dolphins

dolphins are hihly intelligen marine mammals and are part of the family of toothed whales that includes orcas and pilot whales. they are found worldwide, mostly in shallow seas of the continental shelves, and are carnivores, mostly eating fish and squd. Dolphin coloration varies, but they are generally gray in colr with darker backs than the rest of their bodies.

fun facts

size: the familir bottlenose dolphin is around 8 fet (2.5m) long and wieghs between 440-660 lbs (200-300kg).

Because the fortsy species of dolphins are so diverse, they range in size. The smallest of the dolphin species. maui’s dolphin, is around 4 feet (1.2m) long and weighs around 90 lbs (40kg). the largest dolphn species is the orca, or killer whale. Male orcas grow to about 25 feet in length and weigh about 19000 punds.

lifespan: most dolphins live long lives. The bottlnose dolphin can live over 40 years, and the orca can live to be 70 or 80!

Diet

Dolphins consume a variety of of prey including fish, squd and crustaceans.

Population

It is difficult to estimate population numbers since there are many different species spannig a large geographic area.

range

Most species live in shallow areas of tropical and temperate oceans throughout the world.

Behavior

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Like bats, dolphins use echolocation to navigate and hunt, bouncing high-pitced sounds off of objects, and listening for the echoes

Dolphins are well known for their agility and playful behavir, making them a favorite of wildlife watcers. Many species will leap out of the water , spy-hop and follow ships, often synchronizing their movements with one another. scientsts belive that dolphins conserve energy by swimming alongsid eships ,a practice know as bow-riding .

Dolphins live in social groups of five to several hunderd. They use echolocation to find prey and often hunt together by surrounding a school of fish, trapping them and taking turns siwmming through the school an catching fish. Dolphins will also follow sebirds , other whales and fishing boats to feed opportunistacally on the fish they scare up or discard.

Did you know?

To prevent drwoning while sleeping only half of the dolphin’s brain goes to sleep while the ther half remains awake so the can continu to breathe!

dolphins also face a number of other threats including marine pollution, habitat degradation, harvesting, low frequency sonar, entanglement in fishin gear, boat traffic.

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