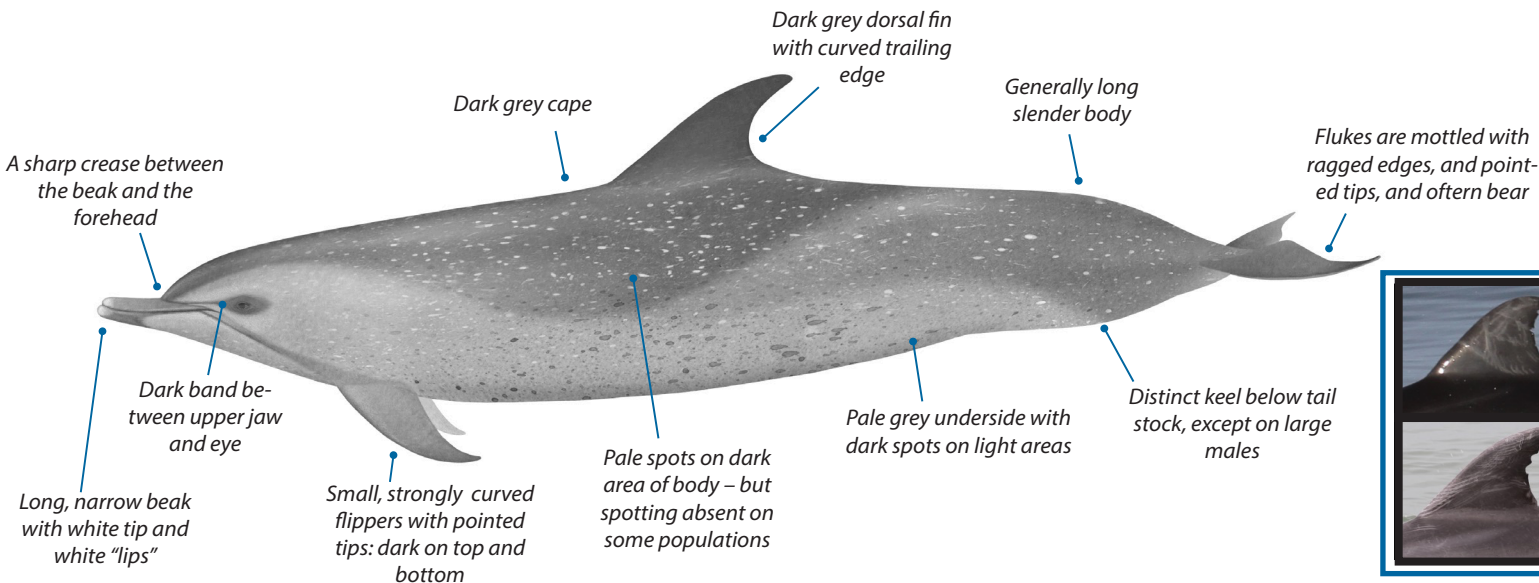


Spotted dolphin (*stenella sp.*)

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

Pantropical spotted dolphin
Adult length: 2.6m (male)
Adult weight: up to 120kg (male)
Newborn: 85cm /unknown






Threats: bycatch
Habitat: continental shelf, offshore
Diet: small schooling fish

IUCN Conservation status:
Pantropical spotted dolphin: **Least Concern**
Atlantic spotted dolphin: **Data Deficient**



Individual spotted dolphins can be recognised by the nicks and scars on their dorsal fins, through a process called photo-identification. years. (photos Gianna Minton/WWF Gabon)

Fun Facts

-  Pantropical spotted dolphins often associate with yellowfin tuna, and fishermen use the dolphins, that are more visible at the surface, to locate tuna.
-  Sadly this makes the species vulnerable to bycatch in fishing operations, particularly in the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP).
-  Offshore herds of pantropical spotted dolphins may number in the thou-

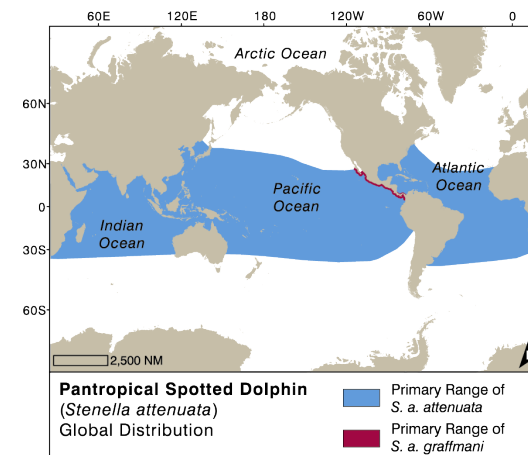
Atlantic spotted dolphin

Adult length: 2.26m (male)
Adult weight: up to 140kg (male)
Newborn: 90-110cm /unknown

Atlantic spotted dolphins are generally shorter but more robust than pantropical dolphins – with a chunkier body and thicker beak. Their colour pattern progresses over time from unspotted to spotted
Photo courtesy Chris Johnson



Not all pan tropical spotted dolphins are spotted. These animals in the Indian Ocean are recognized more by the shape of their cape (which dips down low under and in front of the dorsal fin) and long slender body shape than any obvious spotting. Offshore populations tend to be more slender than inshore populations which are more robust. Photo courtesy Chris Johnson



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 two species of spotted dolphins with tropical ranges that overlap in the Atlantic: the Pantropical spotted dolphin (*Stenella attenuata*), and the Atlantic Spotted dolphin (*Stenella frontalis*). Pantropical spotted dolphins are further divided into two recognized subspecies, the offshore spotted dolphin (*S.a. attenuata*) and the Coastal spotted dolphin (*S.a. graffmani*).