Common dolphin (Delphinus delphis)

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

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

Common dolphins are highly active and acrobatic, able to leap as high as 3m before slapping back down in the water.

Fun Facts

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).