

Stenella clymene (Gray, 1850)

DELPH Sten 5

DCL

FAO Names: En - Clymene dolphin; Fr - Dauphin de Clyméné; Sp - Delfín clymene.

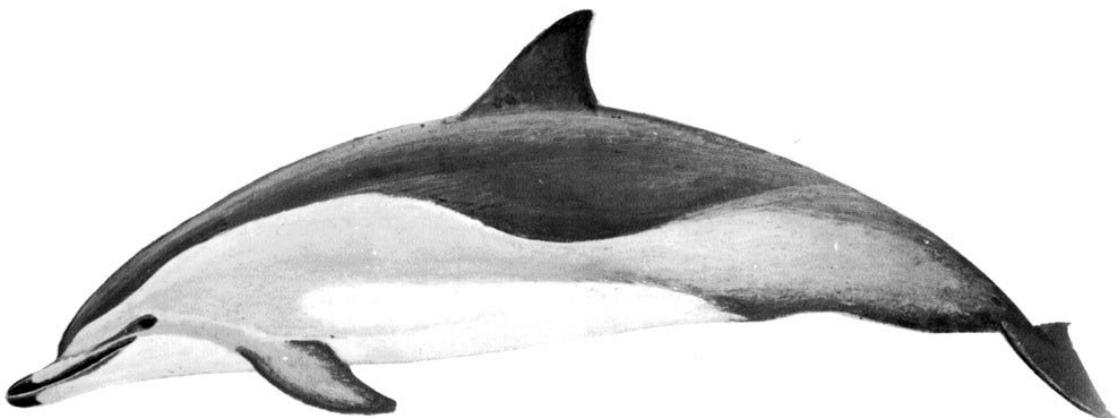
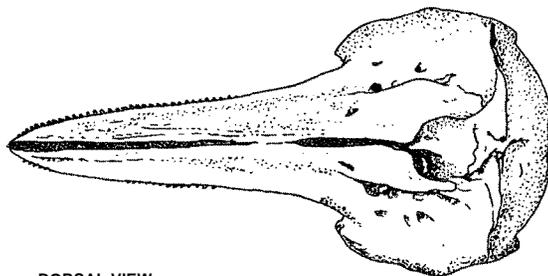


Fig. 337 *Stenella clymene*

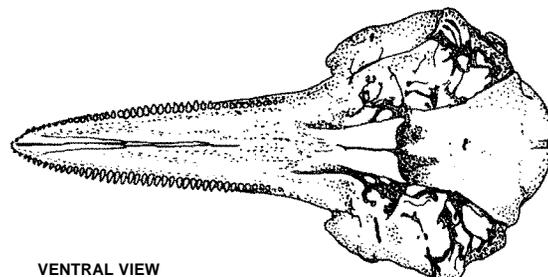
Distinctive Characteristics: The clymene dolphin is externally similar to the spinner dolphin, but is smaller and more robust, with a much shorter and stockier beak. The dorsal fin is slightly more falcate, as opposed to the often very triangular dorsal fins of spinner dolphins. Despite these external similarities with the spinner dolphin, skull morphology indicates that the clymene dolphin may be closely related to the striped dolphin.

A three-part colour pattern, with a dark grey cape, light grey sides, and white belly, is characteristic of this species. The cape dips in 2 places, above the eye, and below the dorsal fin. The beak is mostly light grey, but the lips and beak tip are black. There is also a dark stripe on the top of the beak, from the tip to the apex of the melon, and often a dark “moustache” marking on the middle of the top of the beak. The eye is also surrounded by black, and a dark grey stripe runs from the eye to the flipper.

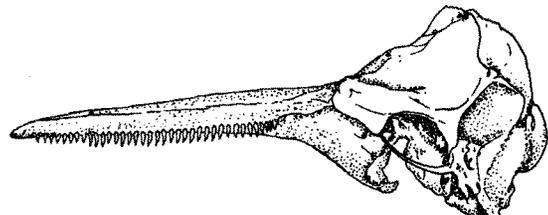
Tooth counts are generally much lower than in spinner dolphins: 38 to 49 teeth per row. They are slender and pointed.



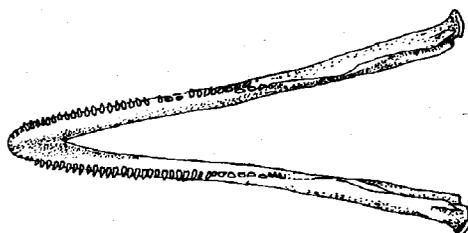
DORSAL VIEW



VENTRAL VIEW



LATERAL VIEW



DORSAL VIEW OF MANDIBLE

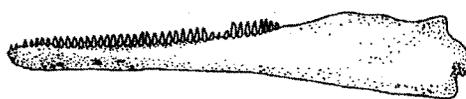


Fig. 338 Skull

Can be confused with: Clymene dolphins are most easily confused with spinner dolphins (p. 160), but are more robust, with shorter stubbier beaks. Also, the colour pattern is slightly different; the 2 dips in the cape and the dark line (and often a "moustache") on top of the beak will allow clymene dolphins to be distinguished. The body shape of clymene dolphins also closely resembles that of short-beaked (offshore) forms of the common dolphin (p. 166), as does the colour pattern in a superficial way. Common dolphins can best be distinguished by their hourglass pattern, cape that forms a V below the dorsal fin, chin-to-flipper stripe, and absence of a "moustache."

Size: So far, clymene dolphins are known to reach at least 2.0 m in length and sexual maturity is reached by about 1.8 m. Newborn length is unknown, but is less than 1.2 m. This species reaches weights of at least 85 kg.

Geographical Distribution: The clymene dolphin is found only in the tropical and subtropical Atlantic Ocean, including the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico. There are records as far north as New Jersey on the U.S. east coast and as far south as southern Brazil. The limits on the West African coast are not well known. This is a deep water oceanic species, not normally seen near shore.

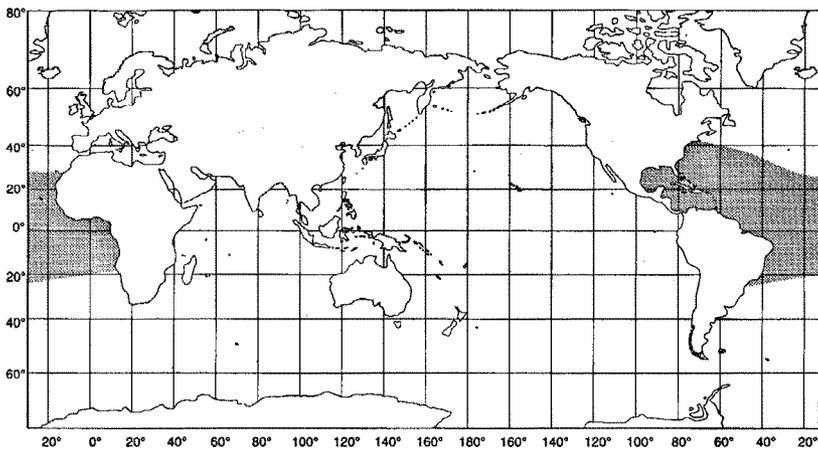


Fig. 339

Biology and Behaviour: Very little is known of the clymene dolphin's natural history. Schools tend to be much smaller than those of spinner dolphins (generally less than 50 animals). They are known to associate with other species of dolphins. These quick and agile dolphins ride bow waves, and have been reported to spin on the long axis.

Clymene dolphins feed on small fish and squid at moderate depths, presumably mainly at night.

Exploitation: In the Caribbean, clymene dolphins appear, at least occasionally, to be taken in the Lesser Antilles small cetacean fishery, and in gillnets. They may be one of the species taken in tuna purse seines in the eastern tropical Atlantic.

IUCN Status: Insufficiently known.

Stenella coeruleoalba (Meyen, 1833)

DELPH Sten 1

DST

FAO Names: **En** - Striped dolphin; **Fr** - Dauphin bleu et blanc; **Sp** - Estenela listada.

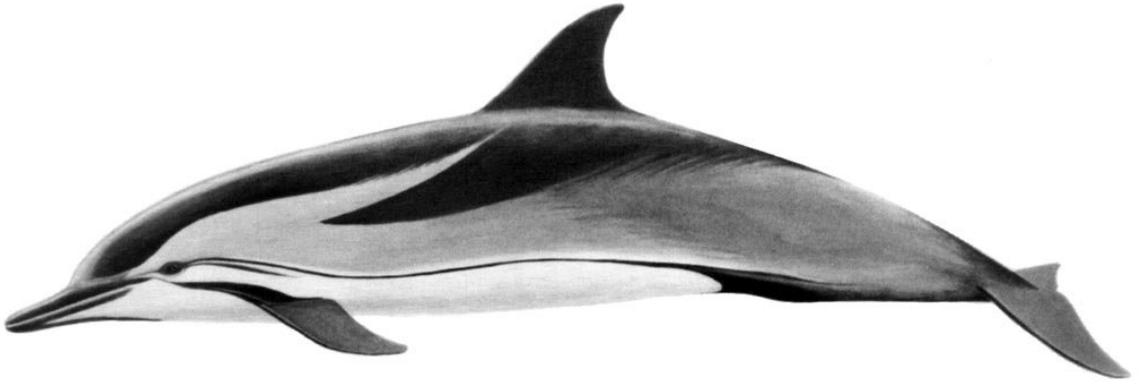
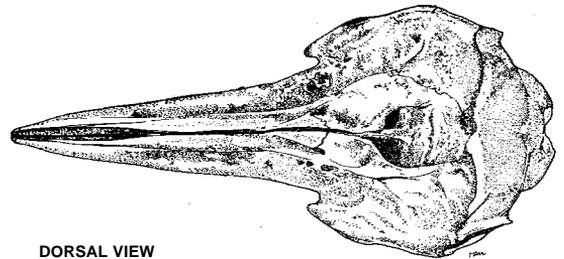


Fig. 340 *Stenella coeruleoalba*

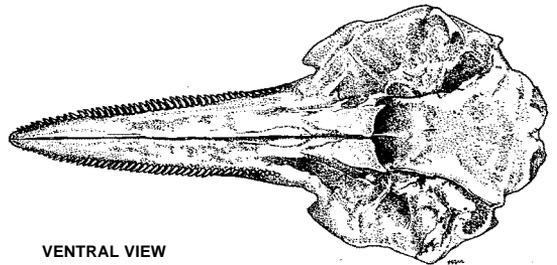
Distinctive Characteristics: The striped dolphin has the body shape typical of the *Stenella* and *Delphinus* species and it is somewhat more robust than spinner and pantropical spotted dolphins, with a falcate dorsal fin and a moderately long beak.

The colour pattern is stunning: a white or pinkish belly and dark grey back are separated by a light grey flank. A variable light grey spinal blaze extends from the flank area to just under the dorsal fin. The black beak sends back a stripe which encircles the eye and then widens and runs back to the anus. There is an eye to flipper stripe and an accessory stripe between the other 2. The appendages are dark grey to black.

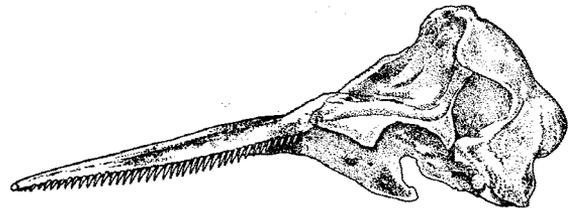
The mouth contains 40 to 55 small, sharp teeth in each tooth row.



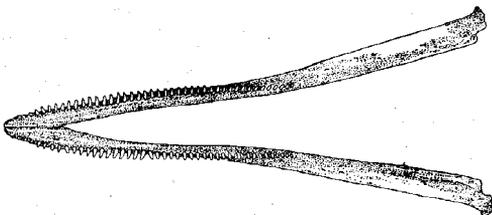
DORSAL VIEW



VENTRAL VIEW



LATERAL VIEW



DORSAL VIEW OF MANDIBLE

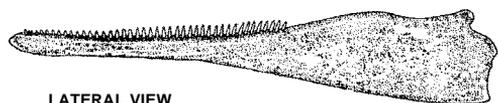


Fig. 341 Skull

Can be confused with: Although the body shape is similar to that of other species in the *Stenella* and *Delphinus* group, striped dolphins are generally easy to distinguish by their unique colour patterns. Fraser's dolphins (p 168) also have an eye-to-anus stripe, but are much more robust, with tiny appendages.

Size: Adult striped dolphins are up to 2.6 m long; males are slightly larger than females. Maximum weight is about 156 kg. Newborns are about 1 m in length.

Geographical Distribution: Although also primarily a warm water species, the range of the striped dolphin extends higher into temperate regions than do those of its closest relatives, the spotted and spinner dolphins. Limits are about 50°N and 40°S. Striped dolphins also are generally restricted to oceanic regions, and are seen close to shore only where deep water approaches the coast.

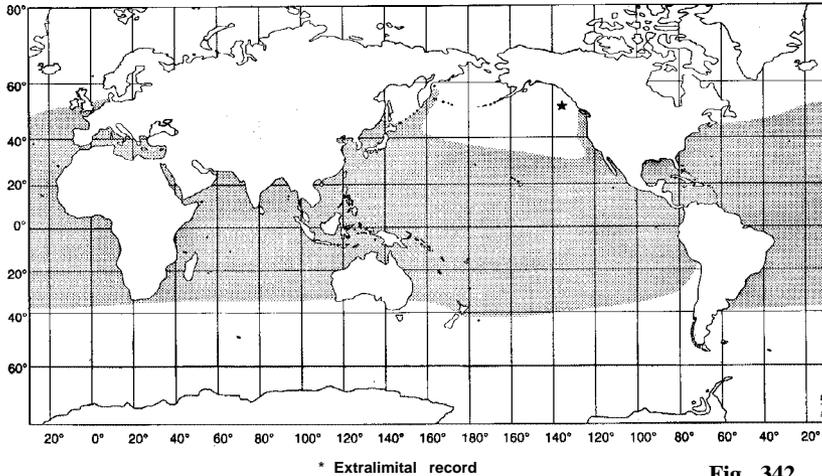


Fig. 342

Biology and Behaviour: Striped dolphins are fast swimmers, and tend to be more easily alarmed than other tropical dolphins; this and their colour pattern have prompted fishermen to call them “streakers.” Although most herds number between 100 and 500 individuals, striped dolphins sometimes assemble into herds of thousands. Off Japan, there appears to be some age and sex segregation of these large herds.

Off Japan, where the biology of this species has been best studied, there are 2 calving peaks: 1 in summer, another in winter.

The diet of this species consists primarily of small, mid-water squid and fish, especially lanternfish.

Exploitation: Striped dolphins are taken in the tuna purse seine fishery in the eastern tropical Pacific, although in much smaller numbers than are spotted, spinner, and common dolphins. This species is the major target of a large drive fishery off Japan, where several thousand are taken each year. They are also caught in the small cetacean fishery of Sri Lanka, in the Indian Ocean. There appears to be some direct capture of striped dolphins in the northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

IUCN Status: Insufficiently known.

Delphinus delphis Linnaeus, 1758

DELPH Delph 1

DCO

FAO Names: En - Common dolphin; Fr - Dauphin commun; Sp - Delfín común.



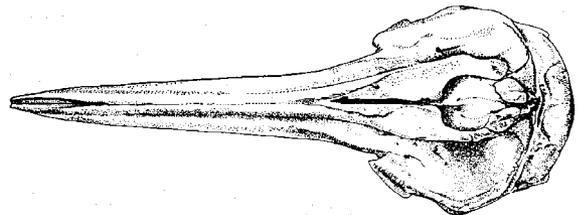
Fig. 343 *Delphinus delphis*

Distinctive characteristics: The common dolphin is a moderately slender animal (although some offshore animals are rather stocky) with a medium to long beak and a tall, slightly falcate dorsal fin.

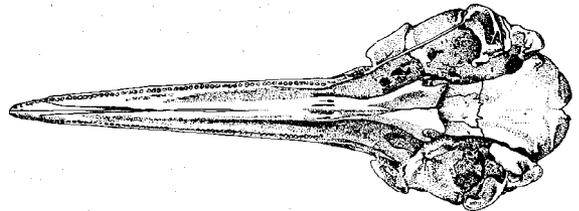
Common dolphins are strikingly marked, with a dark brownish grey back, white belly, and tan to ochre anterior flank patch. This flank patch dips below the dorsal fin and combines with streaks of light grey on the tail stock to produce the species' most characteristic feature, an hourglass pattern on the side. The lips are dark, and there is a stripe running from the apex of the melon to encircle the eye. There is also a black to dark grey chin-to-flipper stripe, and sometimes a thinner stripe running towards the area of the anus.

There are 40 to 61 small pointed teeth per row.

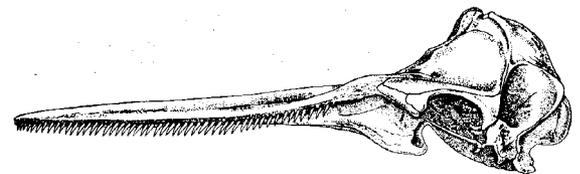
Common dolphins are highly geographically variable, and many regional forms have been described. In several parts of the world, 2 types of common dolphins appear to exist: a long-beaked coastal type (generally with a muted colour pattern), and an offshore type with a shorter beak (the latter comprises several stocks in the eastern tropical Pacific). Recent research indicates that these 2 types represent separate species.



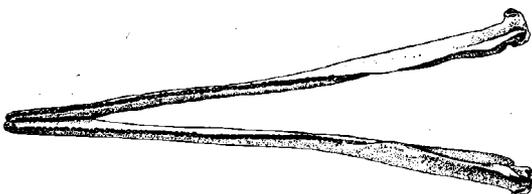
DORSAL VIEW



VENTRAL VIEW



LATERAL VIEW



DORSAL VIEW OF MANDIBLE

Fig. 344 Skull of long-beaked form

Can be confused with: The hourglass pattern on the side should allow common dolphins to be distinguished from other species. Clymene dolphins (p. 162), especially when viewed from above, can look very much like short-snouted forms of common dolphins. A good look at the cape should allow the 2 to be distinguished.

Size: At birth, common dolphins are 80 to 85 cm long. Adults reach lengths of 2.3 m (females) or 2.6 m (males). Weights of up to 135 kg have been recorded. There is a substantial geographical variation.

Geographical Distribution: The common dolphin is a largely oceanic species that is widely distributed in tropical to warm temperate waters of the world. Absolute limits are about 60°N in the North Atlantic, 50°N in the North Pacific, and 50° S in the Southern Hemisphere.

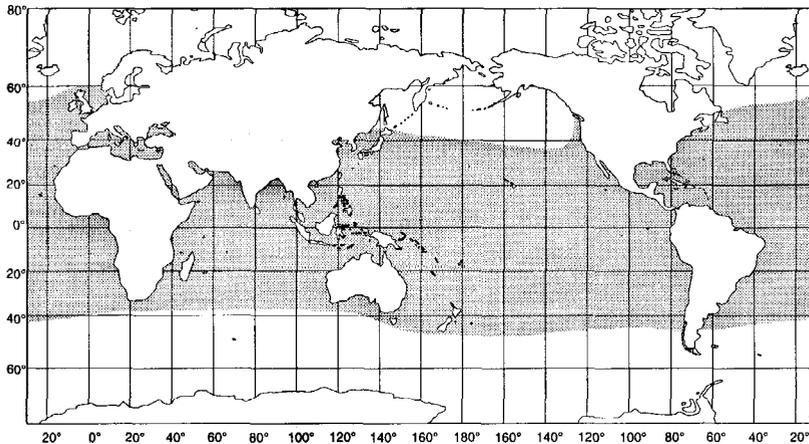


Fig. 345

Biology and Behaviour: Large boisterous groups of common dolphins are often seen whipping the ocean's surface into a froth as they move along at high speed. Herds range in size from several dozen to over 10 000. Associations with other marine mammal species are not uncommon. Active and energetic bowriders (except in prime tuna fishing zones of the eastern tropical Pacific), common dolphins are very familiar to most seagoers in low latitudes. They are often aerially active and highly vocal; sometimes their squeals can be heard above the surface as they bowride.

Breeding peaks in spring and autumn or summer have been reported for some stocks.

The prey of common dolphins consists largely of small schooling fish and squid. Cooperative feeding techniques are sometimes used to herd fish schools. In some areas, common dolphins feed mostly at night on creatures associated with the deep scattering layer (DSL), which migrates toward the surface in the dark.

Exploitation: Common dolphins are taken in many fisheries worldwide. Huge catches by Turkish and Russian fishermen formerly occurred in the Black Sea. Common dolphin stocks there have declined and the fishery has not operated recently; however, there are some reports that it has started up again. The tropical Pacific tuna fishery takes common dolphins from several stocks, and some of these may have been depleted by past levels of mortality. High mortality also occurs off Japan and in the Mediterranean. Some dolphins of this species have been captured live, but do not do as well in captivity as the more coastal bottlenose dolphin. There are known captures elsewhere, as well, such as off West Africa.

IUCN Status: Insufficiently known.

Lagenodelphis hosei Fraser, 1956

DELPH Lagen 1

FRD

FAO Names: En - Fraser's dolphin; Fr - Dauphin de Fraser; Sp - Delfin de Fraser.

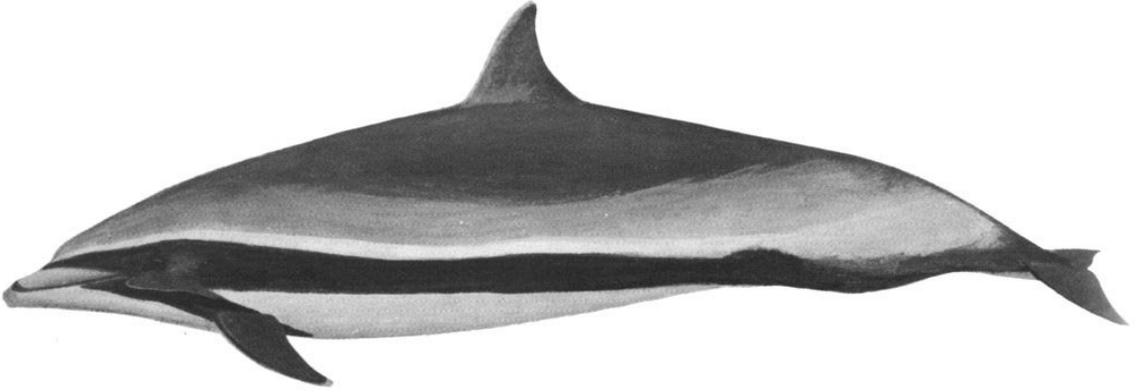
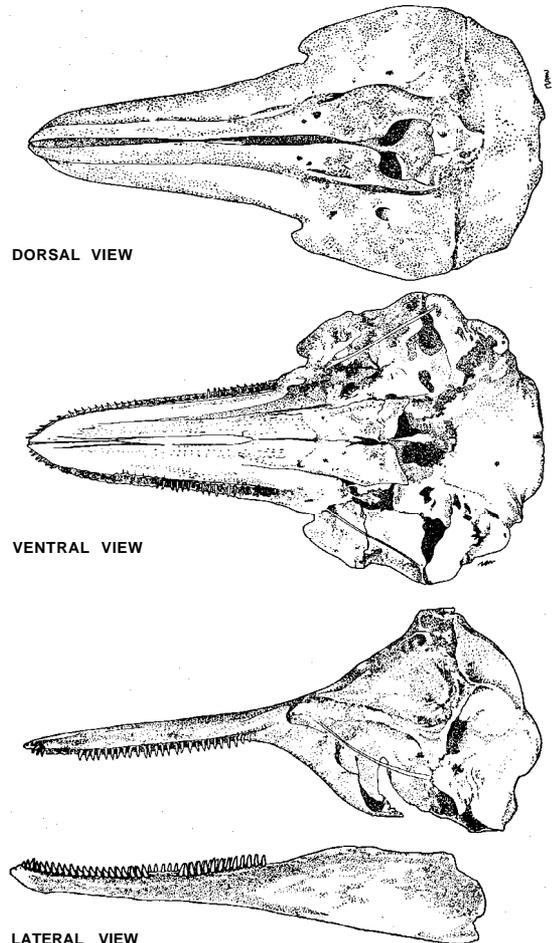


Fig. 346 *Lagenodelphis hosei*

Distinctive Characteristics: For a decade and half, this species was known only from skeletal material, until it was "rediscovered" in the early 1970's. It is a distinctive dolphin, with a stocky body and extremely small appendages. The short dorsal fin is triangular or slightly falcate. There is a very stubby, but well-defined, beak.

The colour pattern is striking; the most distinctive feature is a dark band of varying thickness, running from the face to the anus (in some regions, the band is indistinct). This band is scarcely apparent on young animals, and appears to widen and darken with age in some animals. There is also a flipper stripe that starts at midlength along the lower jaw (in some animals the side stripe is so wide that it merges with the flipper stripe, creating a dark face mask). Otherwise, the back is dark brownish grey, the lower sides are cream coloured, and the belly is white or pink. Young animals in particular may have pinkish bellies.

There are 38 to 44 pairs of sharp teeth in each jaw.



LATERAL VIEW

Fig. 347 Skull

Can be confused with: The unique body shape of Fraser’s dolphin should rule-out confusion with other species, but striped dolphins (p. 164) which also have an eye-to-anus stripe, can be confused with Fraser’s at a distance.

Size: Maximum size is at least 2.7 m. They may reach weights of over 210 kg. Newborns are less than 1 m long.

Geographical Distribution: Fraser’s dolphin has a pantropical distribution, largely between 30°N and 30°S. It is an oceanic species, but can be seen near shore where deep water approaches the coast.

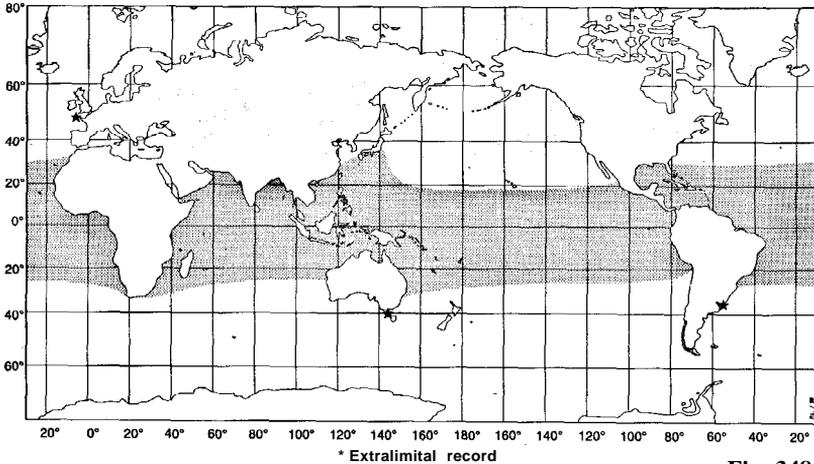


Fig. 348

Biology and Behaviour: There is little known of this tropical and subtropical species. Herds tend to be large, consisting of hundreds or even thousands of dolphins, often mixed with other species, especially melon-headed whales in the eastern tropical Pacific, Philippines and Gulf of Mexico, and Risso’s dolphins and spinner dolphins in the Philippines. In some areas, it is considered shy and difficult to approach; in others it is a bit more approachable. It does not bowride in the eastern tropical Pacific, but it does in most other areas. Running herds create a great deal of white water.

There is not much known of reproductive biology.

Fraser’s dolphins appear to feed on mid-water fish, squid, and crustaceans.

Exploitation: Catches in various fisheries throughout the range are known; however, none appear to be seriously affecting numbers. A few have been captured live and some killed in harpoon and net fisheries in the Philippines. They are occasionally taken in the Japanese drive fishery, and some are taken in Sri Lanka, the Caribbean, and Indonesia.

IUCN Status: Insufficiently known.