



Scientific name : *Stenella attenuata*
Family : Odontocetes
Length : 1,7 to 2,6 meters
Weight : 60 to 120 kilograms
Dive duration : 3 minutes
Average diving depth : unknown
Life span : Around 40 to 46 years

Distinctive characteristics

They are dark grey on their back and light grey on their belly. Spots appear as the dolphins get older. The elder ones get a white-tipped beak.

Behavior

This specie is particularly active. They frequently jump, sometimes very high. They form pods gathering more or less important groups (dozens to thousands) composed of various categories of individuals such as mothers and their calf, young dolphins and males along with other cetaceans and tunas.



Reproduction

Females and males reach the sexual maturity at the average of 9 and 12 years old, respectively. There are two reproduction peaks occurring in spring and autumn.

The calf

Females can give birth every 3 to 4 years. The gestation period is approximately 12 months. The birth size of the calf is 85 cm and even if it is weaned between 1 and 2 years old, the calf feeds on fishes from the age of 3 to 6 months.



Diet

They mostly feed on preys such as fish and squids swimming close to the water surface.



Example in Guadeloupe

Large pods can be observed on the leeward coast throughout the year. It's not uncommon to see them along with Fraser's dolphins.



Threats and protections

They often get caught by the tuna boats fish nets. In the Agoa sanctuary, they are obviously protected.

Did you know ?

Newborns aren't spotted.
Density of the spots varies with age.

