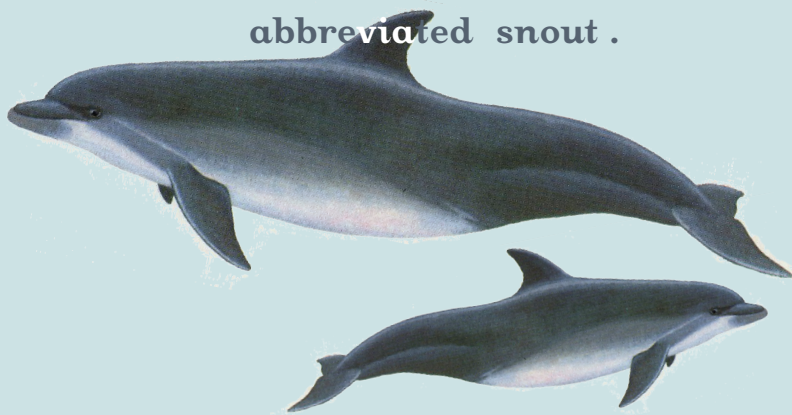


Bottlenose Dolphin

Tursiops truncatus

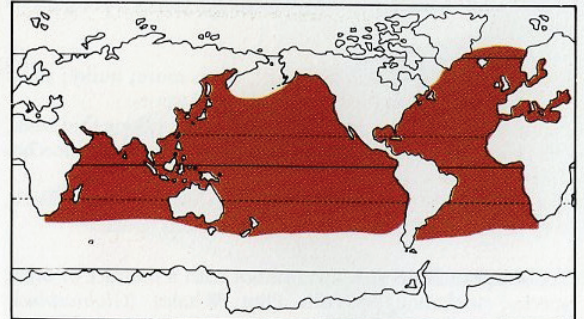
Tursiops comes from the Latin for dolphin and *truncatus* comes from the Latin *trunco* meaning cut off in reference to its abbreviated snout.



This particular dolphin has achieved world-wide exposure as the star of the television and film series *Flipper* and as the main attraction in many oceanariums.

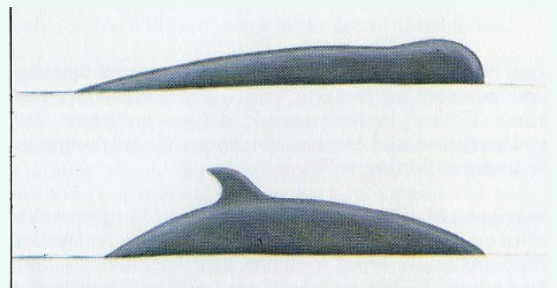
As the distribution map shows they are found in a wide variety of habitats around the world and are perhaps the most adaptable cetacean.

Being one of the largest dolphins adults measure up to 3.8 meters and live for some 45-50 years.



They prey on a large variety of organisms depending on their habitat. Coastal animals tend to feed on fish and invertebrates, squid in deeper waters and sea trout, mackerel and mullet in shelf waters.

One of the most playful cetaceans, the Bottlenose are classic bow riders and regularly approach powered vessels. They also surf in waves of all kinds while individual dolphins have developed lasting affinities with boaties, divers and bathers.



Dive sequence

The famed dolphin *Opo* which mingled with swimmers at *Opononi* in Northland during the summer of 1955-56 was a female Bottlenose.



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