



Kelly Ann Dempsey

Marine enthusiasts are counting on Angus residents to help record the apparent increase of cetacean activity in local coastal waters.

As the area gains a reputation for dolphin sightings, hopes are high it might also see a repeat of rare visitors such as the humpback whale recently spotted in Montrose Bay.

The plea for sightings of dolphins, porpoises and other species to be reported has come from Kelly Ann Dempsey, leader of the coastal and marine working group of the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership. Through the www.marinelifeangus.co.uk website hosting the Angus Cetacean Awareness Project, residents are being encouraged to record sightings and can access information on local hotspots.

Kelly Ann said: "There have been regular sightings at more than seven locations on the Angus coast of species including bottlenose dolphins, minke whale, porpoise, common dolphin and even humpbacks."

A particular hotspot is Scurdie Ness lighthouse at Ferryden.

The number of sightings reported rose in 2014 and more than 100 bottlenose dolphins were recorded.

Kelly Ann added: "We are always looking for more sightings and would like to encourage those out on the coast or on inshore waters to regularly report what they see, and encourage others to do so too."

The group also aims to publicise other schemes recording local butterflies, maritime plants and marine non-native species.