

Humpback Dolphin (Sousa spp.) Distribution: Coastal waters of Africa, Australia and Asia (see map below and full

Distribution: Coastal waters of Africa, Australia and Asia (see map below and full list of countries in the detailed species account online at: https://wwhandbook.iwc.int/en/species/humpback-dolphin)

Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin

Adult length: 2.7m (male) Adult weight: up to 240kg (male) Newborn: 100cm / 14kg

The base or hump on the back under the dorsal fin may take up as much as 1/3 of the body length

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Dorsal fin shape can vary, but always sits on top of a very broad base, or hump. This hump is more pronounced in Indian Ocean and Atlantic species Threats: Bycatch, habitat loss Habitat: Estuarine, nearshore

Diet: Fish, cuttlefish

IUCN Conservation status: Indo-Pacific: Vulnerable

Indian Ocean: Endangered

Atlantic: Critically Endangered

Australian: Vunerable

A long slender beak.

Broad flippers with rounded tips

Slightly rounded forehead

Colour can vary enormously - Indo-Pacific humpback calves are born dark grey and can become mottled with pink, or almost entirely pink as adults in some populations. Indian Ocean and Atlantic species remain grey.



Dolphin Project).







Indian Ocean humpback & Atlantic humpback

Adult length: 2.8m (male) Adult weight: up to 280kg (male) Newborn: 100cm / 14kg



Indian Ocean and Atlantic humpback dolphins are all grey and do not have the pink mottling of Indo-Pacific humpbacks. They also have a more pronounced hump under their dorsal fin.

Indian Ocean humpback dolphin in Oman: Photo courtesy of Graeme Hornby



Australian humpback dolphins have a distinct diagonal dorsal 'cape' visible in this photo from northern Oueensland.

Photo couretesy of Guido Parra.



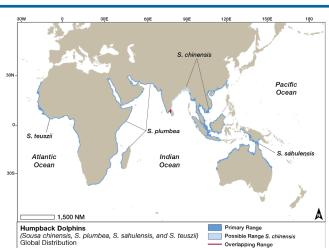
In some populations of Indo-Pacific hump-back dolphins, calves are born grey, but can become increasingly mottled until they are almost fully pink as adults.

Photo courtesy of Sarawak Dolphin Project



Male Atlantic and Indian Ocean humpback dolphins can have extremely pronounced humps under their dorsal fins, like this Individual from Gabon.

Photo Gianna Minton, WWF Gabon



Individual humpback dolphins can be recognised by the nicks and scars on

their dorsal fins, through a process called photo-identification. These are In-

do-Pacific humpbacks from Malaysian Borneo. (photos courtesy of Sarawak

Hunpback dolphin distribution. Adapted by Nina Lisowski from Würsig, B., Thewissen, J.G.M. and Kovacs, K.M. Editors (2018) "Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals", 3rd ed. Academic Press, Elsevier: San Diego. CA. Copyright Elsevier: http://www.elsevier.com/

There are four recognised species of humpback dolphins that occur in different parts of the world: the Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (Sousa chinensis), the Indian Ocean humpback dolphin (S. plumbea) the Atlantic humpback dolphin (S. teuszi) and the Australian humpback dolphin (S. sahulensis).