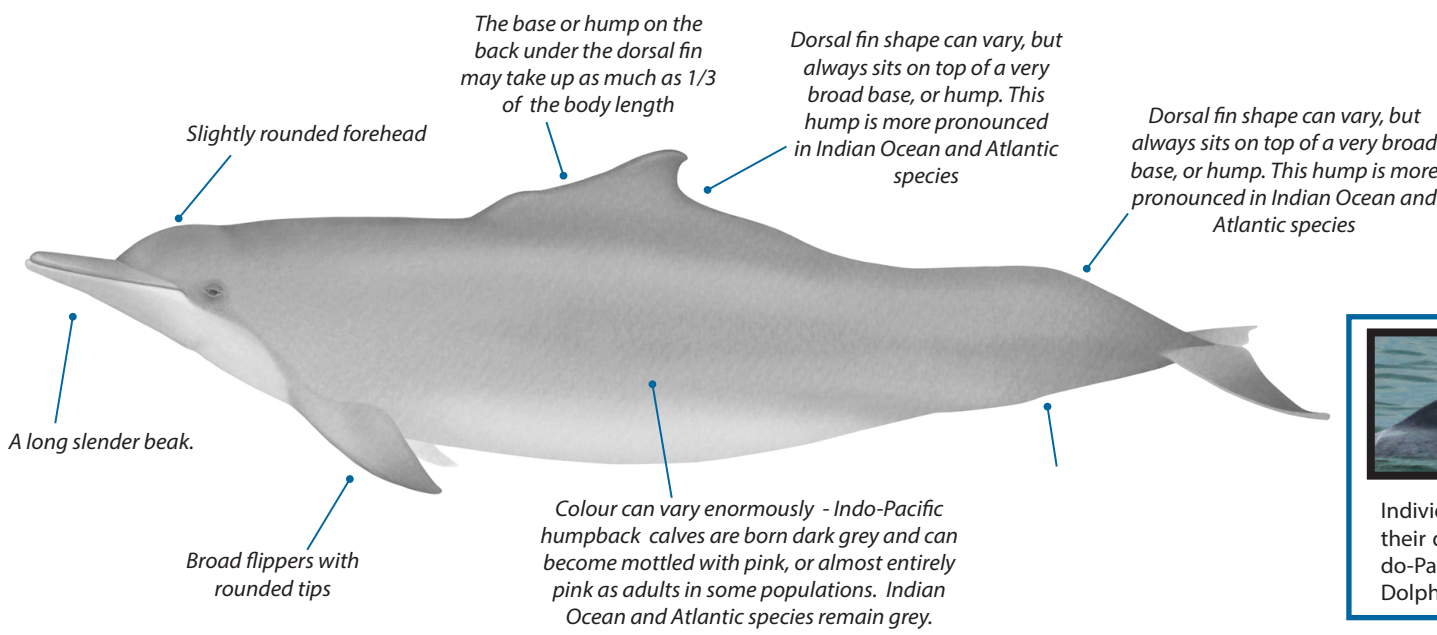


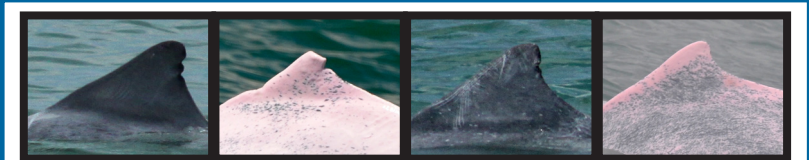
# Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa spp.*)

Distribution: Coastal waters of Africa, Australia and Asia (see map below and full list of countries in the detailed species account online at: <https://www.handbook.iwc.int/en/species/humpback-dolphin>)

**Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin**  
 Adult length: 2.7m (male)  
 Adult weight: up to 240kg (male)  
 Newborn: 100cm / 14kg



Threats: Bycatch, habitat loss  
 Habitat: Estuarine, nearshore  
 Diet: Fish, cuttlefish  
 IUCN Conservation status:  
 Indo-Pacific : **Vulnerable**  
 Indian Ocean: **Endangered**  
 Atlantic : **Critically Endangered**  
 Australian : **Vulnerable**



Individual humpback dolphins can be recognised by the nicks and scars on their dorsal fins, through a process called photo-identification. These are Indo-Pacific humpbacks from Malaysian Borneo. (photos courtesy of Sarawak Dolphin Project).

**Indian Ocean humpback & Atlantic humpback**  
 Adult length: 2.8m (male)  
 Adult weight: up to 280kg (male)  
 Newborn: 100cm / 14kg

Indian Ocean and Atlantic humpback dolphins are all grey and do not have the pink mottling of Indo-Pacific humpbacks. They also have a more pronounced hump under their dorsal fin.  
 Indian Ocean humpback dolphin in Oman:  
*Photo courtesy of Graeme Hornby*



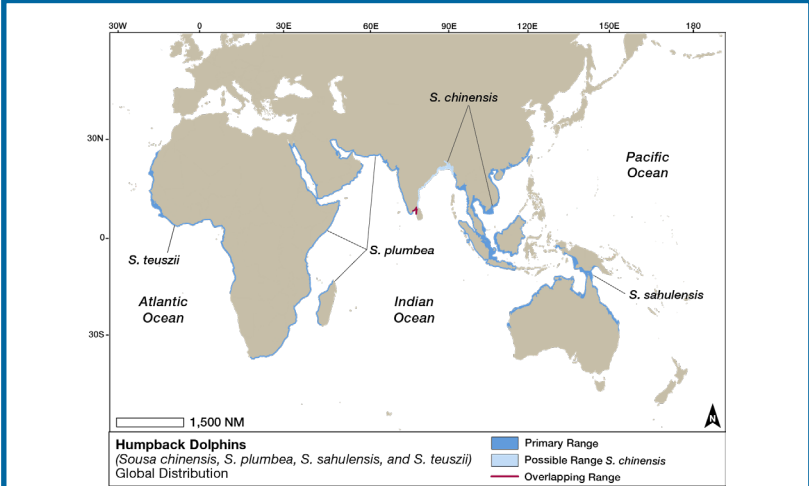
Australian humpback dolphins have a distinct diagonal dorsal 'cape' visible in this photo from northern Queensland.  
*Photo courtesy of Guido Parra.*



In some populations of Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins, calves are born grey, but can become increasingly mottled until they are almost fully pink as adults.  
*Photo courtesy of Sarawak Dolphin Project*



Male Atlantic and Indian Ocean humpback dolphins can have extremely pronounced humps under their dorsal fins, like this individual from Gabon.  
*Photo Gianna Minton, WWF Gabon*



Humpback 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 species of humpback dolphins that occur in different parts of the world : the Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*), the Indian Ocean humpback dolphin (*S. plumbea*) the Atlantic humpback dolphin (*S. teuszii*) and the Australian humpback dolphin (*S. sahulensis*).