I'm not a bot

Dolphin 2412 is here and we've got the details for what's new in the latest release. The biggest thing to note is that there's a lot of polishing to help make playing games a little more pleasant. Several key fixes to Dolphin's HLE audio helps bring a few more games toward audio perfection, and adjustments to Dolphin's CPU GPU syncing reduces the number of harmless, but annoying, popup errors that happen in certain games. That isn't to say there aren't any titles seeing significant improvements. LIT (School of Darkness) had Read this article Page 2 Videogames are interactive experiences with emotional highs and lows, providing players with thrilling experiences alongside wondrous vistas. The greatest games can leave lifelong impacts on their players long after the controller is put down. Emulators serve as a convenient way to relive those past experiences and rediscover hidden gems from one's childhood. But what if an emulator could not only recreate those moments, but enhance them by pushing the games you know and love to new heights? At what point do people say that the must-play Continue reading You can continue the discussion in the forum thread of this article. Page 3 One month after the 4.0.1 release we're releasing the maintenance release 4.0.2. It turned out that some critical regressions had slipped into the 4.0 release due to the major changes linked to the wii-network branch and the global user directory changes. In particular, one of the fixed issues was related to incorrect usage of wxWidgets and caused various problems with general Dolphin usage on Windows systems with Unicode characters in their user name (e.g. "Franois" or ""). Some rather technical issues caused multiple games to stop booting or to freeze randomly. We've had multiple issue reports Continue reading You can continue the discussion in the forum thread of this article. Page 4 Dolphin 5.0 Release Video The long awaited Dolphin 5.0 release is finally here! After nearly a year of bug-hunting and handling the release process, everything has come together for our biggest release yet! The three previous releases followed a very distinct pattern: sacrifice performance, hacks, and features in exchange for higher accuracy. As such, Dolphin 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0 progressively grew slower. But thanks to the cleanups put forward throughout those releases, Dolphin 5.0 is the fastest Dolphin has Continue reading You can continue the discussion in the forum thread of this article. This will likely be the last Progress Report before Dolphin 5.0 is released for one simple reason: we're running out of fixes and notable changes! From here on out, unless some huge bugs are discovered, all we're left with is a few minor regressions and prepwork for the release. For those wondering why so much care is being taken into Dolphin 5.0's release, look back at Dolphin 4.0's release. It Continue reading You can continue the discussion in the forum thread of this article. It's April Fool's day which means that the internet is full of fake articles, products, videos, and images meant to fool users into thinking they're real. We decided to do things a little differently here at the Dolphin Blog, instead of making the users our fool, we decided it would be JMC47. See, JMC47 has been going through the trouble of getting as many games possible to gain a stranglehold on the issue tracker/wiki Continue reading You can continue the discussion in the forum thread of this article. Another month rolls by and now the feature freeze is starting to take a toll on the new features. Aside from Android and D3D12 development, which have an exception from the feature freeze, most of the changes this month were either relatively small or involved Dolphin 5.0 blocker bugs. Progress on the eventual Dolphin 5.0 release is very promising, with over half of the remaining blocking issues with fixes pending! While Continue reading You can continue the discussion in the forum thread of this article. With Dolphin in the thick of the 5.0 feature freeze, things were expected to slowdown a bit. Some of us were worried there wouldn't even be enough content for a Progress Report! Alas, while the gears have shifted toward different things to prepare for a release, there is no shortage of interesting changes. As an added bonus a feature implemented three years ago was rediscovered! That kind of thing just Continue reading You can continue the discussion in the forum thread of this article. Happy New Year! Now for the big news. On January 7th, 2016, we will be entering a full feature freeze in preparation for the Dolphin 5.0. A feature freeze is basically a period where we all devote ourselves to doing testing and fixing regressions to move us toward the Dolphin 5.0 release, and we've had one for every release we've done! During the feature freeze, no new "features" can be added Continue reading You can continue the discussion in the forum thread of this article. A few months ago, we announced our intentions to work on and release Dolphin 5.0 with a new release method. By using a stable branch, we hoped to avoid doing a feature freeze so that devs could both work on new features and continue to stomp out regressions. Unfortunately... that didn't work. Users wanted the newest features to be in Dolphin 5.0, developers were confused on what features needed Continue reading You can continue the discussion in the forum thread of this article. After some minor delays, Dolphin's new issue tracker is up and running, with all of the old issues preserved and imported. It hasn't taken long for things to heat up on our new tracker despite trying to keep it on the down low while it was being tweaked. A mixture of delays with the issue tracker and new bugs in our stable branch cropping up has pushed back Continue reading You can continue the discussion in the forum thread of this article. Page 5 Playing a game in Dolphin instead of the GameCube or Wii can make a huge difference in visual quality. With HD output, Dolphin can bring the best out of many stunning titles. But beyond that, an assortment of crazy enhancements, including 3D output, free camera, widescreen hacks, a higher clocked emulated CPU and much more, can absolutely transform titles into new experiences even for veterans after many playthroughs. Super Mario Sunshine is a beautiful GameCube platformer released in 2002. While its sequels on the Wii, Super Mario Galaxy 1 and 2 run at a fluid 60 Continue reading Dolphins (Odontoceti) are a group of 44 species of toothed whales or cetaceans. There are dolphins in every ocean on Earth, and there are freshwater species of dolphins that inhabit rivers in South Asian and South American. The largest dolphin species (the orca) grows to more than 30 feet long while the smallest, Hector's dolphin, is just 4.5 feet in length. Dolphins are well known for their intellect, their gregarious nature, and their acrobatic abilities. But there are many lesser-known qualities that make a dolphin a dolphin.Scientific Name: OdontocetiCommon Name: Dolphin (Note: This name refers to the group of 44 species classified as Odontoceti; each has its own scientific and common name.)Basic Animal Group:MammalSize: 5 feet long to over 30 feet long, depending on the speciesWeight: Up to 6 tonsLifespan: Up to 60 years depending on the speciesDiet:CarnivoreHabitat:All oceans and some riversPopulation:Varies per speciesConservationStatus:Bottlenose dolphins are considered to be of Least Concern, while about 10 species of dolphins are listed as Severely Threatened. Dolphins are small-toothed Cetaceans, a group of marine mammals that evolved from land mammals. They have developed numerous adaptations that make them well suited for life in water including a streamlined body, flippers, blowholes and a layer of blubber for insulation. Dolphins have curved beaks which means they appear to have permanent smiles. Dolphins evolved from land mammals whose legs were underneath their bodies. As a result, dolphins tails move up and down as they swim, whereas a fishs tail moves from side to side. Dolphins, like all toothed whales, lack olfactory lobes and nerves. Because dolphins do not possess these anatomical features, they most likely have a poorly developed sense of smell. The snout of some oceanic dolphins is long and slender due to their elongated, prominent jaw bones. Within the dolphins' elongated jaw bone sits numerous conical teeth (some species have as many as 130 teeth in each jaw). Species that have prominent beaks include, for example, Common Dolphin, Bottlenose Dolphin, Atlantic Humpbacked Dolphin, Tucuxi, Long-Snouted Spinner Dolphin, and numerous others. The forelimbs of a dolphin are anatomically equivalent to the forelimbs of other mammals (for example, they are analogous to arms in humans). But the bones within the forelimbs of dolphins have been shortened and made more rigid by supporting connective tissue. Pectoral flippers enable dolphins to steer and modulate their speed. The dorsal fin of a dolphin (located on the back of the dolphin) acts as a keel when the animal swims, giving the animal directional control and stability within the water. But not all dolphins have a dorsal fin. For example, the Northern Rightwhale Dolphins and the Southern Rightwhale Dolphins lack dorsal fins. Dolphins do not have prominent external ear openings. Their ear openings are small slits (located behind their eyes) which do not connect to the middle ear. Instead, scientists suggest that sound is conducted to the inner and middle ear by fat-lobes located within the lower jaw and by various bones within the skull. Tunatura/Getty Images Dolphins live in all of the worlds seas and oceans; many inhabit coastal areas or areas with shallower water. While most dolphins prefer warmer tropical or temperate waters one species, the orca (sometimes called killer whale) lives in both the Arctic Ocean and the Antarctic Southern Ocean. Five dolphin species prefer fresh to salt water; these species inhabit rivers in South America and South Asia. Dolphins are carnivorous predators. They use their strong teeth to hold their prey, but then either swallow their prey whole tear it into small pieces. They are relatively light eaters; the bottlenose dolphin, for example, eats about 5 percent of its weight each day. Many species of dolphins migrate to find food. They consume a wide range of animals including fish, squid, crustaceans, shrimp, and octopus. The very large Orca dolphin may also eat marine mammals such as seals or marine birds such as penguins. Many dolphin species work as a group to herd or coral fish. They may also follow fishing vessels to enjoy the "waste" thrown overboard. Some species will also use their flukes to beat and stun their prey. Most dolphins become sexually mature at between 5 and 8 years old. Dolphins give birth to a single calf once every one to six years and then feed their babies milk through their nipples. Dolphin pregnancies range in length from 11 to 17 months. Location can make an impact on the gestation period. When a pregnant female is ready to deliver, she separates herself from the rest of the pod to a location near the water's surface. Dolphin calves are usually born tail first; at birth, calves are about 3540 inches long and weigh between 23 and 65 pounds. The mother immediately brings her infant to the surface so it can breathe. Newborn calves look a bit different from their parents; they typically have dark skin with lighter bands which fade over time. Their fins are quite soft but harden very quickly. They can swim almost immediately, but do require the protection of the pod; in fact, young dolphins are typically nursed for the first two to three years of life and may stay with their mothers for up to eight years. Georgette Douwma/Getty Images Dolphins are members of the order Cetacea, Suborder Odontoceti, Families Delphinidae, Iniidae, and Lipotidae. Within those families, there are 21 genera, 44 species, and several subspecies. The species of dolphins include: Genus: Delphinus Delphinus capensis (Long-beaked common dolphin)Delphinus delphis (Short-beaked common dolphin)Delphinus tropicalis. (Arabian common dolphin) Genus: Tursiops Tursiops truncatus (Common bottlenose dolphin)Tursiops aduncus (Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin)Tursiops australis (Burrunan dolphin) Genus: Lissodelphis Lisodelphis borealis (Northern right whale dolphin)Lssodelphis peronii (Southern right whale dolphin) Genus: Sotalia Sotalia fluviatilis (Tucuxi)Sotalia guianensis (Guiana dolphin) Genus: Sousa Sousa chinensis (Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin)Subspecies:Sousa chinensis chinensis (Chinese white dolphin)Sousa chinensis plumbea (Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin)Sousa teuszii (Atlantic Humpback Dolphin)Sousa plumbea (Indian Humpback dolphin) Genus: Stenella Stenella frontalis (Atlantic spotted dolphin)Stenella clymene (Clymene dolphin)Stenella attenuata (Pantropical spotted dolphin)Stenella longirostris (Spinner dolphin)Stenella coeruleoalba (Striped dolphin) Genus: Steno Steno bredanensis (Rough-toothed dolphin) Genus: Cephalorhynchus Cephalorhynchus eutropia (Chilean dolphin)Cephalorhynchus commersonii (Commersons dolphin)Cephalorhynchus heavisidii (Heavisides Dolphin)Cephalorhynchus hectori (Hectors dolphin) Genus: Grampus Grampus griseus (Rissos dolphin) Genus: Lagenodelphis Lagenodelphis hosei (Frasers dolphin) Genus: Lagenorhynchus Lagenorhynchus acutus (Atlantic white-sided dolphin)Lagenorhynchus obscurus (Dusky dolphin)Lagenorhynchus cruciger (Hourglass dolphin)Lagenorhynchus obliquidens (Pacific white-sided dolphin)Lagenorhynchus australis (Peales dolphin)Lagenorhynchus albirostris (White-beaked dolphin) Genus: Peponocephala Peponocephala electra (Melon-headed whale) Genus: Orcaella Orcaella heinsohni (Australian snubfin dolphin)Orcaella brevirostris (Irrawaddy dolphin) Genus: Orcinus Orcinus orca (Orca- Killer Whale) Genus: Feresa Feresa attenuata (Pygmy killer whale) Genus: Pseudorca Pseudorca crassidens (False Killer whale) Genus: Globicephala Globicephala melas (Long-finned pilot whale)Globicephala macrorhynchus (Short-finned pilot whale) Superfamily: Platanistoidea Genus Inia, Family: Iniidae Inia geoffrensis. (Amazon river dolphin).Inia araguaiaensis (Araguaian river dolphin). Genus Lipotes, Family: Lipotidae Lipotes vexillifer (Baiji) Genus Pontoporia, Family: Pontoporiidae Pontoporia blainvillei (La Plata dolphin) Genus Platanista, family: Platanistidae Platanista gangetica (South Asian river dolphin)Subspecies:Platanista gangetica gangetica (Ganges river dolphin)Platanista gangetica minor (Indus river dolphin) The Baiji has suffered dramatic population declines over recent decades due to pollution and heavy industrial use of the Yangtze River. In 2006, a scientific expedition set out to locate any remaining Baiji but failed to find a single individual in the Yangtze. The species was declared functionally extinct. Humans have long been fascinated with dolphins, but the relationship between humans and dolphins has been complex. Dolphins are the subject of stories, myths, and legends as well as great works of art. Because of their great intelligence, dolphins have been used for military exercises and therapeutic support. They are also often kept in captivity and trained to perform; in most cases, this practice is now considered to be cruel.Dolphins are highly intelligent marine mammals that are seen as charismatic and beloved by humans. There are 40+ dolphin species, grouped into six families. Six of these dolphin species are commonlyand mistakenlyreferred to as whales, including the killer whale and the pilot whale.Dolphins inhabit oceans and seas, as well as freshwater rivers and lakes worldwide. They are highly social animals, living in complex social groups known as pods. They engage in cooperative hunting, communicate through vocalizations and body language, and form strong social bonds within their pods.As carnivorous apex predators, dolphins primarily feed on fish, squid, and occasionally crustaceans, using echolocation to locate and hunt their prey. These feeding habits help maintain ecological balance within the oceans ecosystem and regulate prey populations, preventing the overabundance of certain species.Unfortunately, many dolphin species are endangered, with conservation organizations like IFAW working to protect these marine mammals and their habitats.What is a dolphins scientific name?Cetacea is the scientific name for dolphins, whales, and porpoises. The term dolphin refers to any toothed whale belonging to the mammal family Delphinidae (oceanic dolphins), as well as river dolphins belonging to the Platanistidae and Iniidae families.The scientific name for each dolphin varies depending on the species. Here are a few well-known dolphin species and their scientific names:Common bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus)Killer whales (Orcinus orca)Spinner dolphins (Stenella longirostris)Atlantic white-sided dolphins (Lagenorynchus acutus)Bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus)Are dolphins endangered?Depending on the species, dolphins conservation status ranges from least concern to critically endangered.The Atlantic humpback dolphin is classed by the IUCN as critically endangered, with only an estimated 1,500 individuals left in the wild. Hectors dolphin, which is endemic to New Zealand and the smallest marine dolphin in the world, is classed as endangered. The Irrawaddy dolphin, found in coastal Southeast Asia, and the freshwater Ganges river dolphin are also endangered, each with just a few thousand mature individuals left in the wild.Where do dolphins live?Dolphins live in a wide range of aquatic habitats, including both saltwater and freshwater environments. Theyre highly adaptable animals, capable of living everywhere from tropical coral reefs to icy arctic waters, though the most recognizable speciesthe common and bottlenose dolphinsare found in warm, temperate waters.While dolphins are well-adapted to life in the open ocean, they can thrive in coastal, shallow areas like bays and estuaries that are sheltered and have abundant food sources. Here, though, dolphins often come into contact with humans, which can threaten their survival. They can also become stranded if the water is too shallow.While we tend to think of dolphins as sea animals, many coastal-dwelling dolphins spend a lot of time in freshwater, and river dolphins live exclusively in freshwater, thousands of kilometers from the ocean. In rare cases, dolphins have been found in freshwater lakes, such as the Irrawaddy dolphin in certain areas of Southeast Asia.Many species of dolphins face an array of threatsincluding habitat loss, pollution, and climate changewhich have led them to be listed as endangered by the IUCN. Here are some of the biggest threats that conservationists are working to eradicate.Common dolphins swimming underwater in the Azores. Photo: Scott PortelliLike many marine species, dolphins are at risk of injury or death from commercial fishing practices. They can become entangled in various types of fishing gear, including gillnets, trawls, and longlines.Once caught, dolphins may struggle to free themselves, leading to injuries, stress, or suffocation. Bycatch in fishing gear remains a significant cause of mortality for dolphins worldwide, particularly in areas with intensive fishing activities. Its estimated that 300,000 whales and dolphins are killed by industrial fishing each year.Ocean pollutionThe ocean is full of pollution, which threatens the survival of everything from microscopic plankton to giant blue whales. Dolphins specifically face threats from pollution in the form of plastic debris, chemical pollutants, and oil spills.Ingesting plastic debris can lead to internal injuries, blockages, and malnutrition, while chemical contaminants such as heavy metals and pesticides can accumulate in dolphins tissues, affecting their health and reproductive success.Ocean noiseDolphins rely heavily on echolocation and vocalizations for communication, navigation, and hunting. However, increasing levels of non-natural noises in the ocean, like those coming from ship traffic, commercial fishing, and sonar operations, can interfere with their sonar and echolocation, disrupting their behavior.Prolonged exposure to loud underwater noise may lead to stress, hearing damage, and displacement or fragmentation of dolphin populations.Habitat lossAs we explored in the previous section, dolphins inhabit a variety of habitats, including coastal areas, estuaries, rivers, lakes, and open ocean environments. Sadly, all of these ecosystems are threatened by human activities.Actions such as coastal development and dredging can degrade dolphin habitats, leading them to lose the places theyve called home for millennia. Freshwater dolphins face the additional threat of dam construction, which leads to fragmentation and degradation of their habitats.Climate changeThe impacts of climate change pose significant challenges to all marine animalsincluding dolphin populationsby altering ocean temperatures, currents, and the presence of dolphins prey.Rising sea temperatures can lead to changes in dolphin distribution and behavior, with warm water affecting dolphins ability to properly reproduce.Additionally, changes in sea level and storm patterns may exacerbate coastal erosion and habitat loss, further threatening dolphin populations. Large tidal fluctuations can also disorient dolphins when theyre swimming close to shore, leading to an increase in strandings.Yes, dolphins are mammals. Just like other mammals, dolphins:are warm-blooded and regulate their body temperature internallygive birth to live youngnurse their offspring with milk produced by mammary glandsbreathe air, through a blowhole on the top of their headsare vertebrates with a spinal columnexhibit complex social behaviors and provide parental care to their offspringAre orcas dolphins?Though orcas are known colloquially as killer whales, they are, scientifically speaking, dolphins.Orcas are the largest members of the dolphin family.What do dolphins eat?All dolphins are carnivores, equipped with sharp teeth to help them eat their prey.Various species of fish make up a significant portion of a dolphins diet, though they also consume squid, jellyfish, crustaceans, and octopuses.Common dolphins swim underwater near the Azores. Photo: Scott PortelliDolphins have a unique way of sleeping that allows them to rest while still maintaining some level of awareness for their safety. As dolphins must actively surface to breathe air, they cannot fall into a deep, unconscious sleep like humans and other mammals do.Instead, they engage in what is known as unihemispheric slow-wave sleep. One half of the brain can go to sleep, getting the rest it needs for survival, while the other halfand their other eyestays alert and scans for threats.Dolphins alternate between hemispheres periodically, allowing both sides of the brain to rest while still maintaining essential functions like breathing and awareness of their surroundings. Its an adaptation that allows them to maintain their vital functions and remain safe in their marine habitat.They typically sleep near the surface of the water or while swimming slowly, often in groups or with one or more dolphins keeping watch over the others.How long can dolphins hold their breath?This depends on the species, but on average, the maximum amount of time a dolphin can stay submerged is around 10 minutes. However, they usually dive for shorter durations as they swim, play, and hunt.The record is held by a bottlenose that lasted 14 minutes underwater.What is a group of dolphins called?The collective noun for a group of dolphins is a pod.Bottlenose dolphins swimming underwater in the Azores. Photo: Scott PortelliAlthough dolphins lack visible hair on their bodies, they are born with a few hairs around their mouths, which they lose shortly after birth and dont regrow. These hairs are considered by scientists as vestigial remnants of their mammalian ancestry.Are dolphins smarter than humans?Dolphins are highly intelligent animals, but its not quite right to label them as smarter than humansits like apples and oranges.Dolphins possess a remarkable cognitive capacity and exhibit behaviors that suggest high levels of intelligence, like problem-solving abilities, social complexity, communication skills, and self-awareness. They have large brains relative to their body size, with similar structures to humans in areas associated with memory, emotion, and sensory processing.Meanwhile, human intelligence is characterized by unique features such as language, abstract reasoning, cultural complexity, and technological innovationwhich we dont see in dolphins.How do dolphins mate?Dolphin mating behavior varies among different species, but there are some common patterns.Once a male has successfully courted a female, a pair bond may form between them. This bond can be temporary or long-term, depending on the species. Dolphins engage in what looks like belly-to-belly copulation. It lasts anywhere from a few seconds to a couple of minutes.Gestation periods vary by species but usually last around 12 months. When its time to give birth, female dolphins typically separate from their group to deliver their calf in a safe and secluded area.Once born, the mother provides care and protection to her calf, nursing it with milk produced by her mammary glands and teaching it survival skills. The typical interval between calves from a single female varies from about three to five years.How do dolphins communicate?Dolphins produce a wide range of sounds, including clicks, whistles, chirps, and pulsed calls. These vocalizations serve as echolocation for navigation and hunting, as social communication between individuals, and for expressing emotions like excitement or distress.The marine mammals also communicate through various body movements and postures, including swimming patterns, leaps, flips, and gestures such as tail slaps or head-butting. These behaviors convey information about their intentions, emotions, and social status within their group.How fast can a dolphin swim?Dolphins are sleek and speedy animals in the water. Though their cruising speed is 13 to 16 kilometers (8 to 10 miles) per hour, they can swim at speeds up to 40 kilometers (25 miles) per hour.Dolphins face many threats due to human activity, but IFAW is working hard to help protect their populations.In 2023, unusually low water levels and high temperatures in Lake Tef, Brazil, caused mass casualties of endangered Amazon and Tucuxi river dolphins. IFAW experts were dispatched as part of an emergency team sent to respond to dolphins in distress and train locals on what to do if the situation happens again.IFAW also helped establish the Dolphin Rescue Center on Cape Cod, an area where an increasing number of dolphins get stranded due to rapidly changing coastal tide conditions as a result of global warming. The first-of-its-kind center rescues stranded dolphins, provides intensive care, and rehabilitates the mammals before releasing them back into the wild once theyre fully recovered.Our stranding response program for dolphins and whales along Cape Cod is the most comprehensive cetacean rescue program in the world. Nearly 80% of stranded dolphins are released back into the wild.In 2023, IFAW celebrated 25 years of marine mammal rescue. What started with a small team of passionate conservationists has grown into a 150-strong army of volunteers who have saved over 7,000 stranded whales and dolphins, Its no easy feat, either: last year a Rissos dolphin that was stranded on the beach weighed an estimated 315 kilograms (715 pounds), and required 30 responders for it to be safely rescued. While this female was being rescued, another call came in about a stranded Rissos dolphin calf a short way down the coast. Thankfully, with hard work from IFAWs team and the Coast Guard, both dolphins were rescued and re-released.Risso's dolphins swimming near the Azores. Photo: Scott PortelliThe only way that IFAW can continue lifesaving work for endangered species like dolphins is through help from people like you.A rough-toothed dolphin surfaces in the Mediterranean. Photo: Richard McLanaghan / IFAWDonate to help save dolphinsPeople refer to a wide range of different marine mammals as a Dolphin. Researchers place all of the various species in the Cetacea infraorder. They classify all Dolphins as toothed whales or Odontoceti.However, they do not recognize all toothed whales as Dolphins. They only classify members of the Delphinidae and Inioidea families as true Dolphins. This excludes the porpoise, narwhal, beaked whale, sperm whale, and more. Read on to learn about the Dolphin.Description of the DolphinThough each species has its own unique morphology, or shape, most members of this group share a similar form. They have elongated, streamlined bodies with one dorsal fin on their backs, two pectoral fins underneath, and a tail, or caudal, fin.Sizes range from about 5 ft. long to over 30 ft., depending on the species. Some species weigh just over 100 lbs. while others can weigh several tons.Interesting Facts About the DolphinThese intelligent creatures each have their own unique traits, adaptations, and behaviors. Learn more about a few specific species, below.Popoto Researchers actually recognize the popoto as a subspecies of Hectors Dolphin. Some of the smallest species in the group, these marine mammals measure about 5.5 ft. long on average. The IUCN recognizes the species as Endangered, and this subspecies faces even more dire threat.Orca Yes, researchers actually recognize orcas as Dolphins! As the largest members of the group, these marine mammals measure about 20 ft. long on average. Males reach slightly longer lengths than females do.Boto One of the most notable characteristics of this species is their color. In some instances, these marine mammals have light pink-colored skin. Males and larger adults have more vibrant color. This species lives in freshwater river systems of the Amazon Basin.Commersons Dolphin In aquariums, people often misidentify this species as a baby killer whale. This is because the species has black and white colored skin. Adults reach just five feet in length on average.Habitat of the DolphinThese marine mammals occupy a wide range of different habitat types. Some live in freshwater habitats, but most live in saltwater. They live in coastal seas, open ocean, rivers, river deltas, lakes, estuaries, bays, and much more. You can also find some saltwater species in brackish water habitats where freshwater and saltwater mix.Distribution of the DolphinThe various species each have their own unique ranges and distribution. Some have cosmopolitan distribution and live in oceans virtually across the globe. Others live only in tiny regions, and you cannot find them anywhere else in the world.As a whole, this group lives across every ocean on Earth, as well as many rivers, estuaries, and even lakes.Diet of the DolphinAll members of this group have carnivorous feeding habits. The vast majority hunt for fish, squid, and other aquatic prey. A handful of larger species hunt for other marine mammals, including seals, sea lions, whales, and smaller toothed whales.Some species eat just about anything they can catch, and have opportunistic feeding habits. Others specialize on certain types of prey. For example, some killer whales follow the salmon runs as their primary diet.Unique Hunting StrategiesMany members of this group utilize their intelligence to access prey they otherwise could not easily catch. Some use bubble netting, where the members of the pod blow bubbles around a school of fish to confuse and bunch them together to easily catch them. Others drive aquatic prey up onto the shore so that they can easily catch it and wiggle their way back into deeper waters.Dolphin and Human InteractionHumans interact with a number of different species in this group. Zoos and aquariums house several different species, the Bottlenose Dolphin being the most common species. They feed the animals a variety of different fish, including herring, capelin, smelt, salmon, and more.Trainers teach these intelligent animals a number of different behaviors to help mentally stimulate them. They also teach them behaviors that help the trainers care for them, known as husbandry behaviors. Some husbandry behaviors include allowing the veterinarians to take blood, do ultrasounds, insert feeding tubes, and more.Sadly, humans often cause damage to wild members of this group. Pollution and habitat destruction both threaten wild species, and overfishing depletes the available prey for these predators. Additionally, people in certain regions hunt some species in this family, and fisheries that do not target them sometimes accidentally trap cetaceans in their nets.DomesticationHumans have not domesticated these marine mammals in any way.Does the Dolphin Make a Good PetNo, these animals do not make good pets. You must have a slew of different permits to house these animals.Dolphin CareAs social animals, these marine mammals must live in groups, even when in human care. For this reason, zoos and aquariums must provide ample space and deep pools for them to swim in freely. Additionally, facilities have multiple connected habitats so that they can separate animals if needed and allow them to have space.As most species have primarily piscivorous diets, zoos and aquariums typically feed them fish. Their diet includes a variety of different fish, such as herring, capelin, salmon, smelt, and squid.Behavior of the DolphinDifferent species have different behaviors. Most have complex social behavior, and live in groups known as pods. Some pods contain just a handful of animals, while other pods contain hundreds or more. In some species, smaller pods come together at certain times of year or around a prolific food source. Pods often work together to capture prey.Reproduction of the DolphinBreeding habits and reproductive rates vary based on the species at hand. However, as mammals, all species give live birth. The females develop the young in their uterus, and after birth they feed their young milk. The gestation period varies from species to species. Nearly all species give birth to a single offspring, known as a calf.Beliefs, Superstitions, and Phobias About the DolphinPeople have used these creatures in a wide variety of different religions and cultures to represent a variety of different stories and symbols. Many stories and myths include the marine mammals aiding humans, particularly sailors who find themselves in trouble. The different stories and myths vary based on the species, the region, and the culture or religion.Scientific Name: OdontocetiAverage Life Span: unknownDolphins are small-toothed cetaceans easily recognizable by their curved mouths, which give them a permanent smile. There are 36 dolphin species, found in every ocean. Most dolphins are marine and live in the ocean or brackish waters along coastlines. There are a few species, however, like the South Asian river dolphin and the Amazon river dolphin, or boto, that live in freshwater streams and rivers. The largest dolphin, the orca, can grow to be over 30 feet long. The smallest, the Maui dolphin, is just five feet long.Dolphins feed chiefly on fish and squid, which they track using echolocation, a built-in sonar that bounces sound waves off prey and reveals information like its location, size, and shape. An echolocating bottlenose dolphin can make up to a thousand clicking noises per second.Behavior and reproductionLiving in pods that can number a dozen or more, dolphins are intensely social mammals that communicate with squeaks, whistles, and clicks. Whether dolphins have language, as humans do, is a topic that scientists have debated for decades.As mammals, they have warm blood and nurse their young. Dolphins have more than one mate, and generally produce a single offspring that will stay with the mother for up to six years, depending on the species.Dolphins are graceful, sleek swimmers that can reach speeds of more than 18 miles an hour. They are also playful and often frolic in a boats wake, leaping out of the waterpossibly for fun, to communicate, or even shed pesky parasites.ThreatsFor centuries, people have hunted dolphins for their meat and blubber. Today, their main threat comes from being caught accidentally in commercial fishing nets. Dolphins must rise regularly to the surface to breathebecoming entangled in nets prevents this, leading to drowning. For maine dolphins, warming ocean temperatures because of climate change have caused some of their primary food sources to move into deeper, cooler water. Furthermore, marine heatwaves, also caused by climate change, appear to have a negative affect on dolphins' reproductive rates and ability to survive. In addition to hunting and entanglement in fishing gear, freshwater dolphins face the additional threat of dams fragmenting and degrading habitat. Here's What We Know About Dolphin IntelligenceDive into the science of dolphin cognition with researchers studying how these amazing creatures make sense of their world. Read more about dolphin intelligence online in National Geographic magazine. Research on dolphin intelligence provides valuable information that reveals the reasons for their particular behavior. These cetaceans can perform unusual activities within the animal world and perform complex actions.FROM DAY TO NIGHT.Most dolphins are active during the 24 hours, both day and night although they are mainly active during the morning and afternoon. Everything they do during the day depends on the conditions of their habitat, the season of the year (breeding season, mating, etc.), the time of the day and the physiological conditions of their bodies.SLEEPING BEHAVIOR.There was a general uncertainty about the way dolphins sleep, but after several studies, it became evident that they do sleep but not the way humans do. Since they need some degree of consciousness to reach the surface and breathe, they keep one cerebral hemisphere active while the other rests. However, dolphins in captivity have an entirely different resting behavior than wild dolphins as they keep their blowhole off the water and do not respond to light stimuli, apparently having a deeper sleep, perhaps because they are not concerned about predators in their tanks that could threaten them.One unusual behavior is when they do a sort of a cough, throwing their food out.The case of the Indus river dolphin (Platanista gangetica minor) is particular because of its habitat; the river full of dangerous materials, muddy waters and strong currents, allow this dolphin to rest only 4-60 minutes in short bursts throughout the day.TRAVEL BEHAVIOR.Some species move from one place to another in an almost straight direction. They can travel alone or in the company of other individuals, swimming on the surface of the water to save the energy produced by the friction of the water on the submerged body, to orient themselves better or to get rid of the parasites in their skin. If they are resting, they group tightly and surface often to breathe.FEEDING BEHAVIOR.The feeding activities can be carried out individually or in groups, cooperating with each other to capture larger prey and having less energy expenditure. One unusual behavior is when they do a sort of a cough, throwing their food out.The dolphins of Shark Bay, Australia, have demonstrated to the astonished researchers that they have traits of a culture development, understanding this as a set of knowledge, ideas, beliefs, customs, and practices learned in a society and transmitted from generation to generation. This conclusion was the result of watching these cetaceans protecting their snout from rough surfaces with marine sponges, and later their offspring also did this; a behavior that was not inherited but transmitted from parents to their offspring. LETS PLAY!Dolphins are very curious and enjoy playing with objects and other dolphins. They jump up to 4.9 meters above the surface of the water falling on their backs or with their belly down. They often follow the waves of the stern or the bow of boats.They jump up to 4.9 meters above the surface of the water.Most dolphins play chasing one another, using objects and passing them on to others for attention. They commonly make bubbles in the water and take the time to recreate themselves in the ocean. Occasionally, this playful behavior includes other species of dolphins and animals such as Risso dolphins (Grampus griseus), Pantropical spotted dolphins (Stenella attenuata), pilot whales (Globicephala) and humpback whales (Megaptera novaeangliae).Other games are only fun for them; they have been seen catching birds and submerging them several meters down, without eating them later.THIS BEHAVIOR IS NOT NICE The habitat of dolphins also has a lot of dangers. If they notice something unpleasant near the pod, they quickly react swimming to the surface, exhaling, striking the water with their tail and grouping very close to each other. Any external element that disturbs dolphins has negative consequences that include stress, wounds, abnormal migrations and even less reproductive success.Adult males swim in the perimeter of the pod territory to monitor the environment and to communicate others the presence of danger if something happens. Usually, dolphins avoid sharks or flee if they are in the proximity, but there are cases in which these cetaceans have attacked and killed sharks.Normally, dolphins avoid sharks or flee if they are near, but if necessary, they know how to defend from them.FRIENDLY DOLPHINSThe sociability of dolphins is evident due to their continuous association with other dolphins of the same species and occasionally interactions even with other species of cetaceans and animals in general.If there is something for which people recognize dolphins, it is because of its charming personality. Docile and friendly to the human presence, they are also close with their companions. They establish strong social ties, assist wounded dolphins, cooperate to feed themselves and survive, and even voluntarily approach divers and bathers. Did you know that there are unconfirmed reports of dolphins helping humans to fish and sometimes they even offer them fish, octopus, and squid as gifts? 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