

Bottlenose dolphin

Conservation status: **LEAST CONCERN**

Dolphins do much more than amaze us with their intelligence and acrobatics – they are vital for the health of our oceans and rivers.

As top predators, dolphins help keep marine food webs in balance. They are also highly sensitive to changes in their environment, so their populations often reflect the health of the waters they live in.

Did you know?

There are **42 species** of dolphins living in nearly all aquatic environments, including oceans, coastal, estuaries and freshwater.

In UK waters you can see seven species of dolphin, including bottlenose dolphins, Atlantic white-sided dolphins... and orcas!



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Key facts

- Bottlenose dolphins can live for up to **52 years** in the wild
- Dolphins are mammals, and must surface to breathe air
- They eat a variety of seafood such as fish, squid, and crabs
- They can be up to **3.9m** long and weigh around **200-400kg**
- They have up to **100** sharp, pointed teeth
- Bottlenose dolphins make a variety of sounds, including whistles, clicks and barks
- They live in groups of **2-15** individuals, but can be found in groups of up to 1,000 dolphins!

Note on the photograph: This work was performed under authorisation 02/ORAC/24/judithvandegriendt. Precautions are taken by the professionals in order to avoid disturbing the animals. According to the regional legislation swimming with whales and other cetaceans that are not dolphins is forbidden.