

Bottlenose Dolphin

Tursiops truncatus

Least Concern

Fact Sheet · Colouring Page · Activities

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Bottlenose Dolphin — Fact Sheet

Scientific name	Tursiops truncatus
Conservation status	Least Concern
Region	All oceans — from tropical to sub-polar waters
Habitat	Coastal bays, estuaries, and open oceans in tropical and temperate waters worldwide
Diet	Carnivore — fish, squid, shrimp, and crabs
Weight	150–650 kg
Size	2–4 m length
Lifespan	40–60 years in the wild
Wild population	Hundreds of thousands; common worldwide

Did You Know?

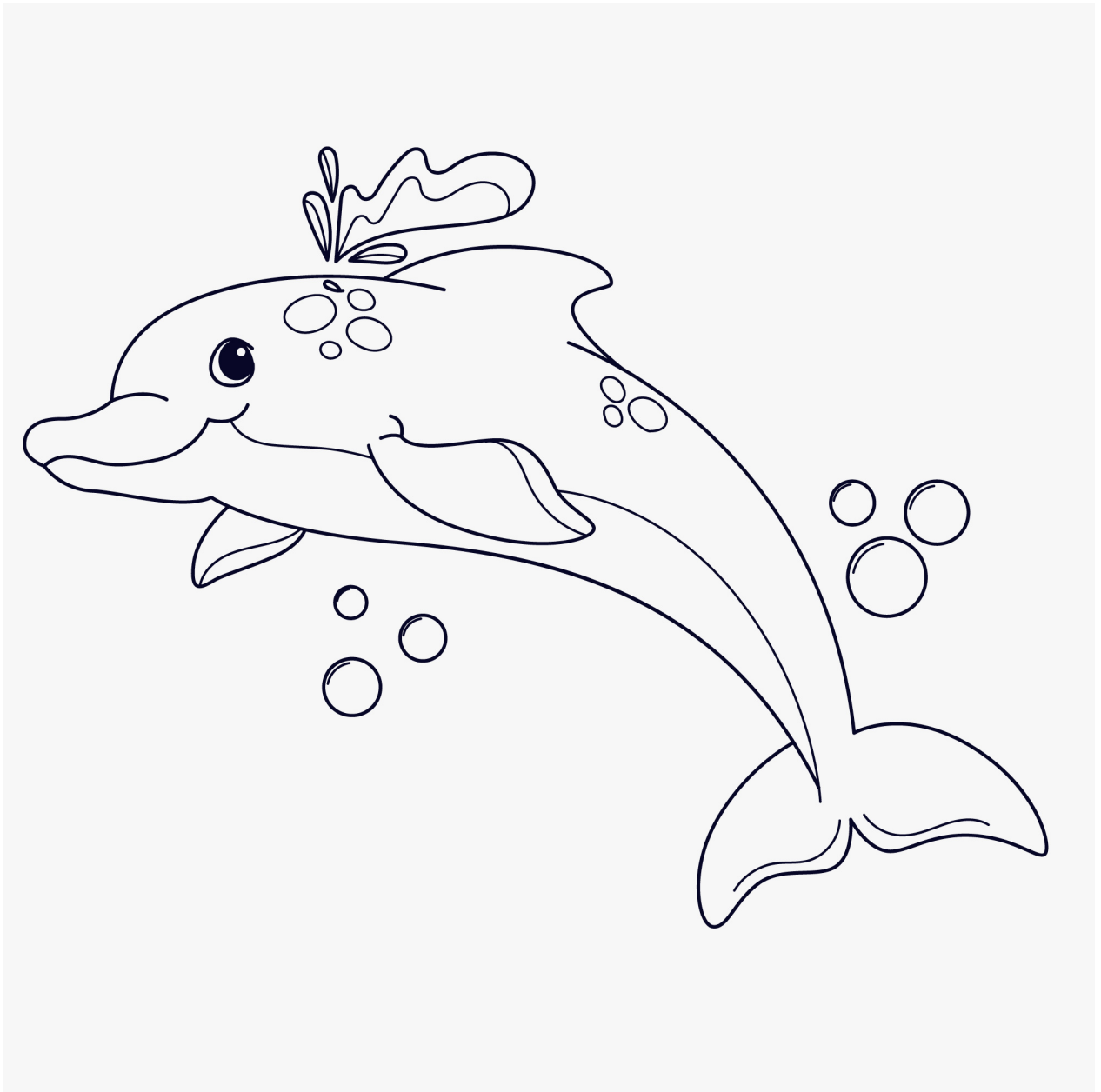
- Bottlenose dolphins use echolocation — they send out clicks and listen to echoes to find fish in murky water.
- They are one of the few animals to use tools: some dolphins wear sea sponges on their snouts to protect them while foraging on the seafloor.
- Dolphins sleep with one eye open — they rest half their brain at a time so they can keep breathing.
- A group of dolphins is called a pod, and can include up to 1,000 members!
- Dolphins can swim at up to 35 km/h and leap 6 metres into the air.
- They have been observed grieving their dead and passing cultural behaviours from mother to calf across generations.

Threats to Survival

1. Bycatch — accidental entanglement in fishing nets
2. Ocean pollution including plastic and chemical runoff
3. Boat strikes and underwater noise disturbance
4. Habitat degradation from coastal development

Colour Me: Bottlenose Dolphin

Bottlenose dolphins are grey on top and paler on the belly — leave the tummy nearly white!



Bottlenose Dolphin — Activities

Word Search

Find all 8 words hidden in the grid.

N	D	O	L	G	B	F	X	I	U	M	E
T	C	Y	S	M	A	M	M	A	L	P	C
T	Q	C	Q	K	Y	G	F	X	K	I	H
D	F	H	N	D	W	U	V	S	S	D	O
P	W	B	O	A	U	V	G	O	J	O	L
C	T	M	F	C	J	Z	R	N	B	L	O
N	Y	A	O	U	E	Y	D	A	W	P	C
L	D	F	Y	A	L	A	C	R	J	H	A
P	P	O	D	Y	F	X	N	T	Q	I	T
O	O	Z	B	J	S	I	S	Q	I	N	I
N	M	W	R	C	K	Z	N	E	G	E	O
B	L	O	W	H	O	L	E	S	W	M	N

DOLPHIN	OCEAN	ECHOLOCATION	POD
MAMMAL	FINS	SONAR	BLOWHOLE

Match It Up

Draw a line from each word on the left to its meaning on the right.

Bottlenose Dolphin		uses echolocation
Pod		breathes air in the ocean
Echolocation		group of dolphins
Bycatch		accidental net capture
Marine mammal		finding food by sound

Fill in the Blanks

1. Dolphins find food using _____, a kind of natural sonar.
2. A group of dolphins is called a _____.
3. Dolphins breathe through a _____ on top of their head.
4. The biggest fishing threat to dolphins is _____.

Answers: echolocation / pod / blowhole / bycatch

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