During the summer of 2023, the New Quay staff and interns set up temporary office in other buildings, the charity hosting 29 interns (from the UK, USA, Germany and Poland) during the season, as well as working remotely with a further five young volunteers, with the efforts of several of the latter extending into the winter season. The summer internship programme out of New Quay continues to be run by Sea Watch's Cardigan Bay Monitoring Officer, with the remote volunteers supervised largely by the Sightings Officer and Communications & Outreach Officer.

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Sea Watch benefits greatly also from a network of regional contacts that give their time to promoting the charity's activities in their local area, as well as groups of volunteers around the UK coastline and offshore who regularly observe the seas and report sightings. These form possibly the largest and longest running marine mammal citizen science project of its kind, the network having been first established half a century ago, which has now grown to around 5,000 volunteer observers. Many marine professionals undertake observation effort on behalf of the charity, and to them we are also extremely grateful.

We continue to be blessed with tremendous support from Robin Petch volunteering in the role of Ambassador for Sea Watch, who helped set up our membership scheme and has been running it throughout the year, whilst Hannah Parkinson co-produces our quarterly digital magazine alternating with monthly news bulletins for the membership scheme.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities Sea Watch, through its continuing programme of research and monitoring, aims to provide necessary information on changes to the status and distribution of cetacean populations, and the condition of their habitats. This is used to raise awareness of any issues and prompt environmental change to help conserve and protect these vulnerable mammals. In recent years, the charity increasingly has been extending surveys to include seabirds at sea as well.

- Conservation and Protection

Sea Watch continues to work closely with environmental and governing bodies to provide information, data and evidence leading to the better protection and conservation of cetacean populations in British and Irish waters. The organisation provides environmental impact assessments on request, as well as other specialist advice to regulators, management authorities, environmental consultancies, and industry. That advice is generally conveyed through the charity's Director. During 2023-24, he worked closely with the inter-governmental conservation agreement, ASCOBANS, under the United Nations Environmental Programme's Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species, participating in the Advisory Committee Meeting, hosted by the UN in Bonn in September 2023, with presentations on conservation issues relating to bycatch, North Sea porpoises, and Maritime Spatial Planning, participating in specialist working groups on common dolphins, Baltic harbour porpoise, Iberian harbour porpoise, and recreational craft. He continued serving as Chair of the Steering Group of the international Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise in the North Sea, with a meeting at Zandvoort, The Netherlands in March 2024 to review progress, and Co-Chair of the ASCOBANS-ACCOBAMS Joint Bycatch Working Group with a meeting at the ECS Conference in April 2023. He also chaired two international ASCOBANS workshops reviewing conservation objectives for small cetaceans and setting thresholds for anthropogenic removals.

The Director gave presentations at the annual conference of the European Cetacean Society (April 2023), held in Vigo, Spain, co-chairing two workshops there, one on behalf of the ASCOBANS-ACCOBAMS Joint Bycatch Working Group, and another on management of coastal dolphins, presenting at a third, a joint ACCOBAMS-ASCOBANS workshop on marine debris. He took part in meetings of the ICES Working Group on the Joint Cetacean Data Programme (online, April 2023 and March 2024), Bycatch of Protected Species (Sukkarieta, Spain, September 2023), and Marine Mammal Ecology (Copenhagen, Denmark, February 2024), co-chairing the latter with Sophie Brasseur from the Netherlands, and he participated in a meeting in Copenhagen providing ICES Advice on seabird bycatch risk assessment in offshore Regulatory Areas of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Council. He also participated in a five-day IUCN workshop to propose Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) in the North-east Atlantic (Hamburg, Germany, May 2023).

During 2023-24, funded by Natural Resources Wales, Sea Watch continued conservation monitoring of the two Habitats Directive Annex II species, bottlenose dolphin and harbour porpoise, in Cardigan Bay and North Wales through line transect surveys and photo ID.

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Sea Watch continued working on a Marine Scotland Science project led by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, to examine cumulative effects of human activities on marine mammals and birds in Scottish waters, and preparing a research paper with Bangor University and the Centre for Research into Ecological and Environmental Monitoring (CREEM) at St Andrews University analysing digital aerial surveys of offshore waters east of Scotland conducted by APEM, on behalf of Marine Scotland.

One of the most exciting developments this year for Sea Watch was the funding of a second field base in Wales, on the Bodorgan Estate in SW Anglesey, through the generous sponsorship of Sir George Meyrick, with the provision of an office and two houses for accommodation, and the purchase of a research vessel, the *Luke Oliver*. This has enabled the charity to set up a second internship programme and to develop a new 'Wellbeing for Our Seas' project aimed at promoting community-based marine management of the neighbouring seas within Caernarfon Bay. Partnerships have been established with several local groups, including the Wildlife Crime Unit of the North Wales Police in order to tackle the issue of increasing disturbance of marine wildlife by recreational vessels by improved public awareness and education.

Throughout the year, Sea Watch has worked closely with the statutory conservation agencies (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot, and Natural England) on various projects, including, with JNCC, helping to develop a joint cetacean database incorporating data from a variety of contributors and now hosted by ICES; and, with Natural England and the Crown Estate in partnership with Bangor University, advising on priority areas for marine mammal and bird surveys prior to risk assessment, as part of the POSEIDON offshore wind project that started in February 2022.

Environmental Impact Assessments were undertaken in the form of regular at-sea surveys in relation to tidal turbine projects in the Morlais Demonstration Zone west of Holyhead (Anglesey) on behalf of Menter Môn, whilst surveys of the Dee Estuary (Cheshire) that started in 2020 in relation to a port development project were completed in July 2023, on behalf of ABPMer. Most Dee Estuary surveys were undertaken by our Research Officer, Ben Murcott, and voluntary cetacean observers. Between October 2022 and July 2023, 356 km of survey effort was completed resulting in 13 marine mammal sightings. Two marine mammal species were recorded: grey seal and harbour porpoise. Grey seals accounted for 85% of all sightings, the remaining being harbour porpoise. These sightings resulted in average sighting rates of 0.032 sightings/km for grey seals and 0.006 sightings/km for harbour porpoises overall, from the surveys. Marine mammals were only sighted during three of the five surveys that were undertaken in this time span. Harbour porpoises were only sighted during one survey (February 2023) on one of the outer transect lines. Grey seals were sighted on three surveys, and were concentrated around Hilbre Island, as in the previous year.

As noted above, monthly surveys of seabirds and marine mammals were also conducted in collaboration with Bangor University in relation to a tidal turbine project in the Morlais Demonstration Zone west of Holyhead (Anglesey) on behalf of Menter Môn. These continued through the 2023-24 financial year and the results will be summarised in next year's report.

- Scientific research

Sea Watch initiates research projects throughout the UK, with more intensive studies undertaken around the Irish Sea, Hebrides, Northern Scotland, Eastern England and western English Channel, where cetacean populations are currently greatest. Projects are conservation biology research based and include surveys, the development of new monitoring techniques, research into ecology and habitat use, spatial modeling, behavioural studies, and environmental impact studies.

Thirty-three line transect surveys, covering >4,500 km, were undertaken across Cardigan Bay and neighbouring waters. Bottlenose dolphin abundance estimates based on distance sampling for Cardigan Bay SAC resulted in an estimate of 176 (CV = 0.36, 95% Confidence Intervals (CI) = 87-358). Abundance estimates for the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC resulted in 172 individuals (CV = 0.474, 95% CI = 82-433). Abundance estimates of bottlenose dolphins based on distance sampling for the wider Cardigan Bay resulted in an estimate of 311 individuals (95%CI = 192-503).

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Bottlenose dolphin photo-identification data were collected during line transect surveys, dedicated photo-identification surveys, and opportunistic observations from wildlife tour operators. The Sea Watch Foundation catalogue currently holds images of a minimum of 420 individuals (281 well-marked, 125 left side and 139 right side individuals). Capture-Mark-Recapture analysis, assuming an average of proportion of 56.4% of marked individuals in the population, yielded population estimates of 199 individuals (95% CI: 111-195) for Cardigan Bay Special Area of Conservation, and 241 individuals (95% CI: 177-378) for the wider Cardigan Bay. Although there had been a declining trend in this region since 2008-2012, it appears to be stabilizing now.

Simone Evans was appointed to the role of Sightings Officer in April 2023, but went on maternity leave until July. During that period, the former Sightings Officer, Claudia Afeltra, provided valuable support, assisted by the volunteer NWDW Assistant, whilst also addressing communications and outreach aspects as part of her new role.

An atlas of marine mammals and birds of Wales was finalised under contract to Natural Resources Wales in collaboration with Dr James Waggitt, with maps for each of the regular species by season and 5-year time period. Some revisions were made to a second contract awarded to Sea Watch and Bangor University (Dr. Line Cordes), involving population modelling of six marine mammal species (grey seal, minke whale, bottlenose dolphin, common dolphin, Risso's dolphin, and harbour porpoise) in the Irish Sea using a variety of approaches. The aim was to determine the likely impacts of a variety of pressures from human activities including fisheries bycatch, vessel strikes, underwater noise disturbance, and exposure to contaminants.

Sea Watch co-supervised one MSc student (Mathilde Blavier) from Brussels University, and five Bangor University MSc students (Gabriel Holt, Heather Hurley, Eva Poneta, Joshua Smith, and Tobias Swann). Gabriel studied seasonal variation of bottlenose dolphins and the effects of boating in Cardigan Bay; Heather investigated social structure and ecological drivers of Risso's dolphins; Eva examined environmental factors affecting chick diet of guillemots and razorbills at an auk breeding colony; Joshua studied the social structure of Risso's dolphins in Anglesey waters; and Tobias analysed questionnaire surveys determining to what extent wildlife watching trips shape education and perception of conservation. These projects were co-supervised by Sea Watch's Director and the Monitoring Officer.

Research publications during the year involving Sea Watch staff included scientific papers published in collaboration with other bodies, in *Animal Conservation* (south coast of England bottlenose dolphin abundance estimation and vulnerability assessment), and *Frontiers in Conservation Science* (Risso's dolphins in northeast Scotland and the Northern Isles), as well as an Atlas modelling distribution and abundance of cetaceans and seabirds in Wales and surrounding waters, and scientific reports on the monitoring of the bottlenose dolphin population in Wales, for Natural Resources Wales.

- Informtion

Information materials in the form of fact sheets, posters, videos, CD's, newsletters, study reports and scientific papers are produced along with a regularly updated website with recent sightings, news items, and various other materials for downloading. As part of the Dolphin Adoption scheme, digital newsletters were also produced each month.

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Sea Watch has a long-running UK-wide citizen science programme of dedicated surveys and effort-related sightings, possibly the longest running in Europe having been established by the Director in the early 1970s. Much of the information materials that the charity produces and the various training courses it runs are aimed at increasing the network of observers collecting useful data from both land and at sea. In the past, most casual sightings were submitted via the Sea Watch website through an online recording form whilst effort-related watches are sent through on printed forms or using Excel spreadsheets. Since 2020, however, with the development of a free recording app called *Sea Watcher*, data increasingly are being submitted through this means. The app has species ID keys, images and videos, and guides to observing and recording, facilitating the recording of casual sightings of marine megafauna (cetaceans, seals, sea turtles and sharks) as well as effort related observations made from a vessel, from a land watch, or from a walk along the coast. Each of these has a number of fields recording all the necessary basic details, with pop-up menus to assist. Users can then view the details of their own sightings in tables and on a map, and on a separate map they can view all those submitted to the app. Sightings can be filtered by species and by time period. Throughout the year, the app has undergone a series of improvements, first through a partnership between Sea Watch, IMARDiS (Bangor University), and ORE Catapult, with funding from the European Regional Development Fund, and then linked to an improved database management system with a grant through the Digital Twin of the Ocean (DTO-Bioflow) program whereby Sea Watch makes its long-term database of casual and land-based effort sightings more widely available. Extra species have been added to the app, along with new images and fact files, and work continued to extend the recording area globally, as well as integrating data from Sea Watch's master database and from the web-based online submissions. There remains a key need to improve tools to interrogate past sightings, and to provide the opportunity to view sightings on map overlays of environmental features such as depth, sea surface temperature, substrate type, and plankton fronts, and with human activities such as fishing and ship traffic.

Work on Sea Watch's main website was continued by Katie Baker along with overseeing social media outlets until the end of May 2023 when Claudia took over. The number of sightings posted by the general public has steadily increased, with digital videos and photos frequently submitted to help in the validation of records. Local watchers have contributed greatly to the sightings database using either the online sightings forms or the recording app. There has also been good use made of digital photographs taken by members of the public that have helped us to identify individuals, particularly of bottlenose dolphin, Risso's dolphin and humpback whale.

Overall species trends observed in previous years have persisted, with humpback whales recorded year-round in many parts of the British Isles although most frequently in Scotland, in areas where good numbers of minke whales along with a few fin whales are also found.

The Northern Community of orcas continues to inhabit the waters of northern Scotland mainly from the Moray Firth northwards to the Pentland Firth and around both Shetland and Orkney. John Coe and Aquarius, the two male orcas forming the remaining members of the West Coast Community, were re-sighted several times in the Hebrides as well as in the North Sea off the north-east coast of Scotland.

Bottlenose dolphins were recorded throughout the year along the east coast of England, with regular sightings in Northumberland, Tyneside, and increasingly in North Yorkshire, sometimes in large groups. Whereas several individuals are clearly from the East Coast of Scotland population, some individuals have not been matched but could reflect individuals that have been in the region for a number of years providing additional local recruitment. The South Coast of England bottlenose dolphin population that numbers around forty animals and is usually seen mainly in west Cornwall, appears to be spending more time further east as far as Sussex.

There continue to be relatively few sightings of white-beaked dolphins with those mainly in the central and northern North Sea, although also occurring in summer in the Outer Hebrides and off South-west England, (Cornwall and SW Devon). Atlantic white-sided dolphins are now uncommon in UK waters, primarily only in the Northern Isles and Outer Hebrides reinforcing indications of a general northwards shift since Britain represents the southernmost part of their range.

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Common dolphins, on the other hand, have been seen in good numbers not only in Cornwall and the Hebrides, but also further north in Scotland and east well into the North Sea. Some animals have been recorded in the central North Sea including up rivers in eastern England. In the Irish Sea, the species has also been seen in relatively shallow waters, within Cardigan Bay (West Wales), Caernarfon Bay and around Anglesey (North Wales). Risso's dolphin photo-ID studies by Sea Watch and other groups have revealed long-distance movements within the Irish Sea, and linking the Hebrides, Wales and Cornwall.

Finally, although harbour porpoises are the most widely distributed of species around the British Isles, numbers recorded have declined in parts of the Irish Sea and Bristol Channel.

The network of Sea Watch observers around the UK routinely contributes also to national stranding schemes with their stranding reports.

The extensive photo library continues to expand, serving both the charity's needs and those of a number of educational bodies, environmental and conservation organisations, as well as news media. It also improves in quality, and currently comprises well over ten thousand images of marine mammals and birds, sea turtles and sharks, along with human pressures. During the year, a number of interviews were undertaken for regional and national newspapers, TV and radio, and material provided for various TV programmes.

Since 2013, Sea Watch has organised an annual community event called Orca Watch. It has been held in North Scotland based around Thurso in Caithness during late May or early June lasting nine days (including two weekends). The aim has been to involve the public in undertaking systematic watches from land and from the John O'Groats ferry across the Pentland Firth to Orkney. Although the target species has been the killer whale or orca, observers are encouraged to record all marine mammal species seen. The event has also involved public lectures, school visits, and a beach clean. In 2023, the event was organized from 27 May to 3 June by three volunteers, Christy Judd, Harry Clark, and Juliet Maxted, supported by a Sea Watch staff member, Claudia Afeltra. Seventy-seven volunteer observers from around the UK were recruited to undertake watches in Caithness, Sutherland, and the Northern Isles. They spent a total of 223 hours collecting effort-related data stationed at 195 land watch sites (89 land surveys) and conducted 36 boat surveys. 335 sightings of seven marine mammal species totaling 1,369 individual animals were recorded. A sighting rate of 1.15 animals per hour of watching was recorded.

The charity's major citizen science event, The National Whale and Dolphin Watch, was held for the 22nd year, between 29 July – 6 August 2023 organised by the Sightings Officer, Simone Evans, with help from the Communications Officer, Claudia Afeltra assisted by Kiera McGarvey Sears (on-site) and Iro Tsarmpopoulou-Fokianou (remotely). Almost 1,400 people participated around the UK. Timed watches were undertaken at 113 land watch sites and aboard 25 vessels (totaling 812 hours of effort), all around the British Isles. These resulted in 1,490 cetacean sightings comprising more than 10,000 individuals of 12 species. The average rate of sighting a cetacean from across the British Isles was 0.59 animals per hour of watching, similar to most years but lower than the all-time high in 2022. The National Whale and Dolphin Watch received both national and regional media coverage. Bottlenose dolphins were seen over much of the British Isles, with sightings as far north as the Pentland Firth and Orkney. Notable sightings included several reports of fin whales in various parts of the Inner Hebrides as well as off west Cornwall, long-finned pilot whales off Aberdeen in the northern North Sea, and a possible northern bottlenose whale off the island of Yell in Shetland. Atlantic white-sided dolphins were seen near the Isles of Mull and Coll, and in Hellier, Orkney. Common dolphins were seen in many parts of the British Isles, but mainly off the west coast. However, there were also sightings off St Cyrus and Montrose on the east coast of Scotland and in the central North Sea off Bempton Cliffs in Yorkshire, as well as along the Channel coast of England as far east as Worthing in West Sussex.

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- Education & Outreach

Sea Watch's Dolphin Adoption Scheme Administrator, Kirsten Hintner, has continued running educational sessions with schools and children's groups as well as attending marine festivals in southwest England, and developing several on-line educational materials. The AAD Administrator continues to work with businesses in the southwest of England to support the charity and its work, and continues in her role as Regional Coordinator for SW England (Cornwall and Devon).

Each year, Sea Watch organises school visits, university and community lectures as well as specialist interest workshops and training courses. It also runs an award-winning national Dolphin Adoption scheme aimed at children, which has now been running for sixteen years. A digital newsletter with educational content, photos and links to videos is circulated monthly. The adopted dolphins are individuals from the Cardigan Bay population that Sea Watch is monitoring using photo-ID.

Besides training of the summer interns, weekend courses were run for the wider public in New Quay, and for members of the Wildlife Trusts along the east coast of England, as well as for third year undergraduates and MSc graduates at Bangor University.

Following the creation of a formal membership scheme in 2020, Sea Watch produces a quarterly illustrated Digital Magazine (c. 40pp length) and a monthly News Bulletin with a Sightings Summary, edited by Hannah Parkinson and the Charity's Director. The membership is managed on a Paid Memberships Pro platform by Robin Petch, who instigated this along with marketing through Brevo (formerly called Send in Blue).

The magazine is divided into sections following particular themes: UK Hotspots, Sea Watching Overseas, a Skills Clinic (how to undertake land watches, at-sea surveys, photo-ID, or identify difficult species), a Species Fact File, monthly Sightings Summaries with maps, Conservation Focus (recent news on conservation issues), Sea Watch News, Around the Regions, and People Profiles (either focused on Regional Coordinators, Key Observers, etc, or news of the activities/research of past staff, regional coordinators, and interns).

Sea Watch tries to help keep the public informed by closely working with the media, local and national government, environmental bodies, and industry. The charity was involved in several TV and radio interviews, and newspaper articles. The annual number of visits to Sea Watch's website totalled c. 150,000 for the year. Its social media outlets continue to prove popular (c. 19,200 followers on Facebook, c. 8,000 followers on X (formerly Twitter), and >18,100, of whom c. 5,600 are followers, on Instagram), whilst several of Sea Watch's videos on YouTube have received >2,000 views, some with 13,000 views).

As in previous years, Sea Watch staff gave many lectures during the year in a wide variety of fora within the UK and abroad. They supervised several MSc students, ran training courses, and developed a range of internet-based educational materials – fact sheets, videos, etc. Our collaboration with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust continued. A strong local network of shore watchers has developed in the region, collecting effort-based data from a range of sites within those counties, and now extending northwards to encompass Co. Durham, Cleveland, Tyneside, and Northumberland. These data continue to prove very useful in monitoring cetaceans in coastal waters of eastern England, and the results formed a presentation by the Director at a regional EASTME Conference held in Lincoln in May 2024.

With the closure of Paragon House throughout the year for necessary work by Ceredigion County Council to address structural issues in the building, the visitor centre and education hub that Sea Watch set up with photo displays, audio-visual exhibits, and murals had to remain closed and so education and outreach activities in New Quay were focused upon the pier, Dolphin Spotting Boat Trips, local events and visits to schools. These were led by the Communications & Outreach Officer, Claudia Afeltra, and volunteer Education & Outreach Officer, Josi Alpert-Sandler.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

The trustees endeavour to maintain a level of reserves equivalent to one year's expenditure in order to safeguard the charity from any changes in its income, expenditure or other unforeseen circumstances. Between 2019 and 2022, the charity faced major financial challenges with limited funds due to the Covid pandemic, the closure of our field office and visitor centre due to persistent damp issues, and a marked reduction in public spending from government. Between 2022 and 2024, Natural Resources Wales has awarded Sea Watch an annual grant for the monitoring of bottlenose dolphins in Welsh waters which has been an enormous help to the charity, and in summer 2023, Sea Watch received funding to establish a second field office at Bodorgan (Anglesey) and develop a marine management programme of research and community outreach. These have enabled the charity recently to build some extra reserves for its development, resulting in the recruitment of additional staff to build capacity and progress urgent and much needed conservation, research and monitoring activities.

We are also extremely grateful to continue to receive a substantial legacy from the late Muriel May Abbot, paid in instalments, whilst Lenni Sykes bequeathed us a generous donation following her death.

Principal funding sources

Sea Watch is very grateful for funding from a number of different bodies. During the year under review, it received funding in particular from:

- UNEP/ASCOBANS
- European Commission
- Natural England
- Natural Resources Wales
- Bangor University
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action
- Meyrick Charitable Trust
- Muriel May Abbot (legacy)
- Lenni Sykes (legacy)
- Joseph Strong Frazer Trust

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 16 December 1991 and registered as a charity on 20 July 1992. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and Appointment of the Council of Management

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Council of Management ("the council").

All members of the Council give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

Trustee Induction and Training

Most trustees are already familiar with the practical work of the charity. Additionally, new trustees are provided with a background to familiarise themselves with the charity and the context within which it operates. The Charity Commission guide "the Essential Trustee" is distributed to all new trustees.

Risk Management

The Council regularly reviews the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Significant external risks to funding lead the Council to review and develop its strategic plan. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

The trustees have considered the impact of the 2020 Covid pandemic and while there have been short-term financial operational impacts, they do not believe the pandemic will prevent the successful delivery of their charitable aims over the long-term.

Organisational Structure

The council's members meet three times a year and keep in touch at other times by email and/or video conference and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The constitution requires a minimum of 3 members (but typically it has had between 6 and 11).

At present, the Council members are from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. The Secretary, who is the Operations Director, also sits on the Council but has no voting rights.

A scheme of delegation is in place and day-to-day responsibility for the provision of the services rests with the Director. The Director is responsible for ensuring that the charity delivers the services specified, operational management of the organization, individual supervision of the staff team and also ensuring that the team continue to develop their skills and working practices in line with good practice.

Related parties

There are no related parties.

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Responsibilities of the Council

Company law requires the Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year.

In preparing those financial statements, the Council should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate

The Council is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

The Council is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Members of the Council

Members of the council who are directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of the charity, who served during the year and up to date of this report are set out on page 1.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees on 27/11/24.....and signed on its behalf by:

..........

Mr A N Osborn - Solicitor (Acting Chair)

Trustee

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of , which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrews, O'Shea Ltd

Optima House
Mill Court
Spindle Way
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1TT

Date: 9 November 2024

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	44,899	-	44,899
Charitable activities	4	137,875	206,855	344,730
Investment income	5	8,616	-	8,616
Total income		<u>191,390</u>	<u>206,855</u>	<u>398,245</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	(104,526)	(166,561)	(271,087)
Total expenditure		<u>(104,526)</u>	<u>(166,561)</u>	<u>(271,087)</u>
Net income		<u>86,864</u>	<u>40,294</u>	<u>127,158</u>
Net movement in funds		86,864	40,294	127,158
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>334,453</u>	<u>9,678</u>	<u>344,131</u>
Total funds carried forward	19	<u>421,317</u>	<u>49,972</u>	<u>471,289</u>
	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	22,707	-	22,707
Charitable activities	4	199,678	107,700	307,378
Investment income	5	2,937	-	2,937
Total income		<u>225,322</u>	<u>107,700</u>	<u>333,022</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	(108,017)	(98,022)	(206,039)
Total expenditure		<u>(108,017)</u>	<u>(98,022)</u>	<u>(206,039)</u>
Net income		<u>117,305</u>	<u>9,678</u>	<u>126,983</u>
Net movement in funds		117,305	9,678	126,983
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>217,148</u>	-	<u>217,148</u>
Total funds carried forward	19	<u>334,453</u>	<u>9,678</u>	<u>344,131</u>

The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 19.

The notes on pages 16 to 29 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

(Registration number: 02671621)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	11	1	1
Tangible assets	12	<u>2,178</u>	<u>2,562</u>
		<u>2,179</u>	<u>2,563</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	13	3,270	2,398
Debtors	14	33,092	862
Investments	15	80,000	80,000
Cash at bank and in hand	16	<u>355,669</u>	<u>261,372</u>
		472,031	344,632
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(2,921)</u>	<u>(3,064)</u>
Net current assets		<u>469,110</u>	<u>341,568</u>
Net assets		<u>471,289</u>	<u>344,131</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		49,972	9,678
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>421,317</u>	<u>334,453</u>
Total funds	19	<u>471,289</u>	<u>344,131</u>

For the financial year ending 31 March 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

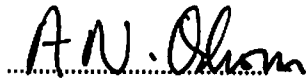
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 16 to 29 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

**(Registration number: 02671621)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024**

The financial statements on pages 13 to 29 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on ~~29/11/24~~ and signed on their behalf by:



Mr A N Osborn - Solicitor (Acting Chair)
Trustee

The notes on pages 16 to 29 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales. The charity is a private limited company by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

Optima House
Mill Court
Spindle Way
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1TT

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Investment income

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank. Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Intangible assets

Intangible assets are stated in the Balance Sheet at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment. They are amortised on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £100.00 or more are initially recorded at cost.

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Amortisation

Amortisation is provided on intangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Amortisation method and rate
Development costs	20% per annum - straight line basis

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Plant and machinery	15% per annum - straight line basis
Office equipment	15% per annum - straight line basis

Research and development

Development expenditure incurred on an individual project is carried forward when its future recoverability can reasonably be regarded as assured. Any expenditure carried forward is amortised in line with the expected future income from the related project.

Current asset investments

Current asset investments are included at the lower of cost and net realisable value / market value.

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out (FIFO).

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Foreign exchange

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are reported at the rates of exchange prevailing at that date.

The results of overseas operations are translated at the average rates of exchange during the period and their balance sheets at the rates ruling at the balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising on translation of the opening net assets and results of overseas operations are reported in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity (attributed to non-controlling interests as appropriate).

Other exchange differences are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they arise except for:

- 1) exchange differences on transactions entered into to hedge certain foreign currency risks (see above);
- 2) exchange differences arising on gains or losses on non-monetary items which are recognised in other comprehensive income; and
- 3) in the case of the consolidated financial statements, exchange differences on monetary items receivable from or payable to a foreign operation for which settlement is neither planned nor likely to occur (therefore forming part of the net investment in the foreign operation), which are recognised in other comprehensive income and reported under equity.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the trustee's out of unrestricted free reserves to fund the charity's objectives.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Donations and legacies;		
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	<u>44,899</u>	<u>44,899</u>
Total for 2024	<u>44,899</u>	<u>44,899</u>
Total for 2023	<u>22,707</u>	<u>22,707</u>

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Grants	-	206,855	206,855	107,700
Subscriptions	10,421	-	10,421	6,663
Merchandise sales	8,508	-	8,508	8,114
Volunteer contributions	23,956	-	23,956	19,957
Adoptions	22,869	-	22,869	22,835
Consultancy	72,121	-	72,121	138,085
Training	-	-	-	4,025
	<u>137,875</u>	<u>206,855</u>	<u>344,730</u>	<u>307,379</u>

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Income from dividends; Dividends receivable from other listed investments	7,482	7,482
Interest receivable and similar income; Interest receivable on bank deposits	<u>1,134</u>	<u>1,134</u>
Total for 2024	<u>8,616</u>	<u>8,616</u>
Total for 2023	<u>2,937</u>	<u>2,937</u>

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Information technology	404	-	404	1,106
Employee costs	41,458	78,386	119,844	81,827
Office costs	7,368	-	7,368	8,473
Direct premises costs	8,905	-	8,905	5,700
Other costs	10,928	1,119	12,047	13,186
Boat hire	-	33,900	33,900	23,433
Volunteer premises rental	21,446	-	21,446	21,336
Consultancy costs	11,497	53,156	64,653	48,636
	<u>102,006</u>	<u>166,561</u>	<u>268,567</u>	<u>203,697</u>

	Activity undertaken directly £	Activity support costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Information technology	85	319	404	873
Employee costs	118,586	1,258	119,844	64,644
Office costs	1,547	5,821	7,368	6,694
Direct premises costs	1,870	7,035	8,905	4,503
Other costs	2,531	9,516	12,047	10,417
Boat hire	33,900	-	33,900	23,433
Volunteer premises rental	21,446	-	21,446	16,856
Consultancy costs	64,653	-	64,653	38,423
	<u>244,618</u>	<u>23,949</u>	<u>268,567</u>	<u>165,843</u>

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Activity undertaken directly £	Activity support costs £	2023 £
Information technology	-	873	873
Employee costs	64,644	-	64,644
Office costs	-	6,694	6,694
Direct premises costs	-	4,503	4,503
Other costs	-	10,417	10,417
Boat hire	23,433	-	23,433
Volunteer premises rental	16,856	-	16,856
Consultancy costs	38,423	-	38,423
	<u>143,356</u>	<u>22,487</u>	<u>165,843</u>

In addition to the expenditure analysed above, there are also governance costs of £2,520 (2023 - £2,340) which relate directly to charitable activities. See note for further details.

7 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming resources for the year include:

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>384</u>	<u>452</u>

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	112,248	78,550
Social security costs	5,882	2,462
Pension costs	1,714	816
	<u>119,844</u>	<u>81,828</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Charitable and fund raising activities	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

11 Intangible fixed assets

	Research and development £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2023	9,500	9,500
At 31 March 2024	9,500	9,500
Amortisation		
At 1 April 2023	9,499	9,499
At 31 March 2024	9,499	9,499
Net book value		
At 31 March 2024	1	1
At 31 March 2023	1	1

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2023	130,605	130,605
At 31 March 2024	130,605	130,605
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	128,043	128,043
Charge for the year	384	384
At 31 March 2024	128,427	128,427
Net book value		
At 31 March 2024	2,178	2,178
At 31 March 2023	2,562	2,562

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

13 Stock

	2024 £	2023 £
Stocks	3,270	2,398

The cost of stock recognised as an expense in the year amounted to £7,099 (2023 - £5,566).

14 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	33,092	862

15 Current asset investments

	2024 £
Listed investments	

Listed investments

Investments having a net book value of £80,000 (31 March 2023: £80,000) are listed on a recognised stock exchange and had a market value of £72,851 at the end of the year (31 March 2023 - £69,540).

16 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank	355,669	261,372

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	401	724
Accruals	2,520	2,340
	2,921	3,064

18 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £1,714 (2023 - £816).

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
General	238,299	183,908	(104,526)	317,681
<i>Designated</i>				
Conservation Fund	48,078	3,741	-	51,819
Education Fund	48,076	3,741	-	51,817
	<u>96,154</u>	<u>7,482</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>103,636</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>334,453</u>	<u>191,390</u>	<u>(104,526)</u>	<u>421,317</u>
Restricted funds				
NRW Bottlenose Dolphin Monitoring	9,678	102,200	(107,413)	4,465
Bodorgan Project	-	69,010	(55,150)	13,860
CIBBRiNA Project	-	35,645	(3,998)	31,647
	<u>9,678</u>	<u>206,855</u>	<u>(166,561)</u>	<u>49,972</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>9,678</u>	<u>206,855</u>	<u>(166,561)</u>	<u>49,972</u>
Total funds	<u>344,131</u>	<u>398,245</u>	<u>(271,087)</u>	<u>471,289</u>

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
General	123,873	222,443	(108,017)	238,299
<i>Designated</i>				
Conservation Fund	46,638	1,440	-	48,078
Education Fund	46,637	1,439	-	48,076
	<u>93,275</u>	<u>2,879</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>96,154</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>217,148</u>	<u>225,322</u>	<u>(108,017)</u>	<u>334,453</u>
Restricted				
NRW Bottlenose Dolphin Monitoring	-	102,200	(92,522)	9,678
UK CEH Cummulative Effects Framework	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
NRW Marine Mammel Population Modelling	-	2,500	(2,500)	-
Total restricted funds	<u>-</u>	<u>107,700</u>	<u>(98,022)</u>	<u>9,678</u>
Total funds	<u>217,148</u>	<u>333,022</u>	<u>(206,039)</u>	<u>344,131</u>

Bottlenose Dolphin Monitoring Project (£102,200)

A project funded by Natural Resources Wales to undertake monitoring of bottlenose dolphins in Welsh waters in order to assess their conservation status.

CIBBRiNA Project (£35,645)

A six-year international consortium project to improve monitoring and mitigation of fisheries bycatch of protected, endangered and threatened marine species led by the Dutch Ministry of the Environment through funding under the EU LIFE programme.

Bodorgan Project (£69,010)

A long-term project to develop community-based marine management of the seas around South West Anglesey through environmental monitoring, citizen science, stakeholder engagement, education and outreach. This is delivered through our "Wellbeing for our Seas" project funded from the Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme administered by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action and from the Meyrick Charitable Trust who host the Sea Watch Foundation office and internship programme in Anglesey.

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies (analysed below)	44,899	22,707
Charitable activities (analysed below)	344,730	307,378
Investment income (analysed below)	8,616	2,937
Total income	<u>398,245</u>	<u>333,022</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities (analysed below)	<u>(271,087)</u>	<u>(206,039)</u>
Total expenditure	<u>(271,087)</u>	<u>(206,039)</u>
Net income	<u>127,158</u>	<u>126,983</u>
Net movement in funds	127,158	126,983
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	<u>344,131</u>	<u>217,148</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>471,289</u>	<u>344,131</u>

Sea Watch Foundation - The Cetacean Monitoring Unit

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	<u>2024</u>
	Total
	£
<i>Governance costs</i>	
Independent examiner's fee	<u>(2,520)</u>
	<u>(2,520)</u>