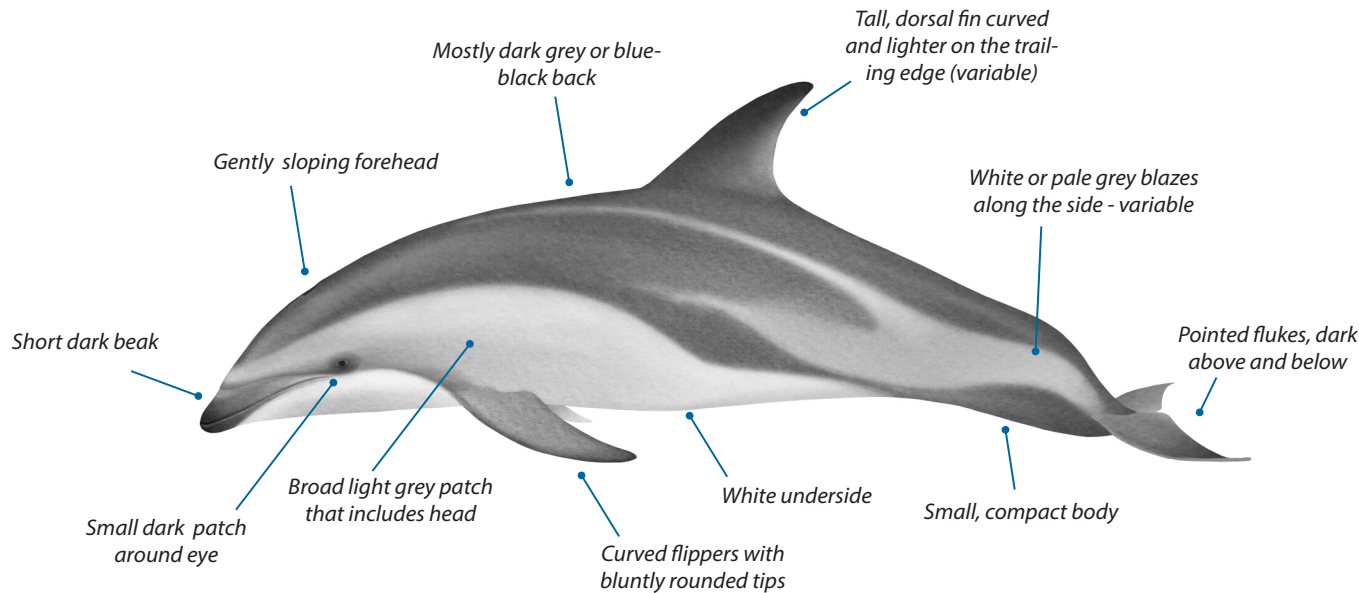




# Dusky dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus obscurus*)

Distribution: Tropical and temperate waters of Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans: (see map below and full list of countries in the detailed species account online at: <https://www.handbook.iwc.int/en/species/dusky-dolphin>)

Adult length: 2.1m  
Adult weight: 70-85kg  
Newborn: 80-100cm /9.6kg



Threats: Bycatch  
Habitat: Nearshore, continental shelf, offshore  
Diet: Schooling fish, squid

IUCN Conservation status: **data deficient**



Close-up of dusky dolphin flank and dorsal fin showing distinctive blaze and markings.

Photo courtesy of Monique Laubscher, Namibian Dolphin Project.

## Fun Facts

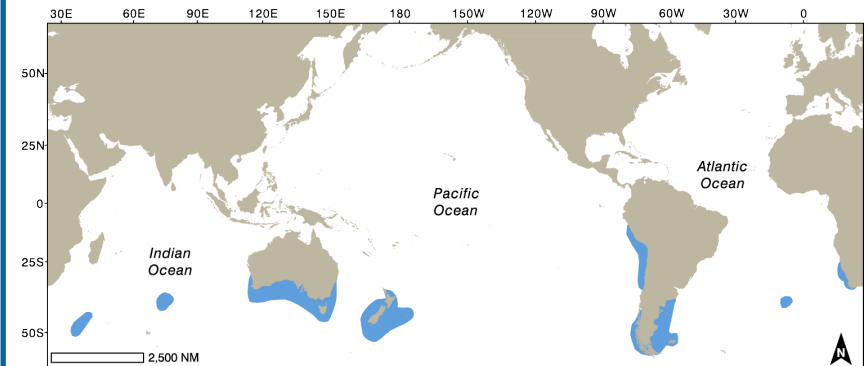
- Dusky dolphins are adaptable feeders-sometimes feeding close to shore during the day, and at other times moving offshore to feed in deep water at night and returning to shallow waters to rest during the day.
- Dusky dolphins are highly acrobatic, and are known for high leaps and antics during feeding and socializing.



Dusky dolphins in South Africa Photo courtesy of Simon Elwen/Sea Search.



Dusky dolphin in South Africa Photo courtesy of Simon Elwen/Sea Search.



**Dusky Dolphin**  
(*Lagenorhynchus obscurus*)  
Global Distribution

Primary Range

Dusky dolphin distribution. Adapted by Nina Lisowski from J Copyright Elsevier: <http://www.elsevier.com>

Dusky dolphins are limited to the Southern Hemisphere, and are generally found in coastal areas. There are four recognised sub-species in different locations:

- *L. o. fitzroyi* - Fitzroy's dolphin
- *L. o. obscurus* - African dusky dolphin
- *L. o. posidonia* - Peruvian/Chilean dusky dolphin
- *L. o. un-named subsp.* -New Zealand dusky dolphin