



GUERNSEY
SAILING
TRUST

our **SEALIFE**

Common Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*)



Bottlenose dolphins are typically grey, with a darker back that fades to a lighter belly, a form of camouflage called countershading. Adults typically range from 2 to 4 meters (6.6 to 13 ft) long.



Common Dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*)



Known for their speed and acrobatic displays, common dolphins are generally smaller than bottlenose at 1.7 - 2.5m. They have a distinctive hourglass pattern on their sides, including an obvious yellow-cream area starting behind the long, narrow beak.





They are highly social animals, often seen traveling in groups (pods) that can range from a few to hundreds of individuals. They are known for bow riding and playing in the wakes of boats. Sightings are possible throughout the year, but more frequent during the warmer months when fish shoals (mackerel, sea bass, pilchard) are abundant.

Risso's Dolphin (*Grampus griseus*)



They are large, stocky dolphins (up to 4m long) with a blunt, beakless head and a tall, sickle-shaped dorsal fin. Calves are grey or brown, but accumulate white scars throughout their lives from social interactions (tooth-raking) and encounters with their prey, making older individuals appear almost entirely white.

Harbour Porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*)

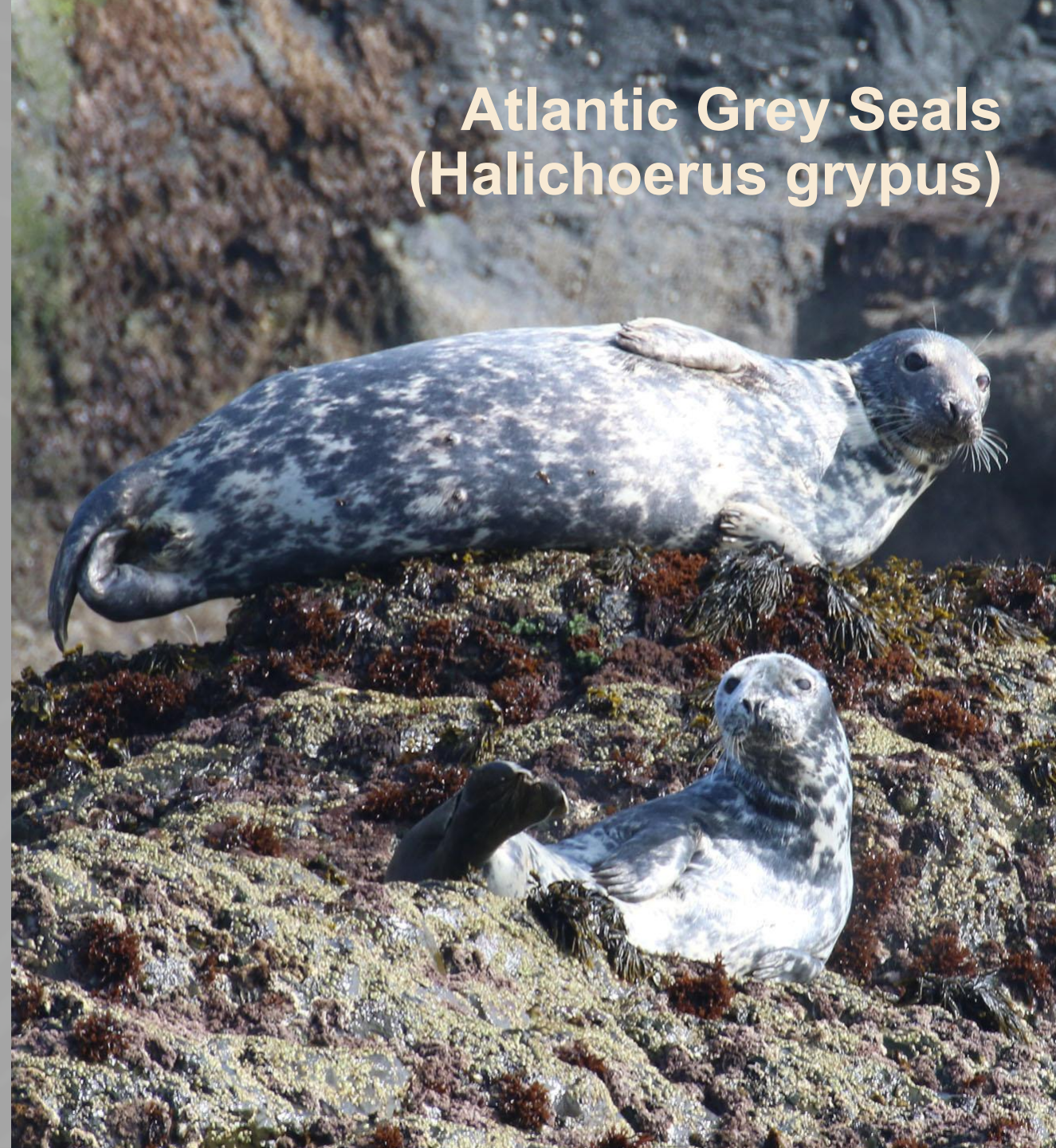


They are known for their rounded body, blunt snout, and a small, triangular dorsal fin. Smaller than dolphins 1.5 to 1.9 meters. They have a dark gray back, lighter gray sides, and a white belly. A dark patch is often visible on their chin and along a stripe from the mouth to the flipper.



They have a distinctive, long head with a sloping "Roman nose" profile and parallel nostrils. Males are generally darker, with light spots and scarring around the neck, while females are lighter, with dark spots and patches. As "true seals," they lack external ear flaps and move on land in a "caterpillar-like" motion, appearing clumsy, but are agile and fast in the water.

Atlantic Grey Seals (*Halichoerus grypus*)



The Guernsey Harbour **FISH**

Atlantic Pollock
(*Pollachius
pollachius*)



Whiting (*Merlangius
merlangus*)



Flathead Grey Mullet
(*Mugil cephalus*)



Sand eels
(*Ammodytidae*)





Moon Jellyfish
(*Aurelia aurita*) - Painless to Mild
Sting



Blue Jellyfish
(*Cyanea lamarckii*) - Mild Sting



Compass Jellyfish
(*Chrysaora hysoscella*) - Painfull
Sting

Comb Jellyfish
(Phylum ctenophora) - No sting
and bioluminescent



Sea Sparkle (*Noctiluca scintillans*) -
plankton that lights up from mechanical
triggers, best in warm seas with algae
bloom

Spiny Starfish (*Martasterias glacialis*)

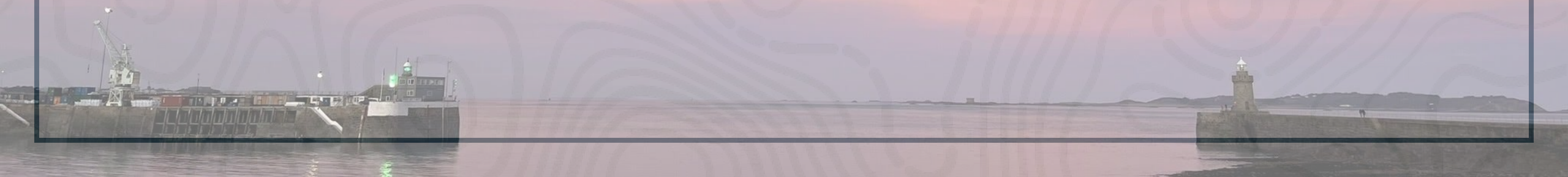


This is one of the larger sea star species, typically measuring between 25 and 40 cm across, but it can grow to a massive 70–80 cm in some cases. It has five slender, tapering arms and a small central disc. Its color can be highly variable, with individuals being yellow, orange, brown, grey, greenish-grey, or tinged with red. The tips of its arms are often purple. The spiny starfish is a hungry predator that feeds on a variety of invertebrates. Its diet includes mollusks like bivalves (e.g., mussels and oysters), crustaceans, and other echinoderms like sea urchins and other sea stars.



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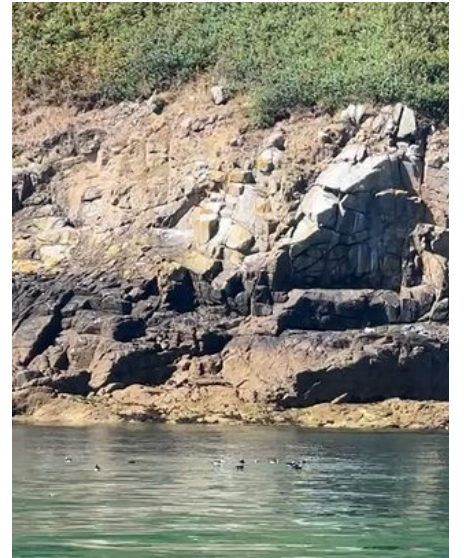
our **BIRDS**



Atlantic Puffins (*Fratercula arctica*)



They average 26-29 cm (10-11 inches) in length with a wingspan of around 53 cm (21 inches). Puffins return to Guernsey to breed between May and July. They nest in burrows on the cliffs of Jethou and Herm. Once the breeding season has finished, they will return to the North Sea and spend the rest of the year at sea.



European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)



Often mistaken for Cormorants, they are more graceful looking birds and prefer wilder, more coastal areas. On Guernsey's East coast, we see more Shags than Cormorants. The word 'shag' refers to the shaggy hair or quiff on the bird's heads during the breeding season. Shags lack a waterproof coating on their feathers; while this makes them less buoyant and better divers, it means they have to dry off after swimming and are often seen holding their wings open to dry.



Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)



Adults are almost entirely black with a bluish or greenish gloss to their feathers, a yellow throat patch, and a grey bill. During breeding season, they develop short white plumes on their head and neck and a white patch on each thigh. Juveniles are a more mottled brown colour with a whitish belly.

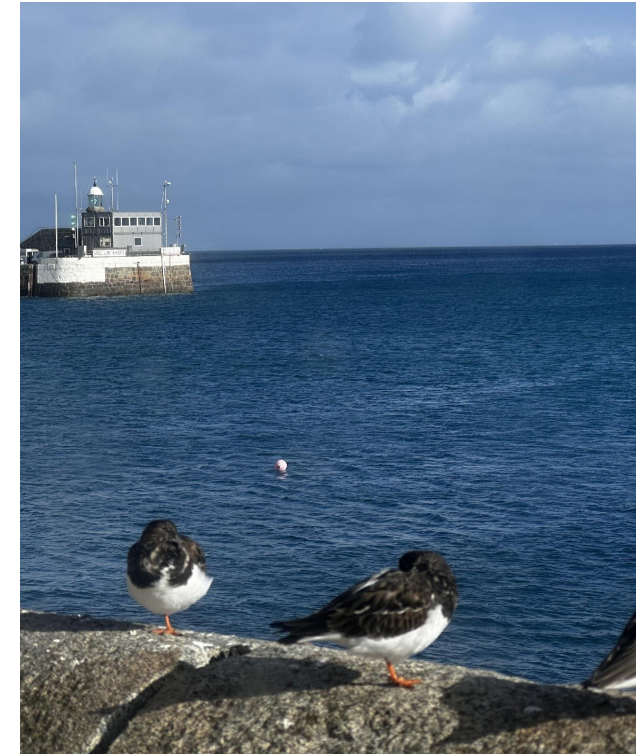
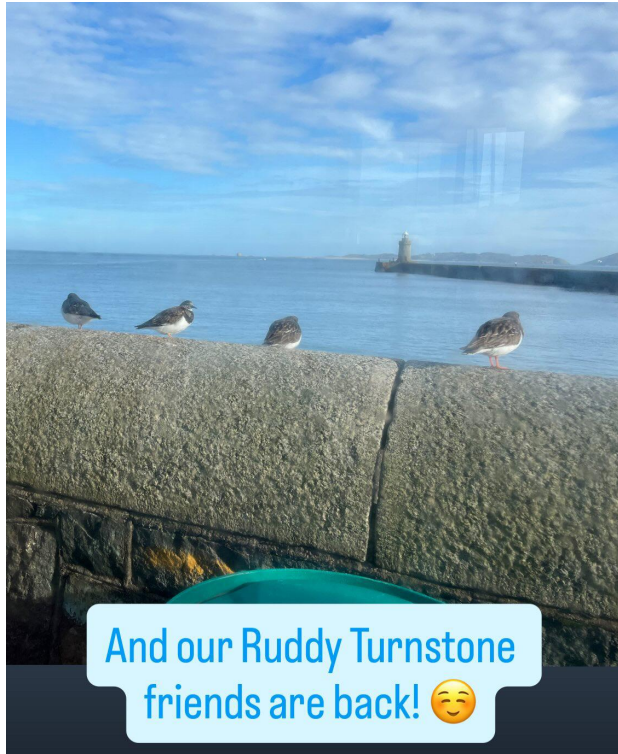




Striking and distinctive, featuring a reddish-brown (rusty) back and wings with bold black patches, a white head with black markings, a black bib on the chest, and white underparts.

Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*)





Known for its unique foraging behavior of "turning over" stones and debris to find food. Breeding season in the arctic migrating to winter habitats that are warmer; nesting in coastal, sandy and rocky shorelines.

Eurasian Oyster Catchers (*Haematopus ostralegus*)



Adults have a black head, neck, back, and tail tip, with white underparts, a white rump, and white patches on the wings visible in flight. They have prominent red eyes and dull pink legs. Females have a slightly longer bill than males. In winter plumage, they develop a white collar on their foreneck. Their strong, laterally compressed orange-red bill (8-9 cm long) is an adaptation for opening shellfish.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)



This bird is a large, long-legged wading bird native to temperate Europe, Asia, and parts of Africa. It is a common and conspicuous bird in wetland habitats, often recognized by its habit of standing motionless in shallow water while hunting for prey. One bird is often seen at low tide in cow's bay.