

**FAROE ISLANDS
PROGRESS REPORT ON MARINE MAMMALS 2022**

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I. INTRODUCTION

This report summarises research on cetaceans and pinnipeds conducted in the Faroe Islands in 2022, by the Faroe Marine Research Institute and the Environment Agency.

II. RESEARCH BY SPECIES 2022

II.a Species/Stocks studied

- Grey seals (*Halobosaurus grypus*) – tagging
- Pilot whales (*Globicephala medusa*) – banded animals
- White-sided dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*) – tagging, stored samples

II.b Field work

In 2022, biological samples for age and reproductive analysis were collected from 214 **pilot whales**, by the Faroe Marine Research Institute, in 4-dives. In addition, 39 stomachs and 214 necropsies were stored for diet, genetic and ecological studies.

In 2021, the Environment Agency took samples of **pilot whales** in connection with grinds in Sandgerði on 7 May and Sandgerði 12 October. In all, 31 individual samples of muscle and blubber, and approximately same number of liver and kidney tissue, were taken.

One **grey seal** was tagged with satellite-linked transmitter.

Six animals from a group consisting 12 **white-sided dolphins** were tagged with satellite-linked transmitters.

II.c Laboratory work

The biological material collected from **pilot whales** in 2022, and material collected in previous years, together with samples from **white-sided dolphins**, is under processing for age, reproduction and diet analysis. The procedure for ageing of marine mammals at the Faroe Marine Research Institute is now fully implemented.

Pilot whale teeth are in progress for analyses of nitrogen, carbon and oxygen stable isotopes, for ecological studies, as part of the TOPLINK project.

The Environment Agency are regularly collecting **pilot whale** samples for a tissue bank, where the aim is to take samples from three schools a year, with generally 25 individuals from each. In