



Science & Education Report

MS Fridtjof Nansen

Europe's Atlantic Highlights

From Lisbon to Hamburg

24th April - 05th May 2026



History & culture

During our sailing trip, we visited three countries that share a rich history, having all been invaded by the Romans. This connection is evident in their languages and Catholic faith. We explored historic places such as Porto and the famous pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostela. We sailed along the coast, visiting small fishing villages and Saint-Malo. We concluded our journey with a visit to the historically rich island of Helgoland.





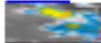
NASA cloud observer

The interaction of clouds with the planet's surface and the troposphere remains an under-researched area. Understanding the interface between the clouds' underbelly and the ocean or ground surface is key to developing better climate models — and for that, an immense number of data points is necessary.

Following an introductory presentation on April 27, we encouraged guests to download and use the Globe Observer App. Many did so and were therefore able to actively participate in the cloud observation sessions on the outer deck.

[View our data](#) on the global map



Observation	GLOBE	
Universal Date/Time	2026-04-30 14:05:00	2026-04-30 14:10
Latitude	46.75	46.43 to 47.07
Longitude	-2.34	-2.66 to -2.02
Total Cloud Cover	Sky Obscured ●	Overcast 97.05% ●
High Clouds	Sky Obscured by Haze Clouds/Contrails > 25% Obscured 	Cover: Few (8.82%) ● Altitude: 7.85 (km) Phase: Ice 248.42 (K) Opacity: Translucent
Mid Clouds		Cover: Scattered 29.41% ● Altitude: 4.11 (km) Phase: Water 266.23 (K) Opacity: Opaque
Low Clouds		Cover: Broken 58.82% ● Altitude: 1.03 (km) Phase: Water 283.21 (K) Opacity: Translucent
GLOBE Cloud Photos and Corresponding NASA Satellite Images. Click image to view ---> <i>Note: Photos submitted though GLOBE need approval before being displayed, this may take a few days.</i>		METEOSAT-10 Visible  Infrared  GEO Tutorial
Sky Conditions, Surface Conditions and Observer Comments	Sky Conditions Sky Visibility : no report Sky Color : no report Surface Conditions Snow/Ice : No Standing Water : Yes Muddy : No Dry Ground : No Leaves on Trees : No Raining or Snowing : No	Are there any comments you would like to add? <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>

NASA cloud observer

We managed to gather cloud observations on five days. Of these, we achieved four matches, which were sent by NASA to the respective observer — a strong observation-to-match ratio and a strong result.

The image on the left shows an example of one of the satellite matches (here: April 30).



iNaturalist

Throughout our voyage across Atlantic Europe, guests helped document local biodiversity through iNaturalist, contributing valuable observations to global citizen science.

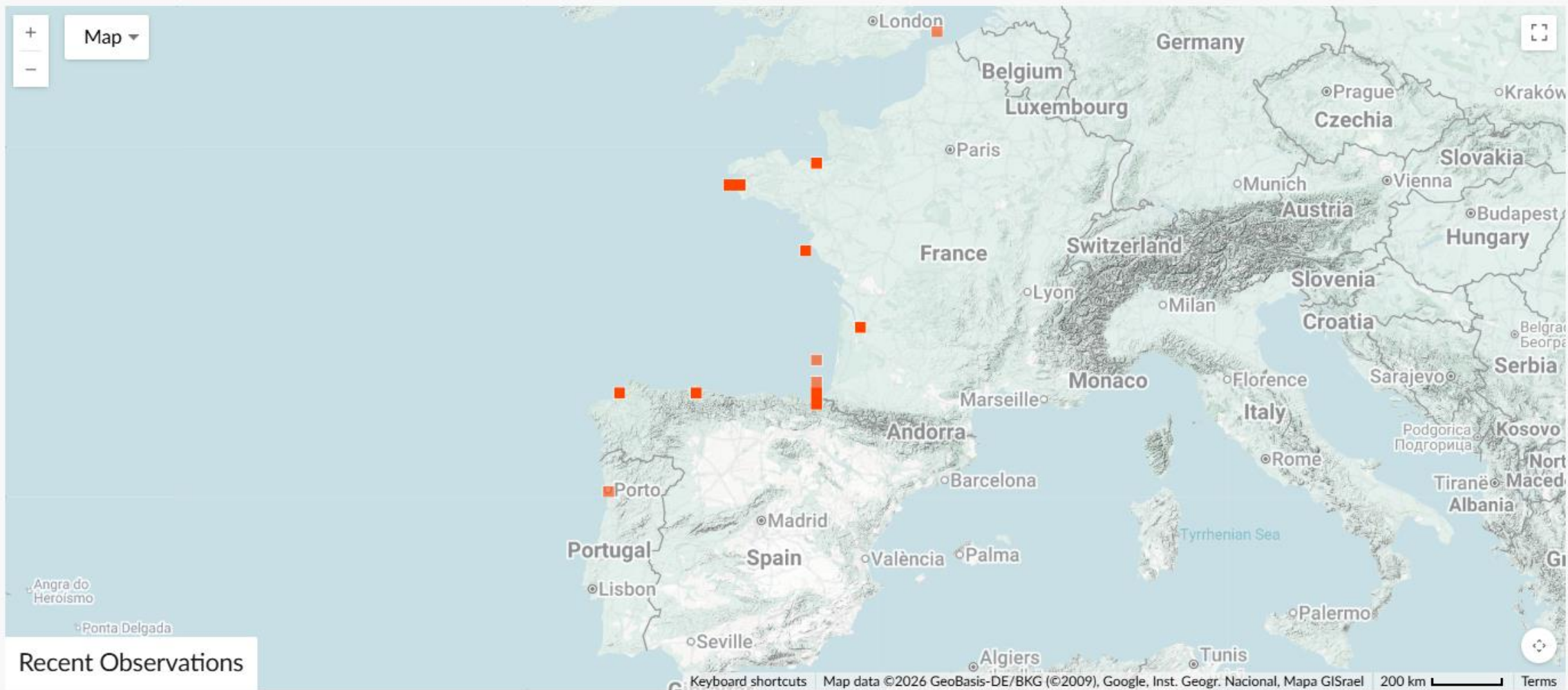
Together, we gathered:

- 291 observations
- 168 species identified
- 10 observers participating

View our data submitted on [our iNaturalist project](#)

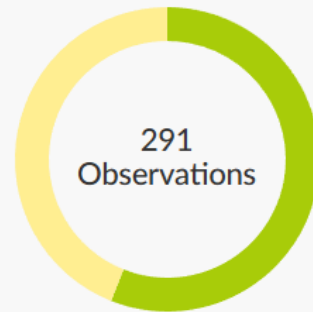


MS Fridtjof Nansen 24.4 – 5.5.2026

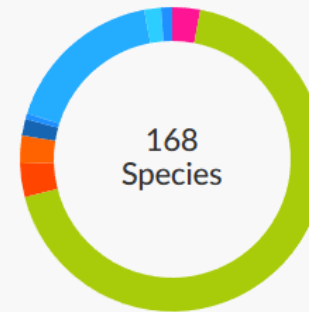


MS Fridtjof Nansen 24.4 – 5.5.2026

Stats



- Research Grade
- Needs ID
- Casual



- Unknown
- Protozoans
- Fungi
- Plants
- Chromista
- Mollusks
- Insects
- Arachnids
- Ray-Finned F...
- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Birds
- Mammals
- Other Animals

Recent Observations ↗

[View All](#)





Science Boat

We conducted two science boat sessions during our voyage — one at Douarnenez and the second at Saint-Malo.

We measured water clarity with the Secchi disk, and used the CTD to record temperature, salinity, and chlorophyll a. We also collected a water sample for our microscope session.

[View our data](#) submitted to the Secchi Disk Project

[Listen to our recordings](#) on Soundcloud

Plankton Samples

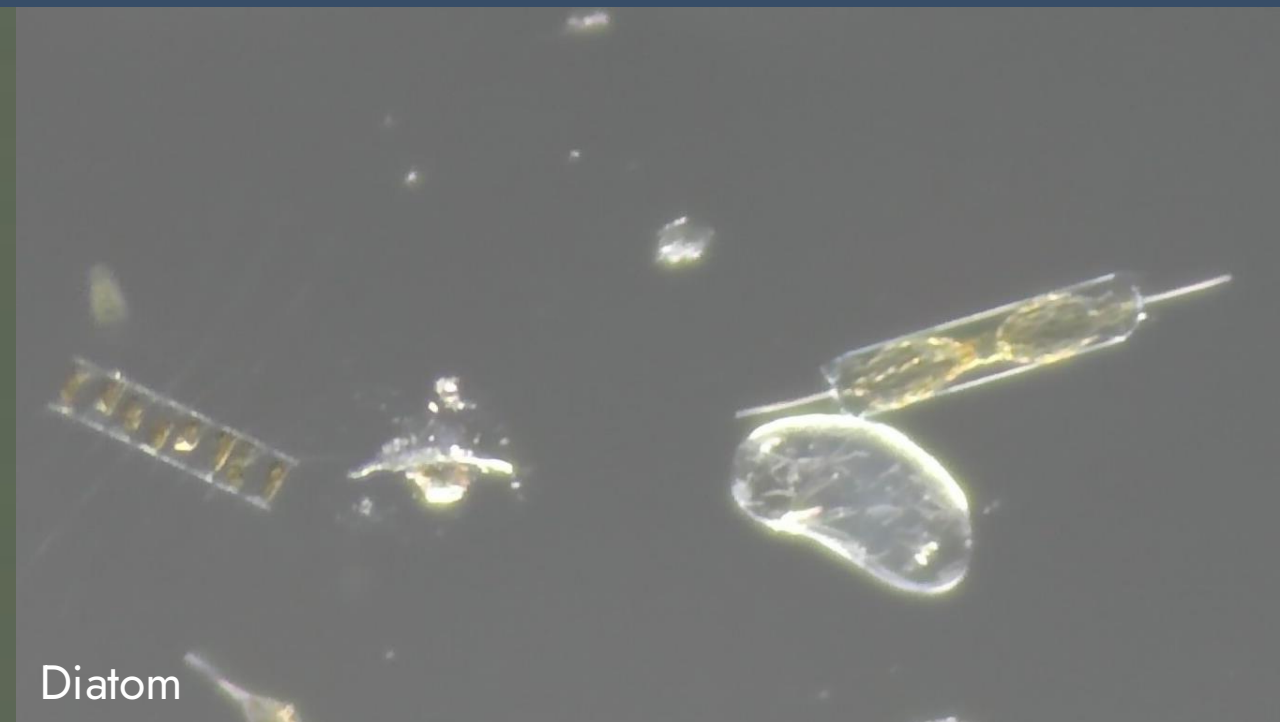
Back in the science centre, we brought the ocean into focus, examining our water samples under the microscope to uncover the hidden world of phytoplankton and zooplankton.

Using microscopes, we projected magnified images onto the screen, allowing everyone to see the intricate details of these tiny organisms. Smaller binocular microscopes offered a hands-on experience, inviting guests to search for life in each drop of water.

The samples revealed a world dominated by phytoplankton and zooplankton, forming the foundation of the marine food web. What seemed invisible to the eye became a vivid reminder that even the smallest life forms shape this vast and wild ecosystem.



Phytoplankton



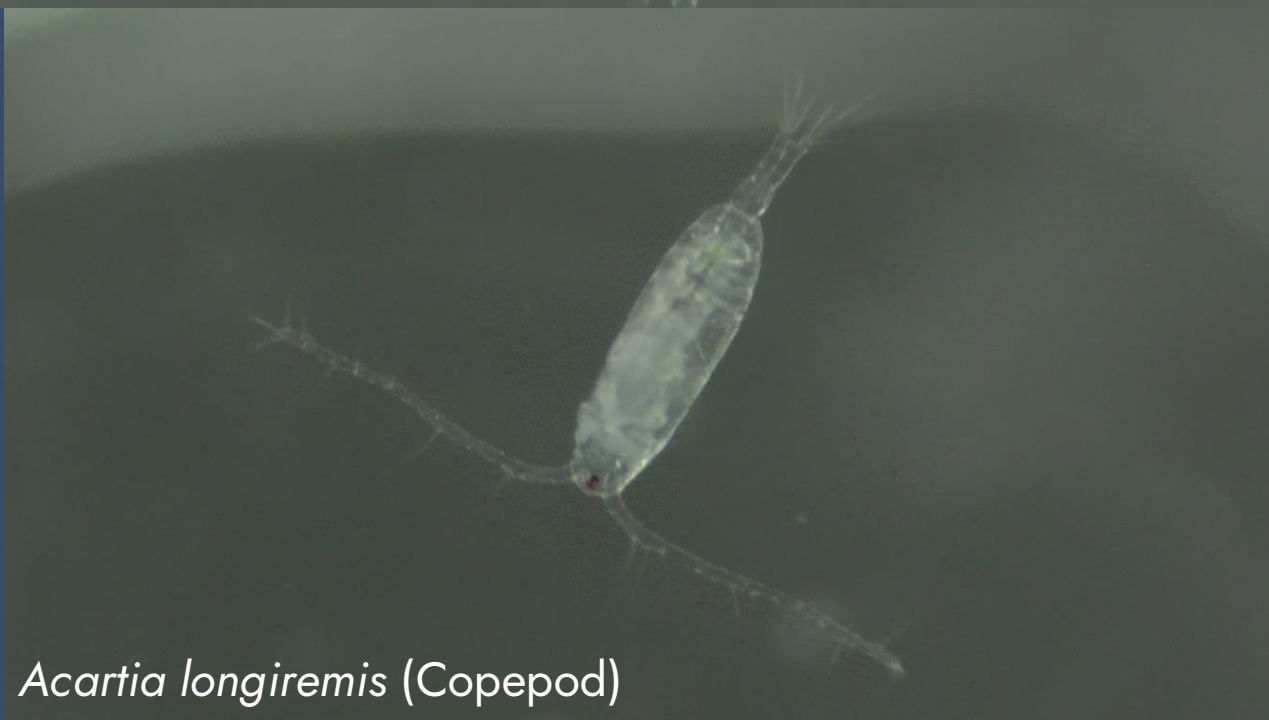
Zooplankton



Crab Larva



Temora longicornis (Copepod)



Acartia longiremis (Copepod)



Cnidaria

Wildlife List — Birds





e-Bird

Bird-watching is not just a hobby — it is a powerful tool for science. eBird, a global citizen science platform, allows bird enthusiasts to record and share sightings, contributing valuable data for research and conservation.

During our voyage, with the help of our guests, our onboard ornithologist completed 14 checklists, recording 24 bird species.

Every entry adds to a growing database that helps scientists track migration patterns, monitor populations, and understand bird behaviour.

Click the link to explore our data and see how these observations contribute to a global effort in avian research:

View our data on our [e-Bird trip report](#)

Wildlife List – Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Calonectris diomedea borealis</i>	Cory's shearwater	Corysturmtaucher
<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	Manx shearwater	Atlantiksturmtaucher
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	European storm petrel	Sturmwellenläufer
<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	northern fulmar	Eissturmvogel
<i>Larus michahellis</i>	yellow-legged gull	Mittelmeermöwe
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	European herring gull	Silbermöwe
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	lesser black-backed gull	Heringsmöwe
<i>Larus marinus</i>	great black-backed gull	Mantelmöwe
<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	kittiwake	Dreizehenmöwe
<i>Morus bassanus</i>	northern gannet	Basstölpel
<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich tern	Brandseeschwalbe
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	European shag	Krähenscharbe
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	great cormorant	Kormoran
<i>Uria aalge</i>	common guillemot	Trottellumme
<i>Alca torda</i>	razorbill	Tordalk

Wildlife List – Water birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	oystercatcher	Austernfischer
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	ruddy turnstone	Steinwälzer
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	bar-tailed godwit	Pfuhlschnepfe
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	whimbrel	Regenbrachvogel
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	mallard	Stockente
<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	common eider	Eiderente
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	moorhen	Teichhuhn
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	black-crowned night heron	Nachtreiher
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	grey heron	Graureiher
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	white stork	Weißstorch
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	little egret	Seidenreiher
<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	western cattle egret	Kuhreiher
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	mute swan	Höckerschwan
<i>Cygnus atratus</i>	black swan	Schwarzschan
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	common shelduck	Brandgans

Wildlife List – Land birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Eurasian sparrowhawk	Sperber
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	merlin	
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	common buzzard	Mäusebussard
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	common kestrel	Turmfalke
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	black kite	Schwarzmilan
<i>Gypes fulvus</i>	European griffin vulture	Gänsegeier
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Eurasian skylark	Feldlerche
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	meadow pipit	Wiesenpieper
<i>Apus apus</i>	common swift	Mauersegler
<i>Serinus serinus</i>	European serin	Girlitz
<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	common cuckoo	Kuckuck
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	pheasant	Jagdfasan
<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	western jackdaw	Dohle
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	collared dove	Tyrker Due
<i>Columba livia</i>	rock dove/feral pigeon	Felsentaube

Wildlife List – Land birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	common wood pigeon	Ringeltaube
<i>Corvus corone</i>	carrion crow	Rabenkrähe
<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	red-legged chough	Alpenkrähe
<i>Pica pica</i>	Eurasian magpie	Elster
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	European robin	Rotkehlchen
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	common chaffinch	Buchfink
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	barn swallow	Rauchschwalbe
<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	common linnet	Bluthänfling
<i>Motacilla alba</i>	white wagtail	Bachstelze
<i>Parus major</i>	great tit	Kohlmeise
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	house sparrow	Hausperling
<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	black redstart	Hausrotschwanz
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	common chiffchaff	Zilpzalp
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	common starling	Star
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Eurasian blackcap	Mönchsgrasmücke

Wildlife List – Land birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Eurasian wren	Zaunkönig
<i>Turdus merula</i>	common blackbird	Amsel
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	song thrush	Singdrossel
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	goldfinch	Stillits
<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	firecrest	Sommergoldhähnchen
<i>Sitta europea</i>	Eurasian nuthatch	Kleiber
<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	short-toed treecreeper	Gartenbaumläufer
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	northern wheatear	Steinschmätzer
<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	zitting cisticola	Zistensänger
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	dunnock	Heckenbraunelle
<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Cetti's warbler	Seidensänger
<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	sedge warbler	Schilfrohrsänger
<i>Sylvia communis</i>	common whitethroat	Dorngrasmücke
<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	European stonechat	Schwarzkehlchen

Wildlife

List – Marine Mammals



Wildlife List – Marine Mammals and Fish

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	common dolphin	Gemeiner Delfin
<i>Delphinidae spp.</i>	unidentified dolphin	Unbekannte Delfine
<i>Delphinidae spp.</i>	unidentified dolphin	Unbekannte Delfine
<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	grey seal	Kegelrobbe
<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	harbour seal	Seehund
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	harbour porpoise	Schweinswal
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	harbour porpoise	Schweinswal
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	bottlenose dolphin	Großer Tümmler
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	bottlenose dolphin	Großer Tümmler

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Mola mola</i>	ocean sunfish	Mondfisch
<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	bluefin tuna	Roter Thun



ORCA Ocean Watchers

- 12 surveys complete
- 12 hours and 8 minutes on survey
- 352.9 km of survey
- 157 individual animals sighted
- 3 major groups: Cetaceans, Phocidae (Seals), Osteichthyes (Bony Fish)

Number	Latin	English	German
68	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	common dolphin	Gemeiner Delfin
66	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	bottlenose dolphin	Großer Tümmler
8	<i>Delphinidae spp.</i>	unidentified dolphin	Unbekannte Delfine
6	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	harbour porpoise	Schweinswal
4	<i>Mola mola</i>	ocean sunfish	Mondfisch
4	<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	bluefin tuna	Roter Thun
1	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	grey seal	Kegelrobbe

START SURVEY >



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Species



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