

Common dolphin (Delphinus delphis) Distribution: Tropical and temperate waters of Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans and

Distribution: Tropical and temperate waters of Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans and many seas: (see map below and full list of countries in the detailed species account online at: https://wwhandbook.iwc.int/en/species/common-dolphin)

Adult length: 2.7m (male) Adult weight: up to 200kg (male) Newborn: 80-93

Tall, slightly curved dorsal fin with pointed tip. May have lighter patch in the centre Pale grey patch extending Dark grey cape dips down to tail stock into a sharp point marking the centre of the criss-cross Streamlined body Yellowish or tan Distinct crease patch between forehead and beak Dark grey skin is covered with Unique hourglass or criss-cross light coloured blotches and pattern, with a yellow/beige Long and slender white, yellow, or orange patches patch at the front and a light beak - may be of whale lice and barnacles grey patch at the back, sepawhite-tipped Long and slender rated by the pointed dip in the Curved dark grey or beak - may be dark grey dorsal cape black flippers contrast white-tipped Dark streak from against a pale body lower jaw to flipper

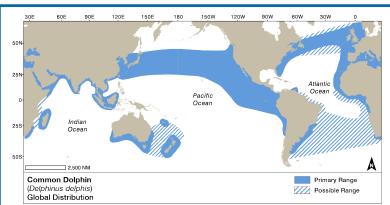
Threats: bycatch, contaminants, habitat loss Habitat: nearshore, continental shelf, offshore Diet: fish, squid

IUCN Conservation status: Least Concern Mediterranean subpopulation: Endangered

Black Sea subspecies: Vulnerable

Common dolphins (D. d. delphis) in Spain. Photo courtesy of IWC POWER





Common dolphin distribution. Adapted by Nina Lisowski from Würsig,B., Thewissen, J.G.M. and Kovacs, K.M. Editors (2018) "Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals", 3rd ed. Academic Press, Elsevier: San Diego. CA. Copyright Elsevier: http://www.elsevier.com.

There are four recognised subspecies of common dolphins throughout the species' range: The common dolphin (*D. d. delphis*); Eastern North Pacific long-beaked common dolphin (*D. d. bairdii*); the Black Sea common dolphin (*D. d. ponticus*); and the Indo-Pacific common dolphin (*D. d. tropicalis*).

Fun Facts

Common dolphin groups are extremely vocal, and their squeaks and whistles can sometimes be heard from above water or through a boat hull.

Commondolphinsarehighlyactiveand acrobatic, able to leap as high as 3m before slapping back down in the water. Common dolphin off the coast of Oman displays the typically long beak and a pronounced hour-glass pattern. Photo courtesy of Tim Collins

