



Tursiops truncatus

Common name: **Common Bottle-nose Dolphin**Latin name: **Tursiops truncatus**

Local name: أبو سلامة



ECOLOGY

Type:

Wild

Role in Ecosystem:

The bottle-nose dolphin is an apex predator in the marine ecosystem.

HABITAT

Bottlenose dolphins are found in temperate and tropical waters around the world. They inhabit a wide variety of habitats, including harbors, bays, gulfs, and estuaries, as well as nearshore coastal waters, deeper waters over the continental shelf, and even far offshore in the open ocean.



Food

Carnivore

Dolphins are active predators and eat a wide variety of fishes, squids, and crustaceans such as shrimps.

They use different techniques to pursue and capture prey, searching for food individually or cooperatively. For example, they work together to herd fish into groups and then take turns charging through the school of fish to feed. They may also trap schools of fish against sand bars and seawalls for an easy meal. They use passive listening and/or high frequency echolocation to locate prey.

Instead of using their teeth to chew, dolphins grip fish with their teeth, then swallow the fish whole, head first, so the spines of the fish don't catch in their throats.



Movement and Communication

Communication

Dolphins rely heavily on sound production and reception to navigate, communicate, hunt, and avoid predators in dark or limited vision waters. As they do not have vocal cords in its larynx; sounds are probably produced by air movements in the nasal passage. Dolphins have two dorsal bursa/phonic lip complexes, which can operate independently and simultaneously. Bottlenose dolphins can produce both clicks and whistles at the same time. They also use echolocation, which enables them to locate and discriminate objects by projecting high-frequency sound waves and listening for echoes as the sound waves reflect off objects. Dolphins produce clicking sounds and then receive and interpret the resulting echo.

Movement

Their streamlined body propelled by powerful tail flukes exceptionally equips the bottlenose dolphin to dive deep or swim swiftly. It can reach speeds of 22 miles per hour (35 kph), and its cruising speed of 5 miles per hour (8 kph) keeps pace with the fastest human swimmers.



Social Habits

Social

Bottlenose dolphins may travel alone or in groups, and the groups often break apart and reform. Their travel is characterized by persistent movement in a consistent direction. Resting is often characterized by tight group formations, slow movement, and intervals of methodical breathing. Coastal bottlenose dolphins are primarily found in groups of 2 to 15 individuals. The associations of the animals are fluid, often repeated but not constant. Solitary coastal animals are observed in various regions of the world. Bottlenose dolphin communities around the world are described as "fission-fusion" societies. This means that individuals associate in groups dynamically: they merge or split within the same aggregation several times per day. It has been seen that some societies live in large mixed-sex groups with strong associations within and between the sexes. Bottlenose dolphin females form alliances primarily to obtain food resources, and their association with males seem to be mainly linked to a reproductive goal. Bottlenose dolphin males in Shark Bay, Australia, have been observed to form groups to socialize and obtain access to females by two different strategies. One strategy involves the formation of a small and stable alliance (two to three males), where males cooperate to control individual females in reproductive condition. Then, teams of two or more of this alliance cooperate to attack other alliances or defend against them, forming second-order alliances. A second strategy involves the formation of flexible alliances within a stable large second-order alliance called "superalliance". Here, individual males frequently switch their alliance partners within the superalliance.

Reproduction

Viviparous

Bottle-nosed dolphins generally begin to reproduce when they are between 5 and 15 years old, with the exact age varying by population. Female bottlenose dolphins can reach sexual maturity before birth. Females are pregnant for about 12 months and give birth, on average, every 3 to 6 years. Once calves are born, they nurse for 20 months or so and generally stay with their mothers for 3 to 6 years. Females as old as 45 have given birth.

Attributes

Weight

300 to 1,400 pounds

Length

6 to 13 feet

Lifespan

40 to 60 years

INTRODUCTION

Common bottlenose dolphins are found throughout the world in both offshore and coastal waters, including harbors, bays, gulfs, and estuaries of temperate and tropical waters, including the Red Sea and coast of Sudan. They are one of the most well-studied marine mammals in the wild. In addition, they are easy to view in the wild because they live close to shore and are distributed throughout coastal and estuarine waters. But this puts bottlenose dolphins at increased risk of human-related injuries and death. They are a highly intelligent species and use sound both for communication and to hunt for food.

Bottlenose dolphins get their name from their short, thick snout (or rostrum). They are generally gray in color. They can range from light gray to almost black on top near their dorsal fin and light gray to almost white on their belly. Bottlenose dolphins living in nearshore coastal waters are often smaller and lighter in color than those living offshore.

LIVELIHOODS AND CULTURE

Human interaction

No information available.

Cultural value

No information available.

Cultural expression

No information available.

THREATS

Biotoxins, chemical contaminants, disease, fisheries entanglements and gear ingestion, habitat alteration, illegal feeding and harassment, ocean noise, oil spills and energy exploration, vessel strikes.

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