



Scientific name : *Stenella frontalis*
Family : Odontocetes
Length: 1,60 to 2 meters
Weight : 100 to 140 kilograms
Dive duration : 2 to 6 minutes
Average diving depth : 10 to 60 meters
Life span : Unknown

Distinctive characteristics

They have a clear flame on their dark body going up the dorsal fin. Adults have many spots on their skin, being clear in darker areas of their bodies and dark in the brighter ones. They have a long and thin beak.

Behaviour

This species is known for being very active. They often jump, sometimes very high. They live in small groups of 5 to 15 individuals, however it can go up to 50 max. They mingle a lot with other cetacean species like *Tursiops truncatus* or *Steno bredanensis*.



Reproduction

Females reach sexual maturity between the age of 8 and 15 and give birth every 3 or 4 years.

The calf

Gestation lasts around 12 months and the calf remains for at least 3 years with its mother. Size at birth is around 1 metre.



Diet

They feed on small fish, cephalopods and invertebrates. They can hunt cooperatively in a group of 50 individuals. Their upper jaws have 64 to 84 teeth and their lower jaws have 60 to 80 teeth.

Example in Guadeloupe

83 recognizable individuals have been identified but it is assumed that the number is higher - 300 to 400 individuals along the French Caribbean coasts. Because we hardly see them here it is considered as a rare species in our waters (2,5 observations per year on average). We suppose that a group could reside in our waters as some specific individuals are seen on a regular basis.



Threats and protection

They get accidentally caught in fishing nets and they are hunted in certain Caribbean islands like Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. They are considered as protected species within the Agoa Sanctuary.

Did you know ?

Newborns are not spotted.
Speckle density may vary according to age. Its pigmentation is unique and remains the same throughout its life.

