

Spinner dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*)

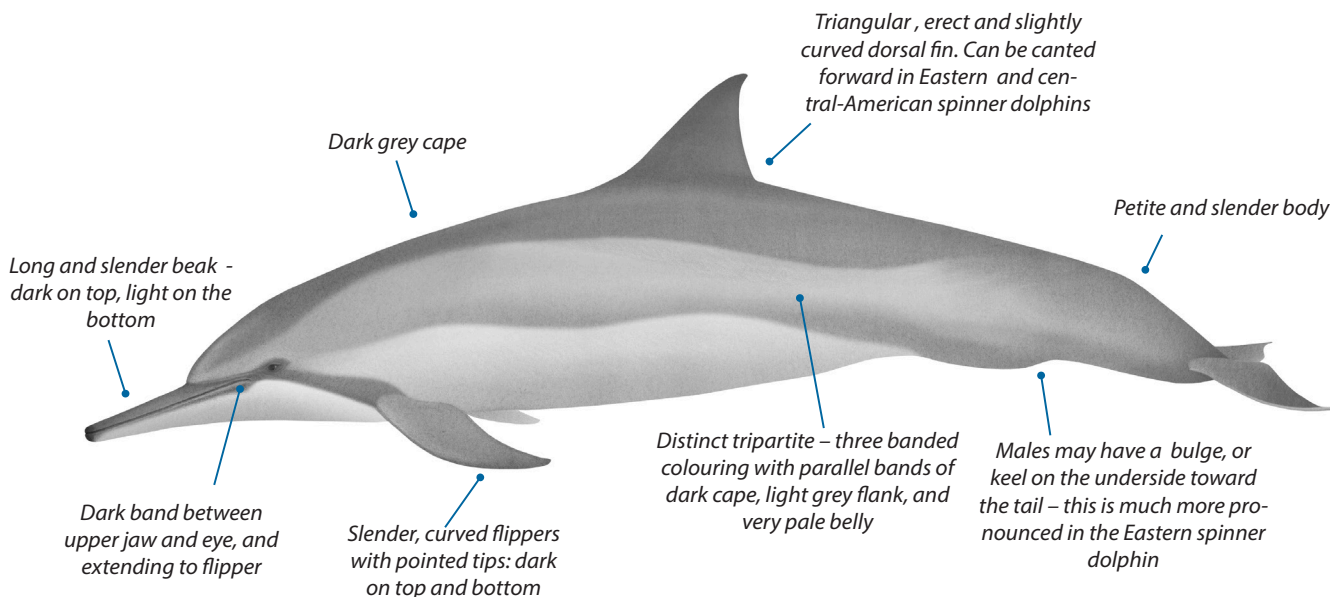
Distribution: Tropical waters of Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans: (see map below and full list of countries in the detailed species account online at: <https://www.handbook.iwc.int/en/species/spinner-dolphin>)

Gray's spinner dolphin

Adult length: up to 2.35m (male)

Adult weight: up to 82kg (male)

Newborn: 75-85cm



Threats: Bycatch

Habitat: Continental shelf, offshore

Diet: Small schooling fish

IUCN Conservation status: **Data Deficient**

Eastern spinner dolphin: **Vulnerable**



Gray's spinner dolphin in the Indian Ocean. Note the clear three-part colour pattern, with the dark dorsal cape dipping down under and slightly behind the dorsal fin.

Photo courtesy of Chris Johnson

Fun Facts

- Spinner dolphins can spin on their lateral axis—making up to 7 full rotations in one leap.
- Spinner dolphins can form mixed groups with other dolphin species, numbering thousands of individuals.
- Spinner dolphins in Hawaii move offshore to feed in deep waters at night, and come back to protected shallow bays to rest during the day

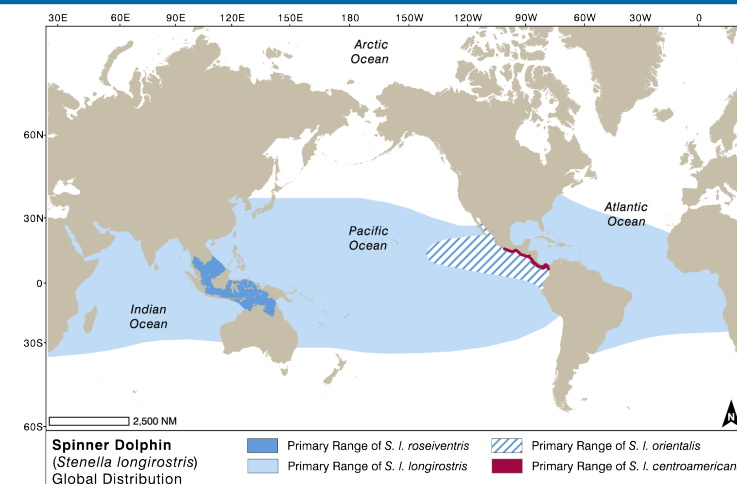
Dwarf spinner dolphins reach a maximum length of 1.58m, and have a pinkish belly (the reason for their Latin name - 'roseiventris'). They are found primarily in Southeast Asia.

Photo courtesy of Rubaiyat and Liz Mansur



Eastern spinner dolphins are more elongate, are evenly grey all over their bodies, and have a dorsal fin that looks as if it were placed backward, curving forward toward the head rather than back toward the tail.

Photo courtesy of Robert Pitman



Spinner dolphin distribution map. Adapted by Nina Lisowski from Jefferson, T.A., Webber, M.A. and Pitman, R.L. (2015). "Marine Mammals of the World: A Comprehensive Guide to Their Identification," 2nd ed. Elsevier, San Diego, CA. Copyright Elsevier: <http://www.elsevier.com>.

There are four recognised subspecies of spinner dolphins throughout the species' tropical range: Gray's spinner dolphin (*Stenella longirostris longirostris*), Eastern spinner dolphin (*S. l. orientalis*), central American spinner dolphin (*S. l. centroamericana*) and the Dwarf spinner dolphin (*S. l. roseiventris*).