

## 1.5m Atlantic mammals

A LARGE-SCALE international survey has estimated there are more than 1.5 million whales, dolphins and porpoises in the European Atlantic.

The results of the 22-year study, which were presented at the European Cetacean Society conference in Denmark this week, were coordinated by Professor Phil Hammond and Claire Lacey from the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) at St Andrews University.

The most abundant species were harbour porpoise (467,000), common dolphins (468,000) and striped dolphins (372,000).

Another study, led by St Andrews University ecologist Esther Jones, revealed that seals may experience hearing loss from underwater vessel noise.

The research, published in the *Journal of Applied Ecology*, compared seals inhabiting the UK's busy shipping lanes to humans living in noisy cities.

