

Risso's Dolphin also known as Grey Dolphin

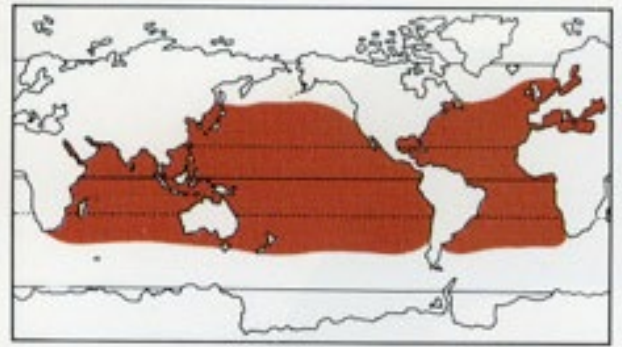
Grampus griseus

(*Grampus* may have come from the Latin *grandis*=large or many other sources such as the French *grand poisson*=large fish; *griseus* is from the Latin for grey)



Risso's dolphin is found in tropical and temperate regions of most oceans but has been rarely seen in the South Pacific. Only a dozen or so have been reported from New Zealand. However one of New Zealand's most famous dolphins apart from Opo, was Pelorus Jack who was a Risso's Dolphin.

Pelorus Jack rode the bow waves of ships passing across the outside of Pelorus Sound and Admiralty Bay between 1888 and 1912. There were many curious and conflicting stories written about Pelorus Jack one of which suggested he was an albino outcast that sought the company of ships and piloted them across the outer Marlborough Sounds.



ABOVE: This map shows the waters where the Risso's Dolphins are found.

As far as we know they feed on squid and the normal social units consist groups of 3-30. Risso's dolphins are relatively common in warmer waters.

Maximum sizes vary from 3.8 m for males and 3.66 m for females and they have a life span of some 30 years.



ABOVE: Grey Dolphin in lookout posture, showing the prominent crease in the forehead.

BELOW: Grey Dolphin at the surface, showing the high pointed fin and the extensive scarring on the back in front of the fin.

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