



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



PIRFO

Whale, dolphin and sea birds ID cards
for Pacific Islands Regional Fisheries Observers

Prepared by the Pacific Community,
Noumea, New Caledonia, 2016

These identification cards are produced by the Pacific Community (SPC) to help with the identification of species of special interest (protected species) encountered by Fisheries Observers while onboard commercial tuna boats that fish in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). The species included in these cards are the ones commonly recorded by observers on tuna vessels operating in the WCPO. The cards can be easily accessed by observers while working on deck during fishing operations to verify and correctly identify species. The cards also assist in training observers operating within the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area.

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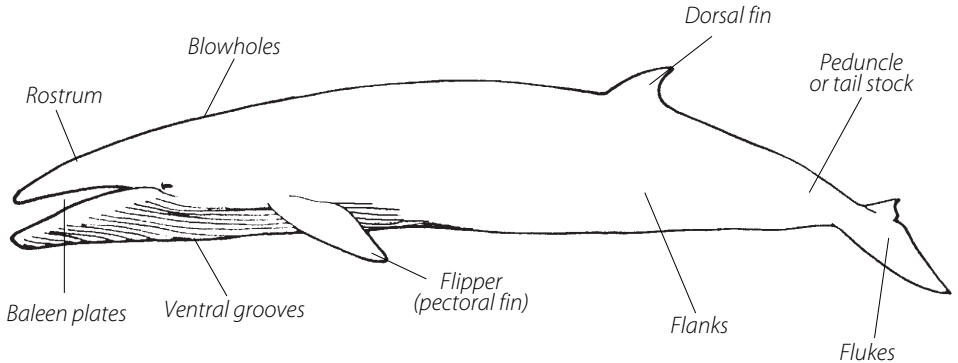
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AACR2

Baleen whales



Blue whale

Balaenoptera musculus

Small dorsal fin located far back on the body



Body blue/grey mottled colouration

BLW

Maximum length: 30 m

Fin whale

Balaenoptera physalus



Single median ridge
on the rostrum



White lower right jaw

FIW

Maximum length: 24 m

Sei whale

Balaenoptera borealis

Large falcate dorsal fin



Single distinct ridge
on the rostrum

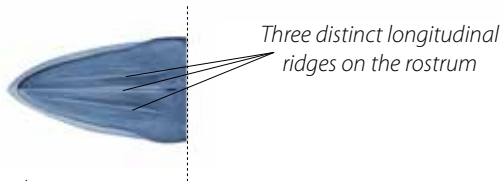


SIW

Maximum length: 18 m

Bryde's whale

Balaenoptera edeni



Three distinct longitudinal ridges on the rostrum

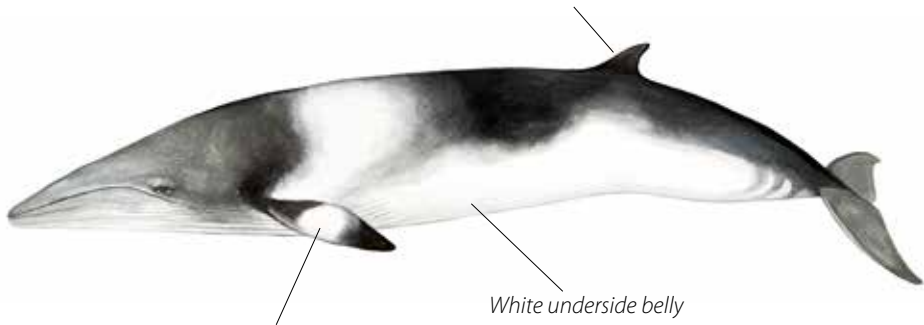
BRW

Maximum length: 15 m

Minke whale

Balaenoptera acutorostrata

Dorsal fin is tall and falcate



White patch on each flipper

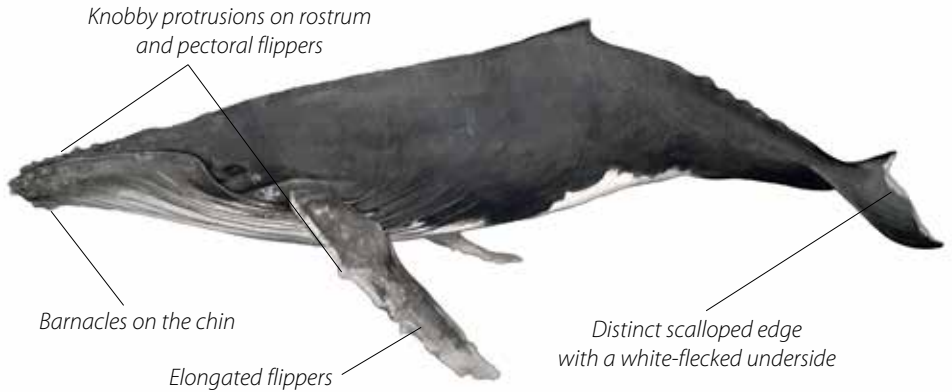
White underside belly



Maximum length: 9 m

Humpback whale

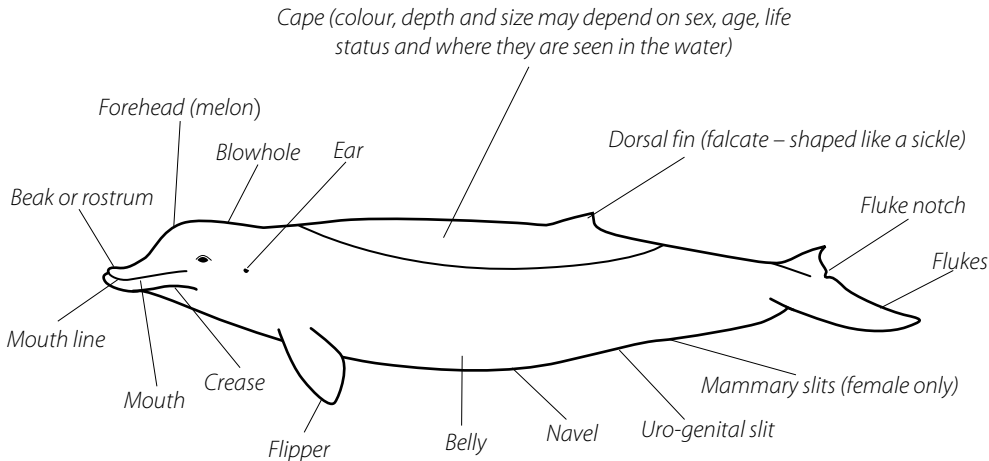
Megaptera novaeangliae



HUW

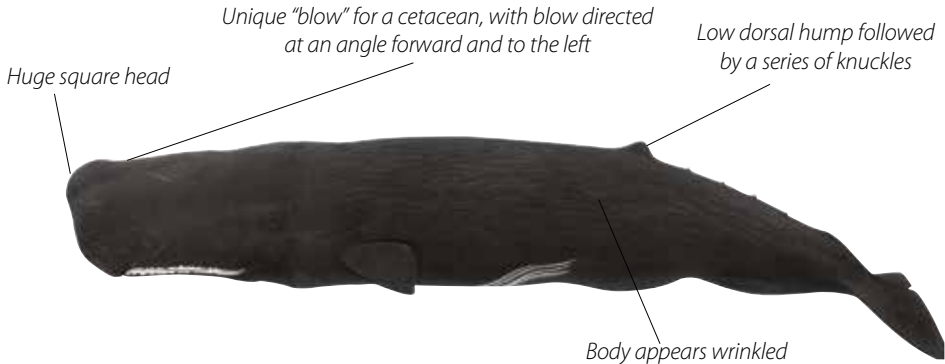
Maximum length: 16 m

Toothed whales



Sperm whale

Physeter macrocephalus

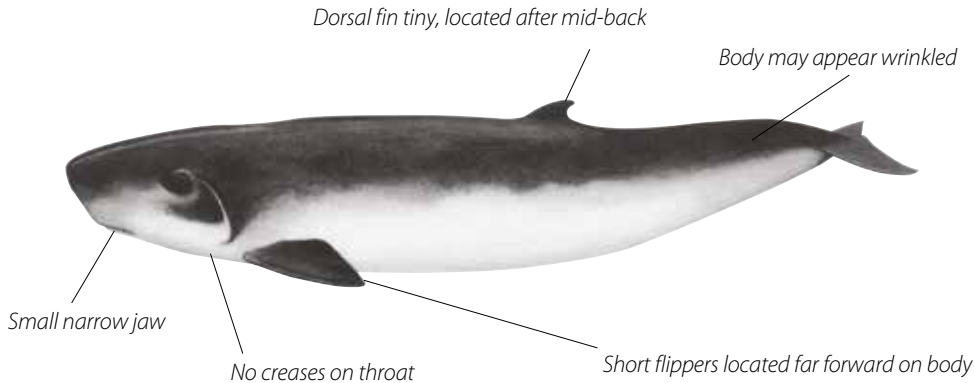


SPW

Maximum length: 18 m

Pygmy sperm whale

Kogia breviceps

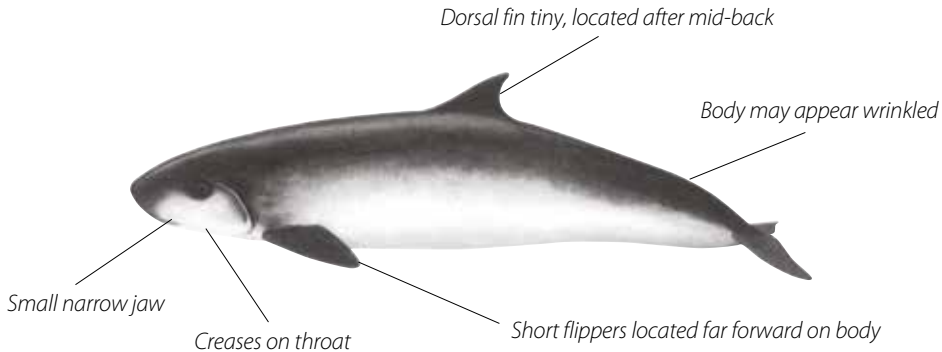


PYW

Maximum length: 3.7 m

Dwarf sperm whale

Kogia simus

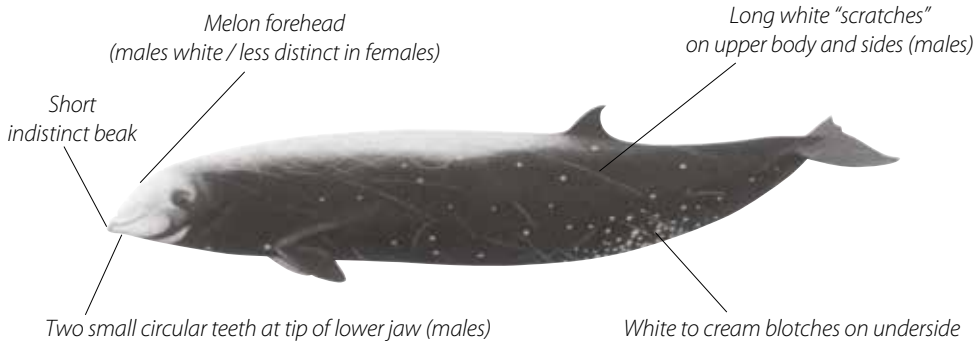


DWW

Maximum length: 2.7 m

Cuvier's beaked whale

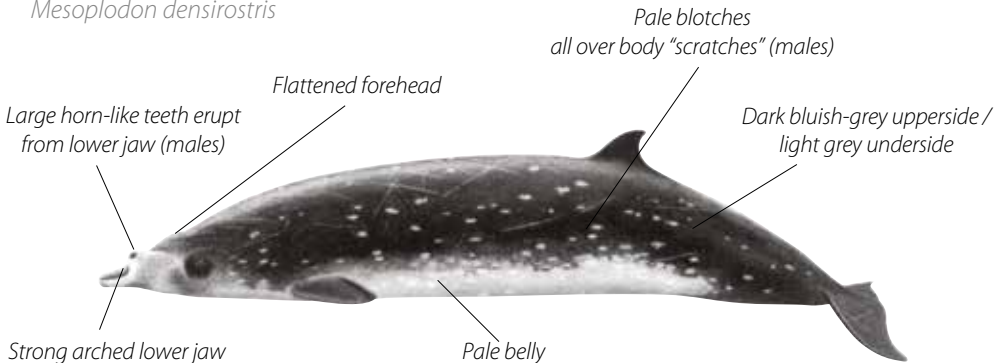
Ziphius cavirostris



Maximum length: 7 m

Blainville's beaked whale

Mesoplodon densirostris



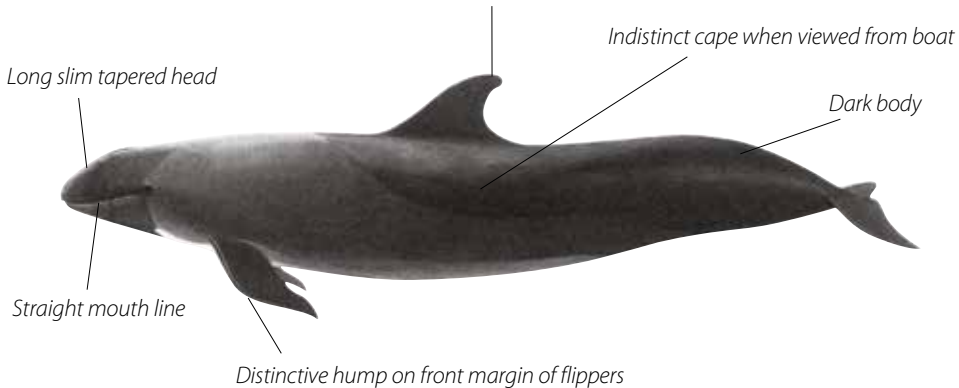
BBW

Maximum length: 5 m

False killer whale

Pseudorca crassidens

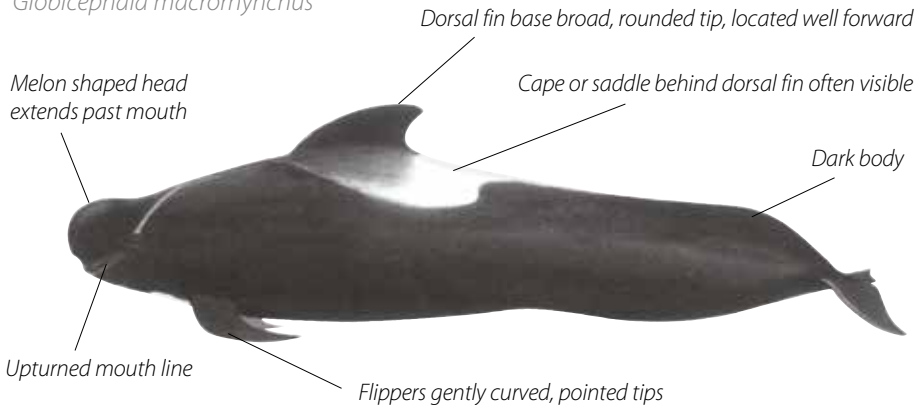
Dorsal fin with pointed tip, located mid-back



Maximum length: 6 m

Short finned pilot whales

Globicephala macrorhynchus

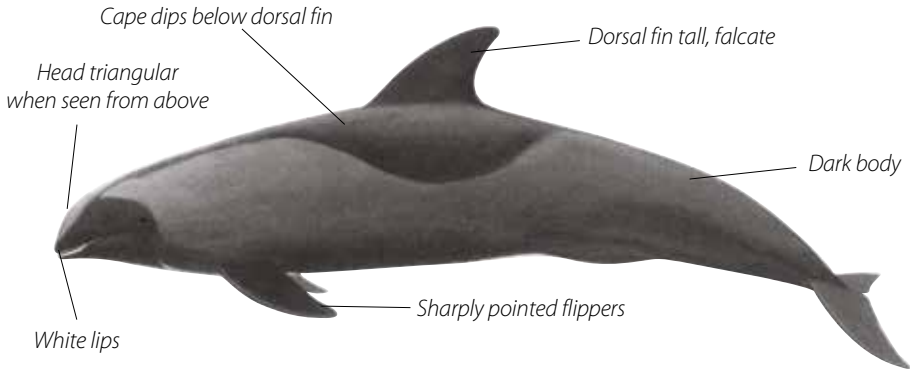


SHW

Maximum length: 6 m

Melon-headed Whale

Peponocephala electra

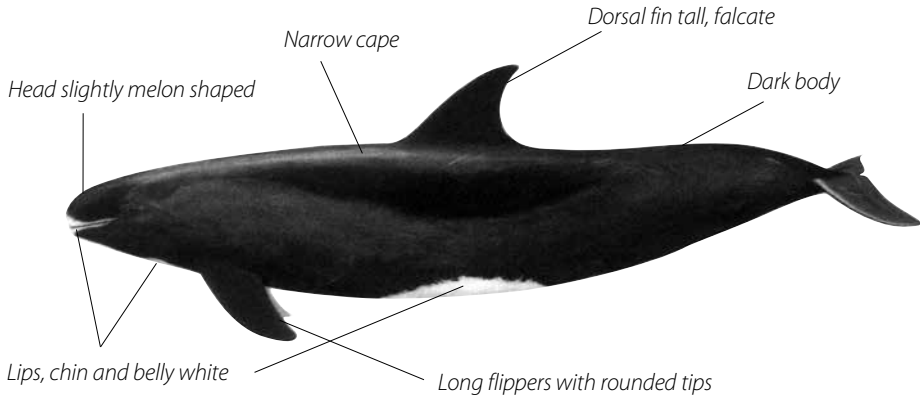


MEW

Maximum length: 2.7 m

Pygmy Killer Whale

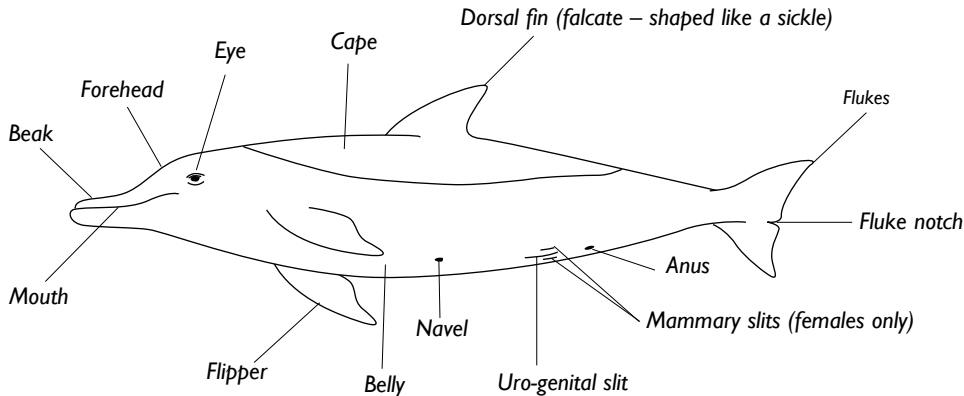
Feresa attenuata



KPW

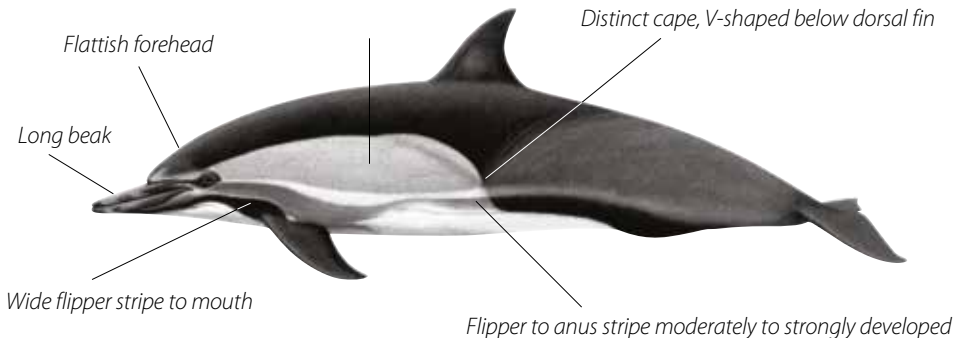
Maximum length: 3 m

Dolphins



Long beaked common Dolphin

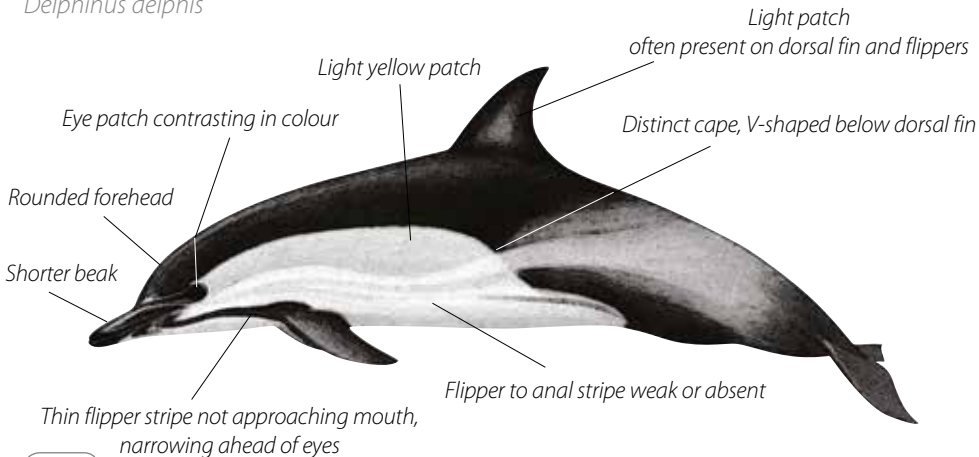
Delphinus capensis



Maximum length: 2.4 m

Short beaked common dolphin

Delphinus delphis

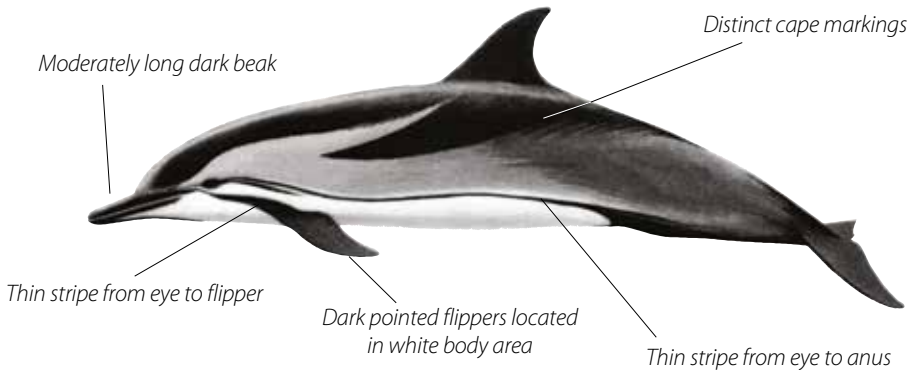


DCO

Maximum length: 2 m

Striped Dolphin

Stenella coeruleoalba

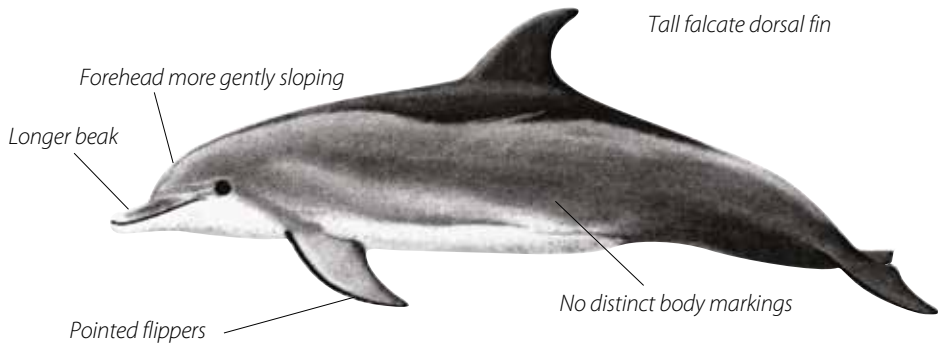


DST

Maximum length: 2.6 m

Indo - Pacific bottle nose dolphin

Tursiops aduncus

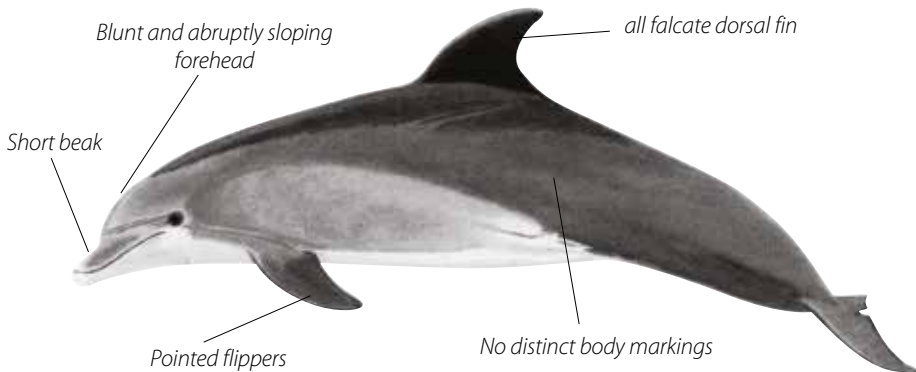


DBZ

Maximum length: 2.7 m

Common bottle-nose dolphin

tursiops truncatus

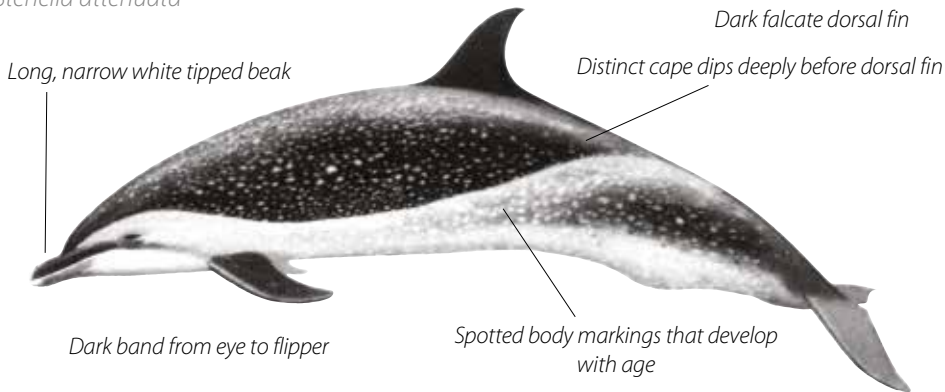


DBO

Maximum length: 3.8 m

Pantropical Spotted Dolphin

Stenella attenuata

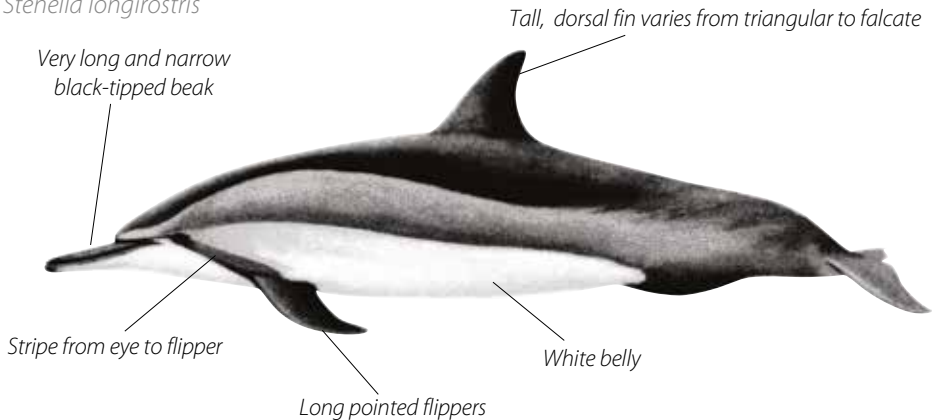


DPN

Maximum length: 2.6 m

Spinner Dolphin

Stenella longirostris

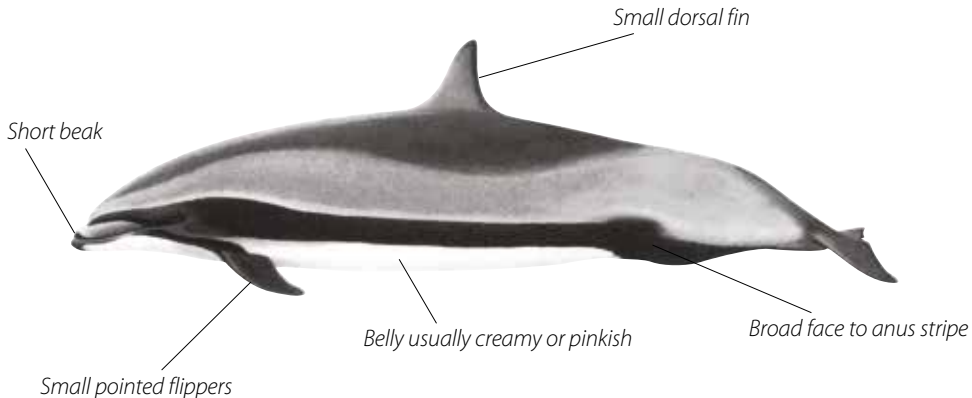


DSI

Maximum length: 2.1 m

Fraser's Dolphin

Lagenodelphis hosei

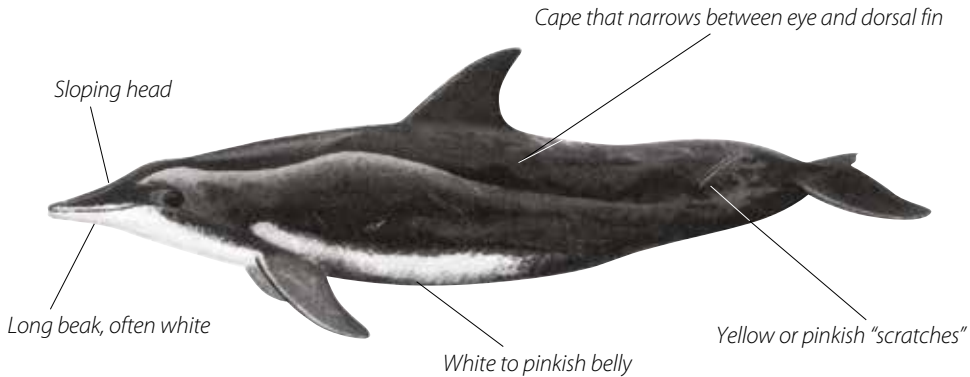


FDR

Maximum length: 2.7 m

Rough-toothed Dolphin

Steno bredanensis

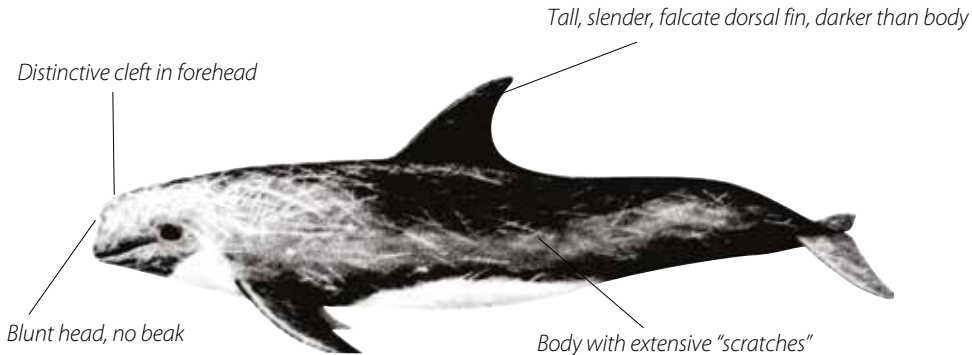


RTD

Maximum length: 2.8 m

Risso's Dolphin

Grampus griseus



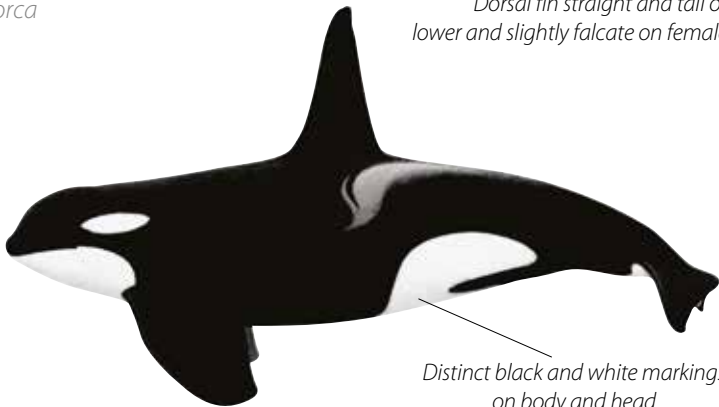
DRR

Maximum length: 4 m

Killer Whale

Orcinus orca

*Dorsal fin straight and tall on males,
lower and slightly falcate on females and juveniles*

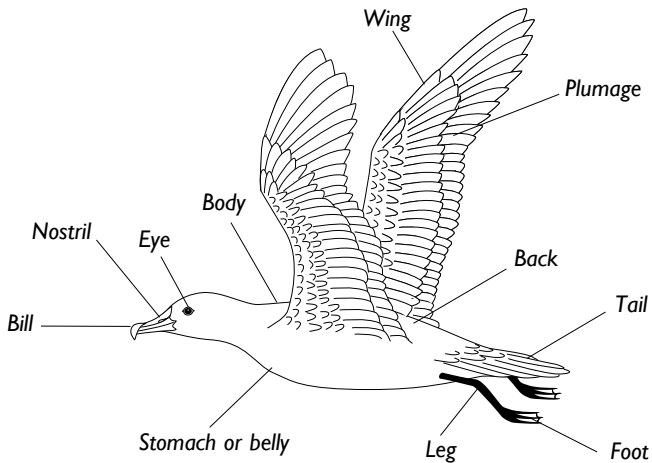


*Distinct black and white markings
on body and head*

KIW

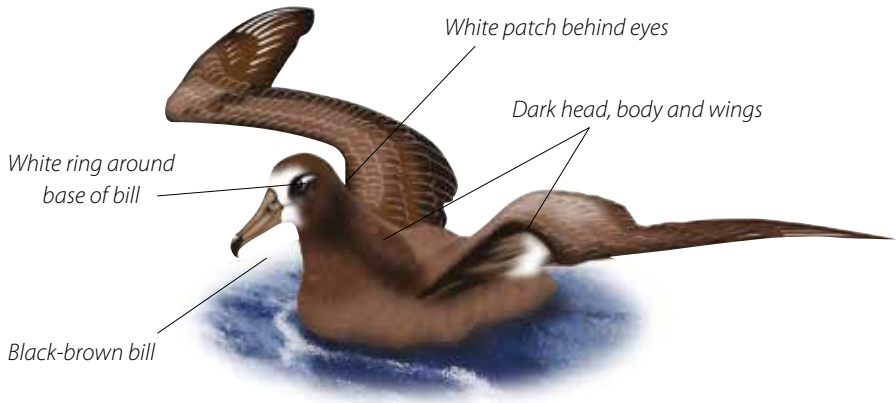
Maximum length: 9 m

Sea birds



Black-footed albatross

Diomedea nigripes



DKN

Northern hemisphere distribution

Laysan albatross

Diomedea immutabilis



DIZ

Northern hemisphere distribution

Albatrosses

Diomedidae

Species in this family have:

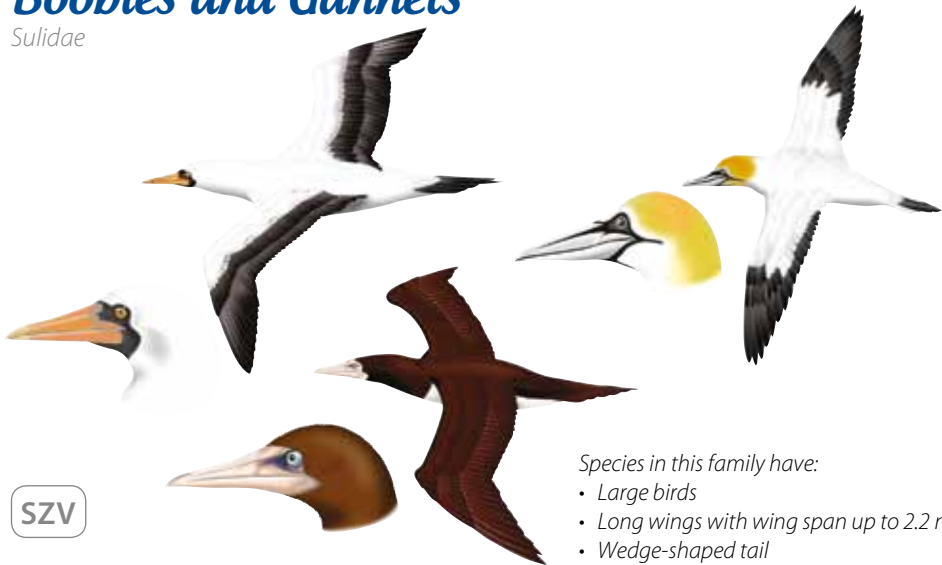
- Large hooked bill
- Large birds
- Wing span up to 3.5 m
- External nostrils at base of bill, one on each side



ALZ

Boobies and Gannets

Sulidae



SZV

Species in this family have:

- Large birds
- Long wings with wing span up to 2.2 m
- Wedge-shaped tail
- Stout conical bill

Petrels and Shearwaters

Procellariidae

Species in this family have:

- Most species smaller in size (wing span up to 1.5 m, but mainly less than 1 m) except for giant petrel (wing span up to 2.5 m)
- Nostrils united in a single tube on top of bill



PRX

Gulls, Terns and Skuas

Laridae

Species in this family have:

- Generally smaller birds (wing span up to 1 m), with skuas larger (wing span up to 1.8 m)
- Nostrils are plain openings on either side of bill
- Most birds have grey and white plumage, some with black on head and wings



LRD

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