

Porpoise research

Aarhus University's Department of Marine Mammal Research is doing a lot of research about porpoises. The state of porpoise populations is one of the areas they are studying. From 2020 to 2025, researchers are investigating how new rock reefs and boat noise are affecting cod and porpoises as part of the "Belt in Balance" project in collaboration with DTU Aqua.



Out in the field

Finding out more about porpoises depends upon the collection of data. Airborne counts can be made from aeroplanes and drones can be used to perform behavioural surveys. Team members often sail out to porpoises that may have been trapped alive in bottom nets along the coast. This allows samples to be taken and the rescued porpoises are electronically tagged before released back into the Little Belt. This allows the team to keep track of where porpoises swim, how deep they dive, how often they hunt, what they are "saying" and much more.



Did you know?



Every year, the research team from Aarhus University spends the equivalent of 18,000 hours at sea collecting data about porpoises.

