

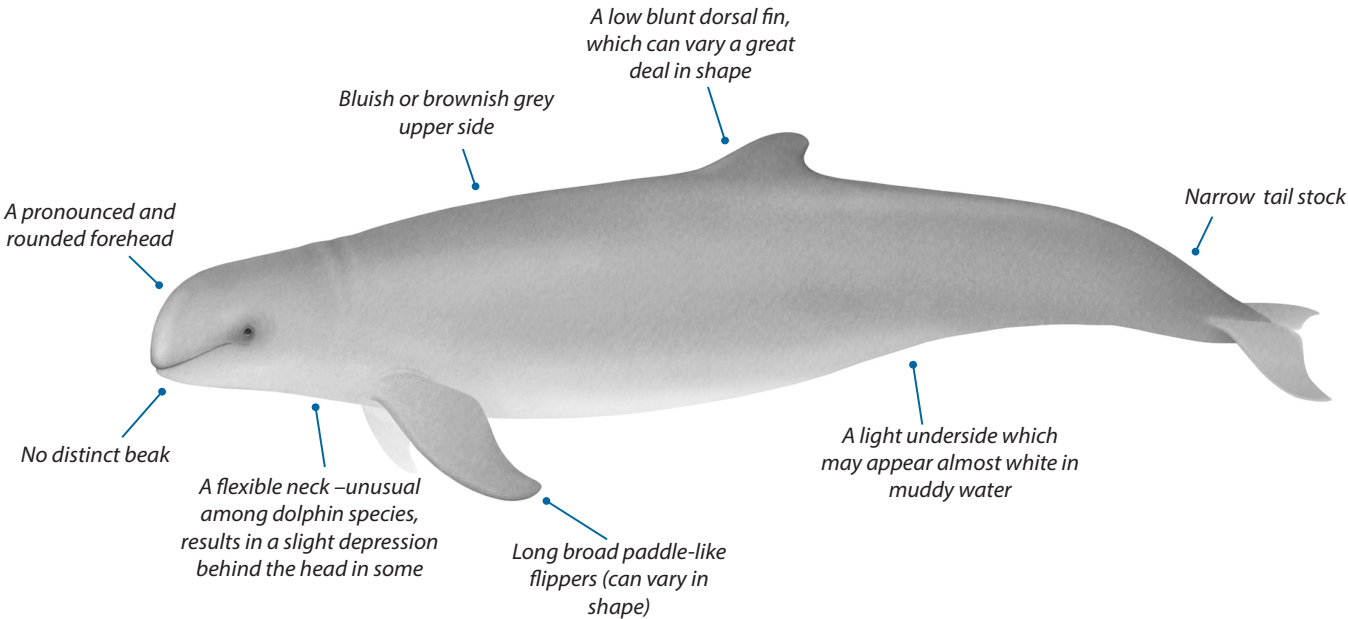


INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

# Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*.)

Distribution: Southeast Asia (see map below and full list of countries in the detailed species account online at: <https://www.handbook.iwc.int/en/species/irrawaddy-dolphin>)

Adult length: 2.8m  
Adult weight: up to 130kg (male)  
Newborn: 90-100cm / 10-12kg




Threats: Bycatch, habitat loss  
Habitat: Estuarine, coastal/nearshore  
Diet: Fish  
IUCN Conservation status: **Endangered**



Irrawaddy dolphins off the coast of Sarawak.  
Photos Gianna Minton/Sarawak Dolphin Project

## Fun Facts

 Irrawaddy dolphins in Ayarewaddy river in Myanmar help fishermen by herding fish in to their nets. The dolphins are rewarded by the fishermen, who throw them some of the catch.


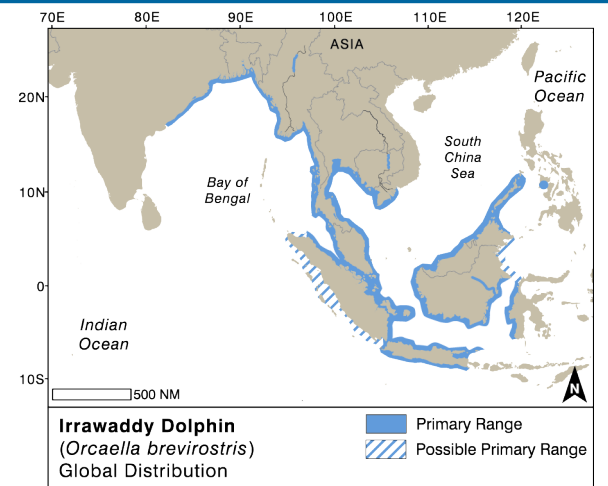
 This species is also known to spit water out of its mouth- apparently as a tactic to stun or herd fish



Photo courtesy of Dipani Suataria



Irrawaddy dolphins feeding in close proximity to a fishing vessel in Sarawak, Malaysia: Photo courtesy Cindy Peter/Sarawak Dolphin Project.



Irrawaddy dolphin distribution. Adapted by Nina Lisowski from Würsig, B., Theissen, 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>

Irrawaddy dolphins are patchily distributed throughout freshwater and coastal areas in Southeast Asia. They tend to be associated with areas of freshwater input, such as river deltas, mangrove channels, and large estuaries. They are sometimes shy, and difficult to approach and photograph. A related species, the Australian Snubfin dolphin (*Orcaella heinsohni*) is found only off the North coast of Australia and around Papua New Guinea.