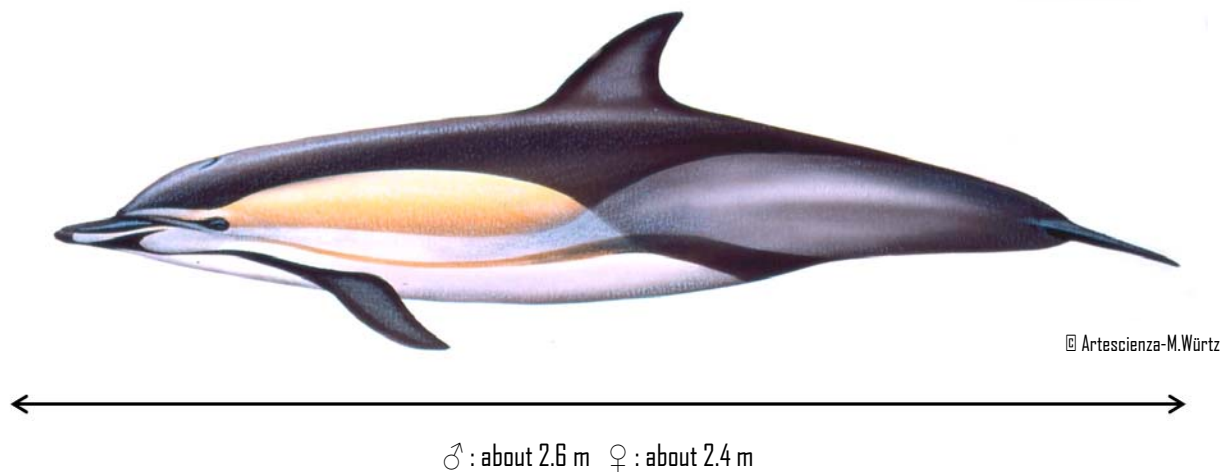


Class: Mammalia Order: Cetacea Sub-order: Odontoceti Family: Delphinidae Genus: <i>Delphinus</i>	IUCN global conservation status: Minor preoccupation ACCOBAMS/IUCN global conservation status: Threatened (Mediterranean Sea) and Threatened (Black Sea)	
	Mediterranean: Regular	Black Sea: Regular
SHORT-BEAKED COMMON DOLPHIN <i>Delphinus delphis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)		

English: Short-beaked common dolphin



Name: ♦ Scientific: From Greek *delphinos* and *delphis* = dolphin.
♦ Common: Because it used to be one of the most common species.

DESCRIPTION	<i>Typical dolphin</i>
Size:	Male: 2.0-2.6 m – between 60 and 130 kg Female: 2.4 m - between 60 and 130 kg Newborn: 80-90 cm - about 10 kg In the Mediterranean, animals rarely exceed 2.3 m. In the Black Sea, mean length is 1.6 m (max 2.2 m in males and 2 m in females).
Head:	Snout long and well-separated from the forehead bulge. On the cranium, there are two grooves in the palate, about 1 cm deep at mid-jaw, which are distinctive and can differentiate it from the striped dolphins when stranded, where the pigment is lost. 40 to 50 teeth on each half-jaw.
Body:	Spindle-shaped and slender. Relatively complex colouration: black back, tracing a triangle pointing down just under the dorsal fin. Light-coloured throat and belly. The anterior portion of the side is yellowish, and merges into a grey band placed along the tailstock. The eye is surrounded by a dark rim. Characteristic: a coloured hourglass pattern on the side, with black, grey, white and yellow colours. Colours and patterns vary considerably from one individual to another. Anatomical features, such as number of teeth or the shape of the body or skeleton, also vary.
Dorsal fin:	Sickle-shaped, black, with a white spot more or less visible in the middle.
Pectoral fins:	Sickle-shaped and pointed, black with occasionally a light spot in the middle.
Tail:	Dark coloured, concave, with a deep median notch.

DISTRIBUTION

The short-beaked common dolphin frequents temperate areas in the tropical waters of the Atlantic, Pacific and probably the Indian Ocean.

MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS.

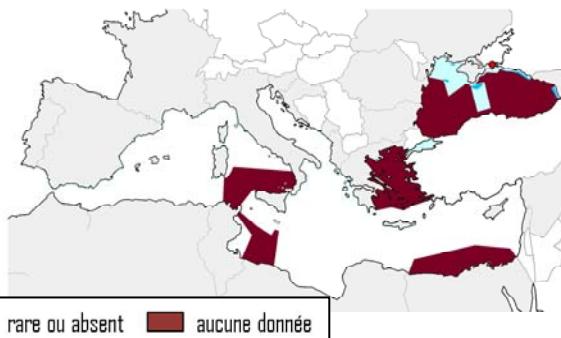
Mediterranean Sea

One of the most common Mediterranean species. Relatively abundant in the Alboran Sea. Observations are reported off Algeria, Sardinia and Corsica, in the Tyrrhenian Sea (Ischia Peninsula) in the Strait of Sicily, around Malta in the eastern Ionian Sea and the Gulf of Corinth, in the Aegean Sea and off the southern coast of Israel.



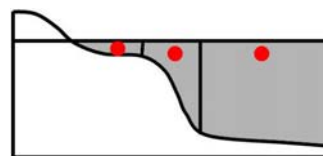
Black Sea

Different subspecies are found, *D. d. Ponticus* (Barabash-Nikiforov, 1935) in the Black Sea. The population is represented in most of the Black Sea. Communities apparently isolated have been observed north of Sardinia, in the southern Tyrrhenian Sea, in the eastern Ionian Sea and in the northern Aegean Sea.



HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Found in both oceanic and neritic environments.



BEHAVIOUR

At sea level, often found with the striped dolphins. In the neritic region, often seen with bottlenose dolphins. Observations in the eastern Ionian Sea reveal that they are very loyal to one site. Lives in groups of 50- 70 animals, with larger aggregations sometimes occurring.. However, in the eastern Ionian Sea, the number of individuals in groups is rarely greater than 15, and groups of more than 40 individuals have not been observed (Bearzi et al. Site. (Bearzi *et al.* 2003). The species is known to feed mostly at night, and travel, socialise and rest during the day. This is an active species, known to frequently bow-ride.

Longevity: 30 years, sometimes up to 50 years.

Swimming speed: 3- 5 kts (6-9 km/h), but capable of reaching 25 kts (45 km/h)

Dives: Short dives (about 2-5 min), to 50-70 m, but are capable of diving to 300 m for over 10 minutes.

REPRODUCTION

Sexual maturity: 8-10 years for females and 12-15 years for males.

Breeding season: Summer

Gestation: 11 months. Births occur every 2-3 years.

Nursing: At least 5-6 months.

FOOD

They feed mainly on shoals of small epipelagic fish (Agazzi *et al.* 2004).

THREATS

Interactions with fisheries, xenobiotic contamination, accidental captures in fishing gear.