

Basking shark *Cetorhinus maximus* (Gunnerus) off Cos Clare, Down and Donegal

During cetacean surveys conducted on board the *R.V. Celtic Explorer* between 11 May and 23 September 2004, 6 sightings were made of basking sharks *Cetorhinus maximus* (Gunnerus). On 23 May, two sightings of single basking sharks were recorded 35km and 42km west from the mouth of the Shannon Estuary off the Co Clare coast (52°31'20"N 10°33'46"W & 52°30'38"N 10°27'24"W). On 26 June another two sightings of single animals were recorded 26km north and 30km north-west of Portstewart, Co Derry (55°26'03"N 7°00'28"W & 55°26'01"N 6°57'53"W). On 12 and 13 August a further two animals were seen 13km north of Portstewart, Co Derry and 13km north of Dunmore Head, Co Donegal (55°17'50"N 6°51'23"W & 55°24'46"N 7°03'13"W).

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