



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

White-beaked Dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*)

Description

White-beaked dolphins are relatively small with a robust body and short thick beak. The falcate dorsal fin is large and prominent in the middle of the back. Coloration varies but the body is generally dark gray or black with white patches on the beak, sides, belly, and back behind the dorsal fin.

Habitat and Distribution

White-beaked dolphins occur in cold temperate and subpolar waters of the North Atlantic, typically in shallow water.

Sounds

White-beaked dolphins make many different whistles while socializing and playing. They also use echolocation clicks to locate prey while foraging.

Feeding

White-beaked dolphins feed on a wide variety of fish, cephalopods, and crustaceans including herring, capelin, cod, haddock, whiting, squid, octopus, and benthic crustaceans.

Threats

White-beaked dolphins are occasionally hunted for food and oil in Newfoundland, Labrador, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands. They are also incidentally taken as bycatch in trawls, cod traps, and gillnets.

Fun Fact

The scientific name *Lagenorhynchus* is derived from the Latin word *lagenos* for "bottle" or "flask" and *rhynchos* for "beak."



Family: Delphinidae
Population: > 100,000
Status: Least Concern
Length: 9 — 10 feet
Weight: 680 — 770 lbs