

The Mortgage Shop Corporate Adoption Update – November 2006

Although observations recently have been a bit tricky because of bad weather, there are spells of good weather where I'm able to get out and about to see which dolphins are in the local vicinity. Freedom has been with the "inner core" group of dolphins since the end of summer, consisting of around 18 other individuals, all well known to me.

Wednesday the 22nd of November dawned bright and almost flat calm, so an invite from my research colleagues to join them on the boat was warmly welcomed as the dolphins haven't been coming as close to the shoreline recently, making it difficult to get good identification photos. I normally study these dolphins from the shore so getting out on the water is, for me, a little treat!

After changing one of the hydrophone units along the coast we went in search of dolphins - we didn't have to look very far! There in the distance was a very familiar shape, breaching high in the air as usual. Freedom was letting us know where she and the rest of the other dolphins were.

We had a terrific encounter that lasted about two hours and we managed to get some good shots, one of which is Freedom in action about ten metres from the boat.

Earlier this season Freedom gave me a real shock. Standing on the beach with the camera as usual, I spotted the familiar hooked dorsal fin and looked on in disbelief as she came past with a tiny baby! There were no other dolphins close by on this sighting so I immediately thought "She's done it, clever girl!" However, after watching her for a few days it soon

became clear that she was actually babysitting for another female. Normally female dolphins do not allow other individuals to look after their calves until several months after birth, so it once again proves to me what immense trust the other dolphins have in Freedom.

On behalf of everyone here at WDCS, thank you once again for your continued support!

Charlie Phillips
WDCS Dolphin Field Officer

