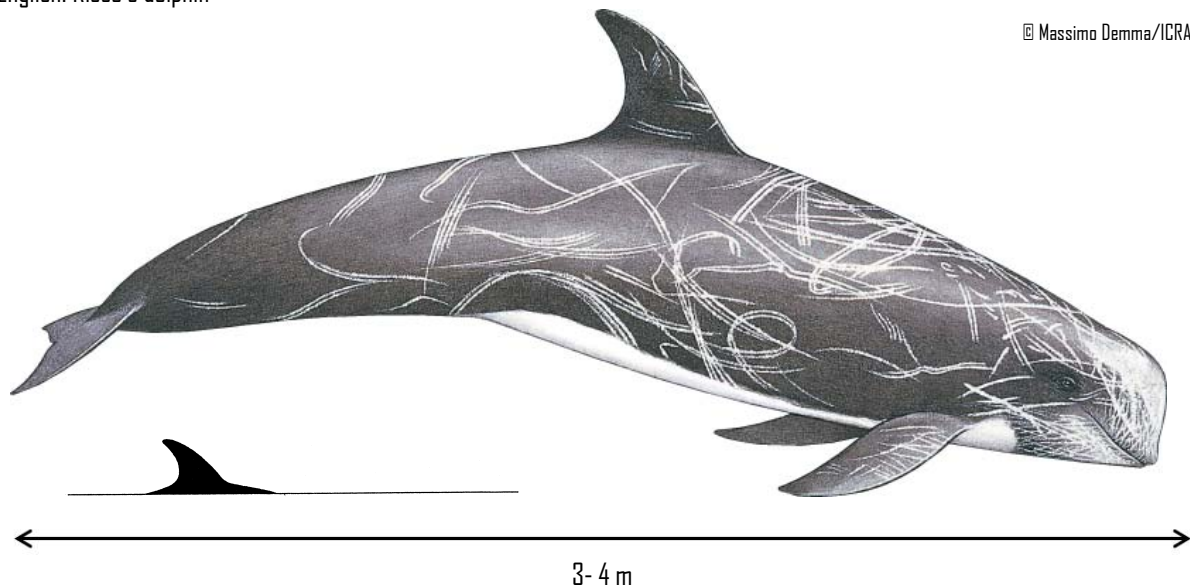


Class: Mammalia Order: Cetacea Sub-order: Odontoceti Family: Delphinidae Genus: <i>Grampus</i>	IUCN global conservation status: Minor preoccupation ACCOBAMS/IUCN global conservation status: Insufficient data (Mediterranean)	
	Mediterranean: Regular	Black Sea: Absent
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Risso's DOLPHIN</i> <i>Grampus griseus</i> (G. Cuvier, 1812)</p>		

English: Risso's dolphin

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Name:	♦ Scientific:	Either from Latin <i>grandis</i> and <i>piscis</i> = fish, or from ancient French meaning <i>grand poisson</i> , and from Latin <i>griseus</i> = grey.
	♦ Common:	Named after Antoine Risso, naturalist from Nice, who described in 1812 a <i>Grampus</i> stranded near Nice.

DESCRIPTION	"Scarface"
Size:	Adult: 3-4 m - 250-400 kg Newborn: 1.2-1.5 m
Head:	Massive, with a globous forehead descending abruptly towards the mouth. The melon is divided into two hemispheres by a shallow longitudinal groove, only visible in good observational conditions The corner of the mouth slopes up at 45° towards the eye. 3-7 pairs of teeth in the lower jaw. No snout.
Body:	Massive and powerful. Colouration: dark grey. A white, heart-shaped pattern is present under the throat and extends backwards towards the genital region. Calves are light grey and darken with time. Characteristic: the body is covered progressively with linear whitish scars caused by social interactions, lasting several years. Eventually, the whole body turns white in older individuals. These scars are useful for photo-identification of individuals.
Dorsal fin:	Long and pointed, sickle-shaped, immediately recognisable mainly by its whitish scars.
Pectoral fins:	Long and pointed, sickle-shaped.
Tail:	Wide and very indented.
Blow:	Inconspicuous, bushy, 0.5-1 m, slightly leaning towards the front.

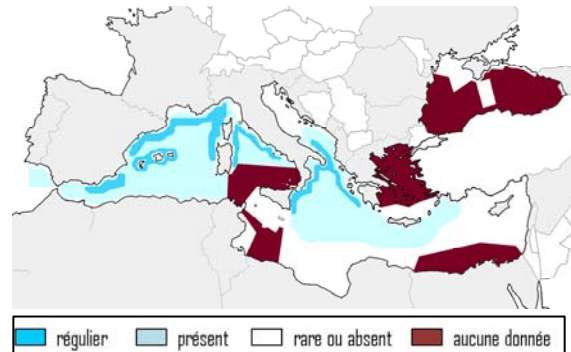
DISTRIBUTION

Cosmopolitan in temperate and tropical waters, approximately between 60° N and 60° S latitude.

MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS.

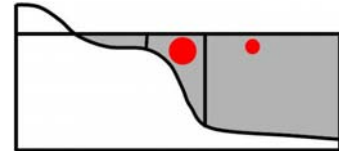
Common along the northern shores of the Western Mediterranean, the Balearic Islands, the Ionian Sea (including Gulf of Taranto) and west of the Aegean Sea. An animal was recorded stranded on the Turkish coast of the Northern Aegean Sea (Tonay *et al.* 2009). Spotted off the coast of Israel. Occasionally strays in the Northern Adriatic Sea. No data is available for the Southern Mediterranean Sea.

Absent from the Marmara Sea and the Black Sea.



HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

They prefer deep water and shelf break areas where the slope is the steepest. When the shelf is narrow, they move inland.



BEHAVIOUR

A gregarious species living in groups of 3 to 20 individuals. Larger aggregations can include up to several hundred individuals. In spite of its robust body, it is a rather agile species.

These animals are relatively demonstrative with sudden acceleration, "spy-hopping", "headstanding", with the tail vertically out of the water, tail or fin slaps on the surface of the water and other similar behaviours. Breaches are less frequent and occur mostly during social interactions. They occasionally "comb" the sea in search of prey, each animal travelling at a fixed distance from its neighbours.

Risso's dolphin does not seem to be particularly attracted to vessels and only rarely approach slower boats to bowride.

They are frequently associated with other species, for instance long-finned pilot whales and striped dolphins.

Longevity:	Unknown, but supposedly greater than 30 years
Swimming speed:	1-3 kts (2-6 km/h), but capable of reaching 20 kts (35 km/h)
Dives:	Short (few minutes), but may last longer than 30 min.

REPRODUCTION

Sexual maturity:	10-13 years (i.e. at a body length of 2.6-3 m).
Breeding season:	Mating in late summer and early autumn. Births mainly summer.
Gestation:	About 12-14 months.
Nursing:	-

FOOD

Squid and cuttlefish and more rarely fish.

THREATS

Entanglement in pelagic driftnets (Notarbartolo di Sciara 1990, Bearzi *et al.* 2010) and longlines (Valeiras & Camiñas 2001), noise pollution, ingestion of plastic debris (Bearzi *et al.* 2010c) and contamination (Marsili et Focardi 1997, Shoham-Frider *et al.* 2002).