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Pantropical spotted dolphin (*Stenella attenuata*)

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SCMMSN Species Fact Sheet

Pantropical Spotted Dolphin

(*Stenella attenuata*)



Source: FAO Species Identification Guide: Marine Mammals of the World, 1993.

U.S. Range: From Gulf of Maine to Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean in the Atlantic and Gulf of California, Western Mexico and Hawaii in the Pacific.

Size: Adult max. Male 8'5" (2.57 m) Female 7'10" (2.4 m). Neonates 33" (85 cm)

Identification: Slender body, dark cape, gray sides and light belly. White lower jaw with white tipped beak. Dark stripe runs from upper jaw to pectoral fin. Tall falcate dorsal fin. Males might have large post-anal bulge. Spotting varies from absent in juveniles to heavily spotted in adults. Some populations have little spotting.

Stranding History: Occasionally strands throughout its range, more commonly in the Southeastern Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. Strandings are rare in South Carolina (one every decade).

Conservation Status: Listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List.

FYI

The Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits the handling of any marine mammal, dead or alive, and the collection of any parts (e. g., teeth, bones) by unauthorized persons.

The South Carolina Marine Mammal Stranding Network personnel are authorized and trained to collect valuable biological data during stranding events. Public cooperation is greatly appreciated.

To report a stranding, call the South Carolina DNR hotline: 1-800-922-5431.

The majority of live strandings consist of animals that are sick and dying. Marine mammals may carry **infectious diseases** that might be **contagious** to humans. Remember the beach is an unfamiliar environment for them. They are stressed and scared. Please remain at a safe distance at all times.

For further information on marine mammal strandings or on the South Carolina Marine Mammal Stranding Network, visit our website: <http://bccmws.coastal.edu/stranding>

Thank you for your cooperation.

The South Carolina Marine Mammal Stranding Network would like to thank the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for their permission to use images from the FAO Species Identification Guide: Marine Mammals of the World, 1993.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). 2011. *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. Version 2011.1. Retrieved on October 18, 2011, from <http://www.iucnredlist.org>

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The South Carolina Marine Mammal Stranding Network is administered by Coastal Carolina University under the authority of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Stranding Agreement Letter, under authorization of Sections 112(c) and 403 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act)

