



## NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

# Short-beaked Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)

### Description

Short-beaked Common Dolphins are slender with a moderately long beak and tall falcate dorsal fin. They have a white belly and a dark gray dorsal cape that dips in a v-shaped “saddle” on either side of the body. The sides of the body are yellow or tan in the front half and a light gray from the back half to tailstock. There is a complex color pattern on the face including a dark eye patch.

### Habitat and Distribution

Short-beaked Common Dolphins are distributed along the continental shelf and pelagic waters of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Confusion with Long-beaked Common Dolphins creates some uncertainty in distribution.

### Sounds

Short-beaked Common Dolphins produce many different vocalizations including whistles for communication (most often upsweeps and downsweeps) and echolocation clicks for foraging.

### Feeding

Short-beaked Common Dolphins feed primarily at night on squid and small schooling fish such as anchovies, lanternfish, hake, and deep-sea smelt.

### Threats

The main current threat faced by Short-beaked Common Dolphins is incidental take in commercial fishing gear (such as longlines, driftnets, gillnets, trawls).

### Fun Fact

Short-beaked Common Dolphins are usually found in large groups with hundreds of individuals, but occasionally they have been seen in groups of thousands!



Allison Henry / NEFSC



NEFSC

Family: Delphinidae  
Population: ~ 3 — 4 million  
Status: Least Concern  
Length: 8 — 9 feet  
Weight: 330 — 440 lbs