

Insight360 relies on fishermen's knowledge to recognise species and help prevent bycatch of cetaceans.

This guide has been provided to help you quickly and easily identify porpoises and dolphins common to the South West.



Colour: typical colours and markings of an adult individual.



Distinguishing features: beak length, dorsal fin shape, head shape.



Size: approximate length in metres.

Illustrations credit Lucy Molleson, WDC and CSIP



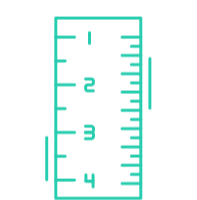
HARBOUR PORPOISE



Black or dark grey back with a pale underside, colours blend halfway up their sides.



Small, round head, no beak, small triangular-shaped fin.



Adults: 1.3 - 1.5m
Calves: approx. 0.7m



COMMON DOLPHIN



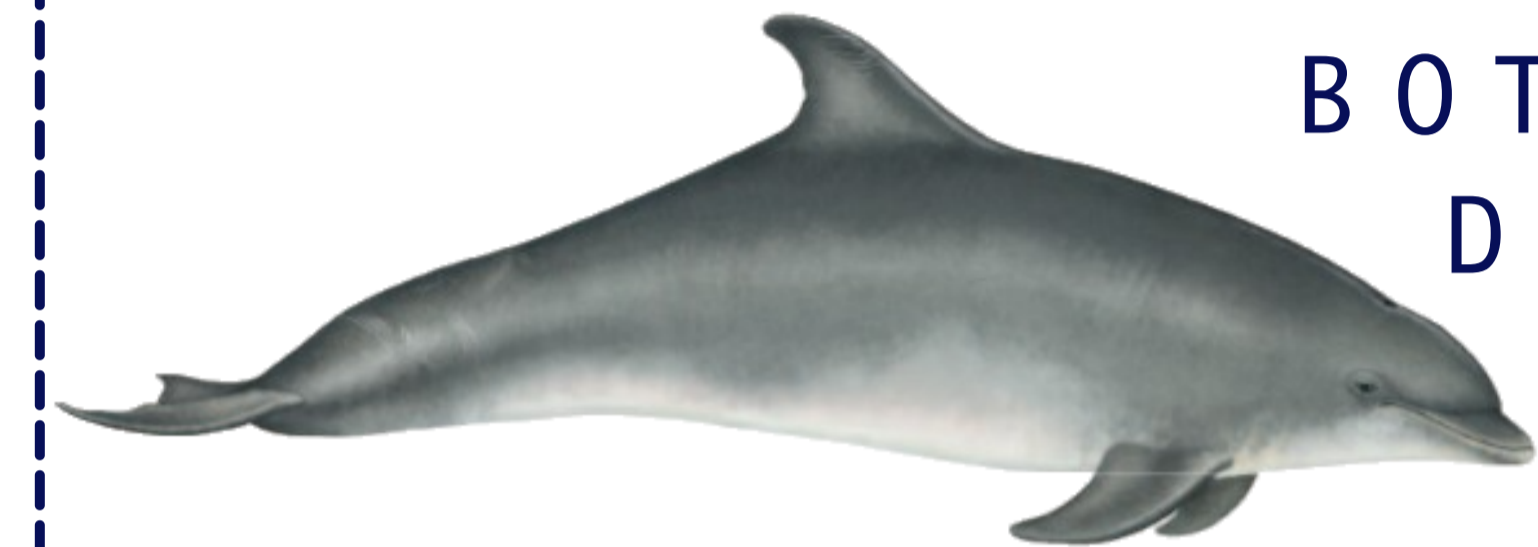
Black or dark grey with a yellow and white hourglass-shaped pattern on the side.



Low forehead that tapers into a slender beak, pointed black fin.



Adults: 2.1 - 2.4m
Calves: approx. 0.8m



BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN



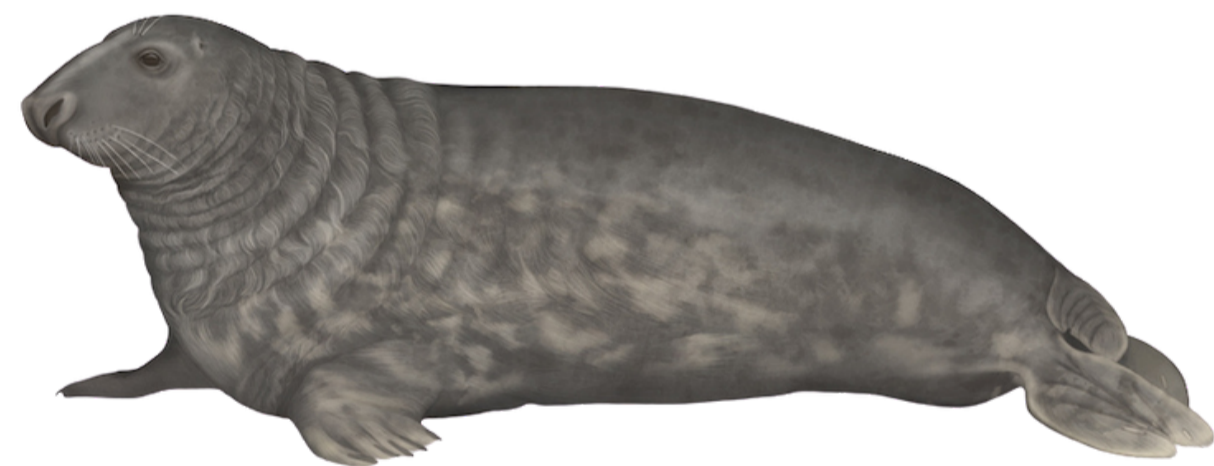
Dark grey back with a pale underside, white shading around mouth.



Short, stubby beak, round head, fin is centrally placed and curves slightly.



Adults: 2.5 - 4.1m
Calves: approx. 1.5m



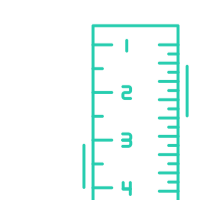
GREY SEAL



Mottled black-grey back colour with paler underside.



Long flat nose, eyes mounted halfway between nose and back of head.



Adults: - 2.1 - 2.4m
Pups: approx. 0.9m, with white fluff



RISSE'S DOLPHIN



Grey or olive brown colour that changes to white over time.



Blunt head, no beak, adults have numerous white scratches.



Adults: 3.3 - 3.8m
Calves: approx. 1m



MINKE WHALE



Sleek bodies with a black or dark brown back, with patches of grey. Distinctive white bands around the flippers.



Flat, ridged head with two blowholes and a long, pointed snout.



Adults: 8 - 8.5m
Calves: approx. 2m