Cephalorhynchus hectori (van Beneden, 1881) **DELPH Ceph 3** **HCD**

FAO Names: En - Hector's dolphin**; Fr -** Dauphin d'Hector**; Sp -** Delfin de Hector.

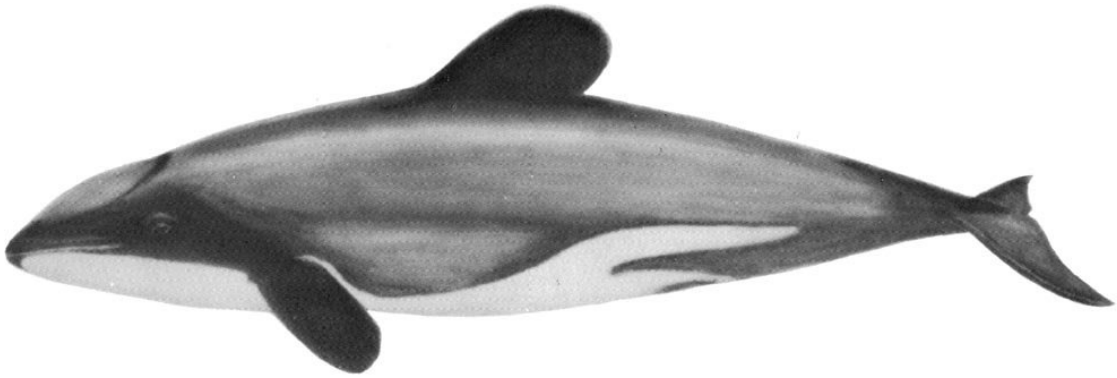
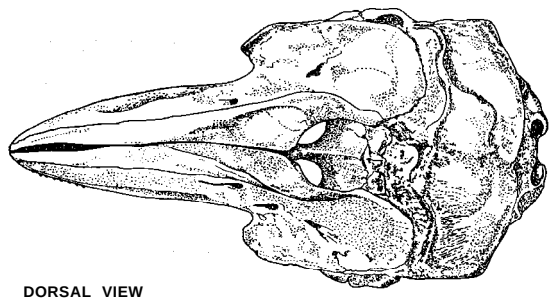


Fig. 361 ***Cephalorhynchus hectori***

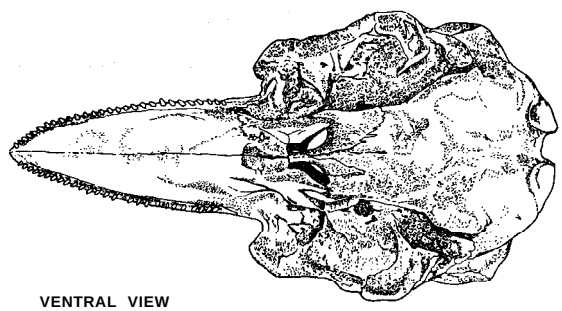
Distinctive Characteristics: The typical robust ***Cephalorhynchus*** body shape is evident in this species. The head is blunt, the dorsal fin is low and rounded, and the flippers are rounded at the tips.

The predominant colour of Hector's dolphin is light grey. The dorsal fin, flukes, flippers, area around the blowhole, and much of the face are dark grey to black. Ventrally, the animals are largely white. The lower part of the head, starting just behind the black lower jaw tip is white, as is the area from just behind the flippers to the urogenital area. Arms of white from this patch also extend part way up the sides. The white ventral patches can be invaded by black between the flippers, or can be completely separated by a continuous black area. There are also small white axillary and dark grey urogenital patches (the latter are smaller and not apparent in some females).

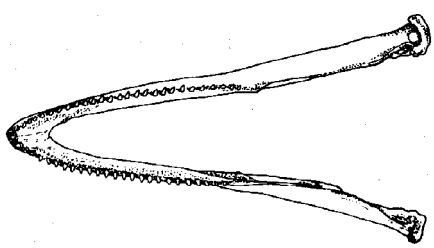
The mouth of a Hector's dolphin contains 24 to 31 fine pointed teeth in each row.



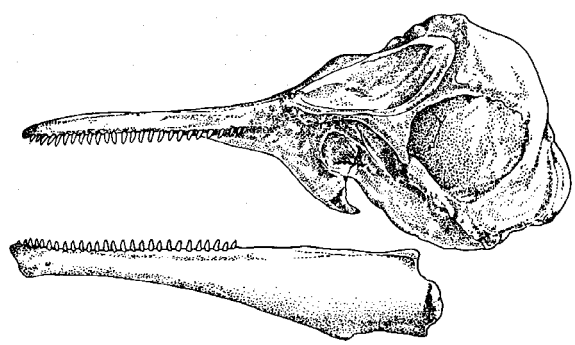
DORSAL VIEW



VENTRAL VIEW



DORSAL VIEW OF MANDIBLE



LATERAL VIEW

Fig. 362 Skull

Can be confused with: Other dolphins (common, dusky, bottlenose, etc.) are found around New Zealand, but should be easy to distinguish from the small Hector's dolphin, largely on the basis of size and dorsal-fin shape.

Size: Hector's dolphin adults reach lengths of t.5 m (females are slightly larger than males), and newborns are about 60 to 70 cm long. Weights of up to 57 kg have been reported.

Geographical Distribution: This dolphin is endemic to New Zealand. They are found in shallow coastal waters, and are most common off South Island and the west coast of North Island.

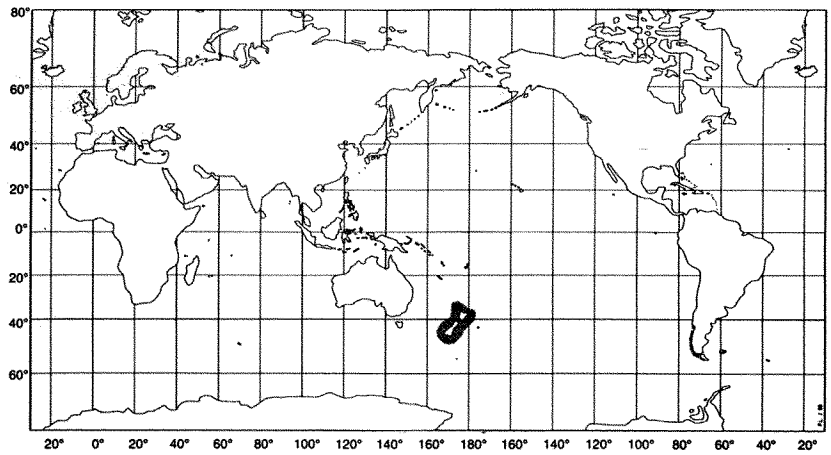


Fig. 363

Biology and Behaviour: The habits and biology of Hector's dolphin have been well studied only in the last few years. They live in groups of 2 to 8 individuals. Larger aggregations of up to 50 can be seen at times. These are active, acrobatic dolphins, and they are known to engage in bowriding activity. Photo-identification studies have demonstrated that at least some individuals are resident in small areas year-round.

The calving season is in the spring through early summer.

Hector's dolphins engage in opportunistic feeding on several species of small fish and squid.

Exploitation: The catch of large numbers of Hector's dolphins in coastal gillnets, many of them used by recreational fishermen, has been documented in recent years. Due to evidence that the catches were seriously threatening the estimated 3 000 to 4 000 Hector's dolphins around New Zealand, the government of that country created a marine mammal sanctuary in 1989 to protect them.

IUCN Status: Indeterminate.

Cephalorhynchus eutropia (Gray, 1846)

DELPH Ceph 4 **CHD**

FAO Names: En - Black dolphin**; Fr -** Dauphin noir du Chili**; Sp -** Delfín chileno.

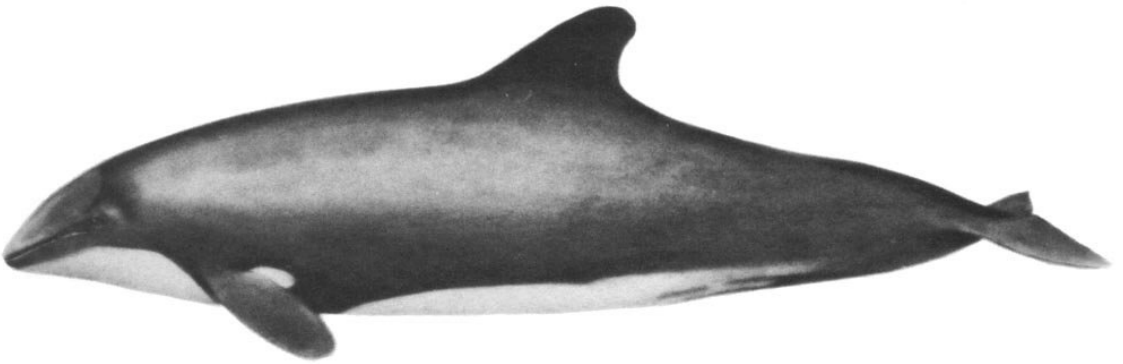


Fig. 364 ***Cephalorhynchus eutropia***

Distinctive Characteristics: This insufficiently known dolphin is robust, with a short, poorly defined beak. The dorsal fin is moderately low and rounded, and the flippers have rounded tips, much like those of other members of the genus.

The body is mostly grey, with a darker grey band extending from the blowhole to above the eye. There is often darker grey on the sides of the face, and in a wide band from around the eye to the flipper. On the belly are large white patches from behind the flippers to the urogenital area, and from ahead of the flippers to the snout tip. These patches are separated by a dark grey band between the flippers. There are also small white patches in the axillae, and thin grey patches around the urogenital area (the latter are sexually and individually variable).

Black dolphins have 29 to 34 small pointed teeth in each row.

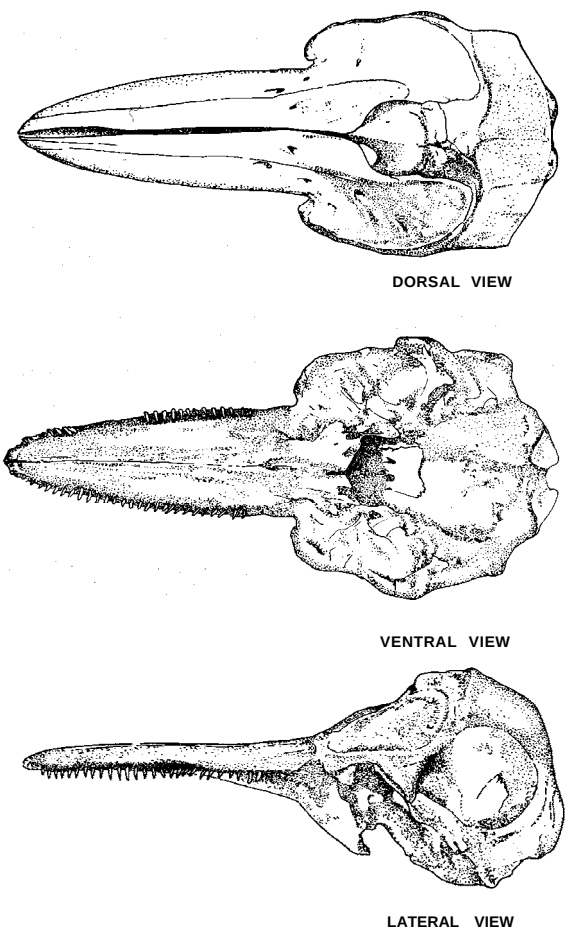


Fig. 365 Skull

Can be confused with: Black dolphins can be confused with Commerson's dolphins (p. 174) around the southern tip of South America. The large white areas on Commerson's dolphins are the best clue. Burmeister's porpoises (p. 188) may also be confused with this species. Here, dorsal-fin shape will be the best character to distinguish them.

Size: Adults of this species are up to at least 1.7 m (size at sexual maturity has not been sufficiently documented). Black dolphins reach weights of up to 63 kg. Length at birth is unknown, but is probably somewhat less than 1 m.

Geographical Distribution: This dolphin is found only on the Chilean coast, from 30ºS to the tip of South America. As is true of other members of the genus, it is found in shallow coastal waters, and enters estuaries and rivers.

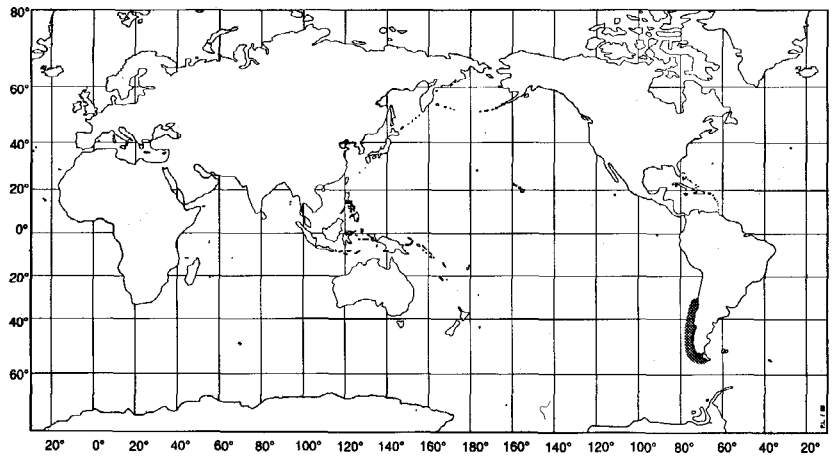


Fig. 366

Biology and Behaviour: Until recently, there have been very few sightings of these animals by researchers. Groups tend to be small, between 2 and 15 members, but aggregations of up to 400 have been recorded. Although active and very conspicuous, they tend to be shy and difficult to approach, but may occasionally ride bow waves.

Most sightings of newborn black dolphins have been from October to April.

Black dolphins feed on fish, cephalopods, and crustaceans.

Exploitation: Black dolphins are taken both incidentally in gillnets (and occasionally in seines) and directly by harpoon in a fishery for crab bait off southern Chile. Incidental catches are also sometimes utilized for oil and human consumption. The effects of these fisheries on black dolphin population(s) are not known.

IUCN Status: Insufficiently known.

Phocoenoides dalli (True, 1885)

PHOCO Phocoen 1 **PDA**

FAO Names: En - Dall's porpoise**: Fr -** Marsouin de Dall**; Sp -** Marsopa de Dall.

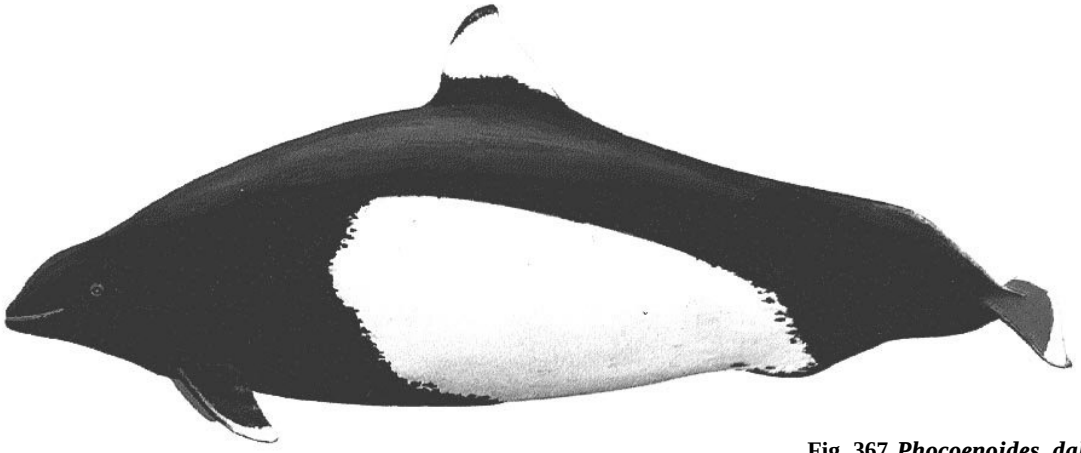


Fig. 367 ***Phocoenoides dalli***

Distinctive Characteristics: These are robust animals, with a wide-based triangular dorsal fin, and small flippers placed near the head. The small head has a short beak, with no demarcation from the melon. From above, the head appears triangular.

Dall's porpoises are strikingly marked, with a black body and bright white flank patches that are continuous ventrally, although young animals have muted colour patterns. The flank patches extend from the urogenital area to just in front of the dorsal fin, and up the sides about midway. In addition, there is white to light grey "frosting" on the upper portion of the dorsal fin and the trailing edges of the flukes. There are 2 commonly occurring colour types, the dalli-type (described and illustrated above) and the truei-type (which has a larger flank patch that extends to the level of the flipper).

Dall's porpoise has the smallest teeth of any cetacean. There are 23 to 28 tiny spade-shaped teeth in each tooth row.

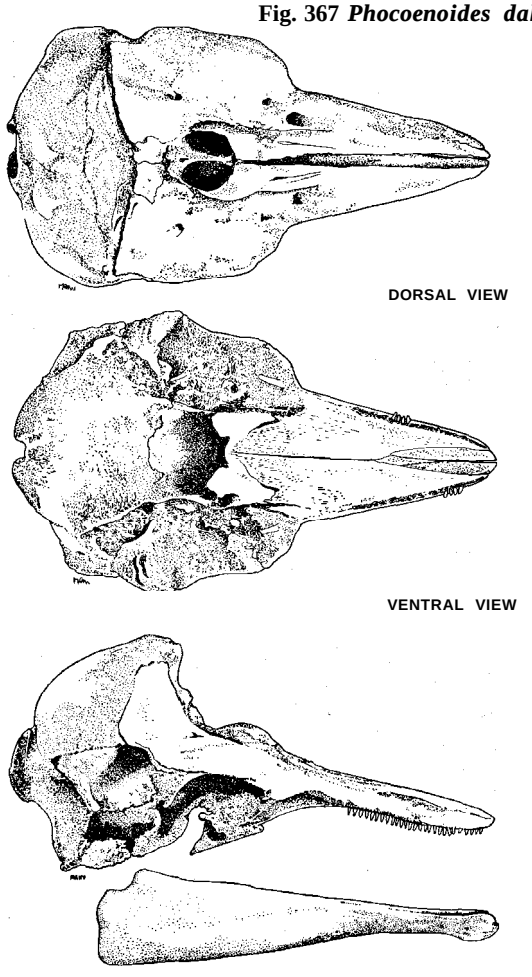


Fig. 368 Skull

Can be confused with: Dall's porpoises are likely to be confused only with harbour porpoises (p. 186), and even then, only if seen at a great distance. When seen well, the differences in colour pattern and dorsal-fin shape will be readily apparent.

Size: Newborn Dall's porpoises are about 1 m long. Adults are up to 2.2 m (females) or 2.4 m (males). Maximum weight is about 200 kg.

Geographical Distribution: Dall's porpoises are found only in the North Pacific Ocean and adjacent seas. They inhabit deep waters of the warm temperate through subarctic zones, between about 30ºN and 62ºN. There is apparently a single truei-type population that migrates between the Pacific coast of Japan and the Okhotsk Sea; dalli-types predominate in all other areas of the range.

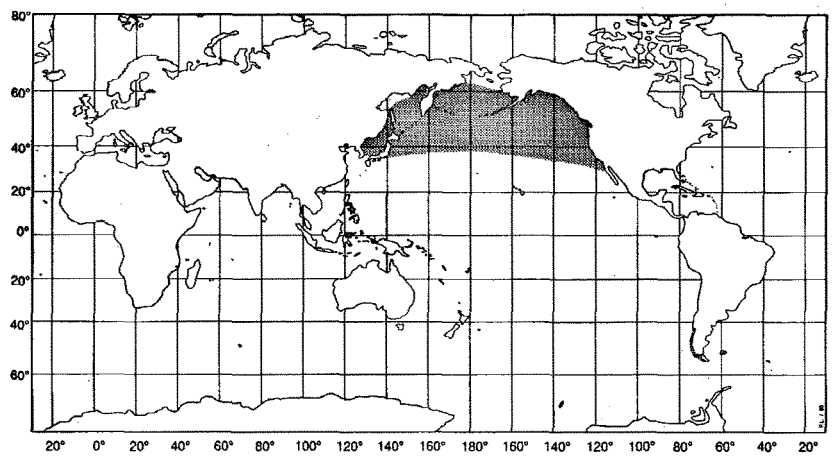


Fig. 369

Biology and Behaviour: This may be the fastest swimmer of all small cetaceans, at least for short bursts. When swimming rapidly, Dall's slice along the surface, producing a characteristic roostertail of spray. At other times, the animals move slowly and roll at the surface, creating little or no disturbance. These are avid bowriders, moving back and forth with jerky movements, and often coming from seemingly nowhere to appear at the bow of a fast-moving vessel. Breaching, porpoising, and other kinds of aerial behaviour, are extremely rare in this species. Dall's porpoises are found mostly in small groups of 2 to 12, although aggregations of up to several thousand have been reported. Groups appear to be fluid, often forming and breaking up for feeding and playing.

Most Dall's porpoise calves are born in spring and summer.

Dall's porpoises are opportunistic feeders, taking a range of surface and mid-water fish and squid, especially lanternfish and gonatid squid.

Exploitation: The International Whaling Commission currently recognizes 8 stocks, based on pollutant loads, parasite faunas, and distribution patterns of cow-calf pairs. Heavy exploitation occurs in the western Pacific, both in a directed harpoon fishery and in several gillnet fisheries, in which Dall's are caught incidentally. The Asian driftnet fisheries for squid and salmon took several thousand anually in recent years in the central Pacific. Although there are records of small numbers being taken incidentally in the eastern Pacific, stocks there, unlike those in the central and western Pacific, are supposedly not in any immediate danger.

IUCN Status: Insufficiently known.

Australophocaena dioptrica (Lahille, 1912)

PHOCO Aust 1 **SPP**

FAO Names: En - Spectacled porpoise; **Fr -** Marsouin de Lahille; **Sp -** Marsopa de anteojos.

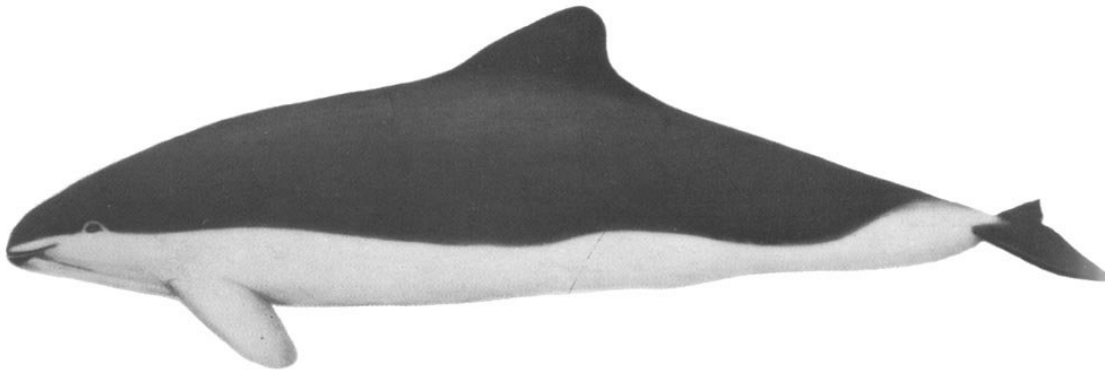


Fig. 370 *Australophocaena dioptrica*

Distinctive Characteristics: In spectacled porpoises, the body shape is typically porpoise-like, but the dorsal fin is large and rounded (in some adult males, it becomes extremely large). The flippers are small, with rounded tips. The beak is short or non-existent.

The two-tone colour pattern of spectacled porpoises is very distinctive. Above a line that runs down the side at the level of the eye (except that the line extends upward at the tail stock, just before the flukes), they are black. Below this line, they are white, with the exception of black lips and a dark gape-to-flipper stripe (the latter is apparently not present on all adults). There is a black patch, surrounded by a fine white line, around the eye. The flukes are black above and white below; the flippers are variably coloured, either all dark or greyish white with grey edges. Young animals have muted grey patterns.

Inside the mouth are 17 to 23 (upper) or 17 to 20 (lower) spade-shaped teeth in each row.

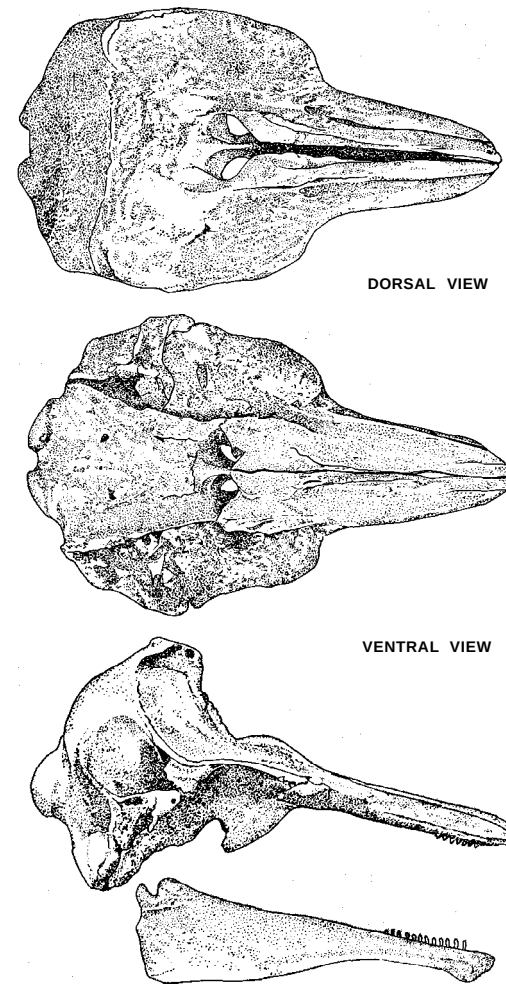


Fig. 371 Skull

Can be confused with: The spectacled porpoise is not likely to be confused with other species, when seen well. But at a distance, there can be some confusion with Commerson's dolphin (p. 174) and Burmeister's porpoise (p. 188), which both share portions of its range. These 3 species can best be distinguished by dorsal-fin shape and colour pattern differences.

Size: Adult male spectacled porpoises reach lengths of at least 2.3 m and adult females are up to about 2.1 m. Newborns are probably about 1 m.

Geographical Distribution: Known primarily from the southern coast of eastern South America, from Uruguay to Tierra del Fuego, this species is apparently also found around offshore islands in the Southern Hemisphere. There are records from the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Kerguelen Islands, Heard Island, Macquarie Island, and the Auckland Islands. Although rarely seen at sea, this information suggests that the spectacled porpoise may be circumpolar in the subantarctic. Sightings have occurred in offshore waters, as well as in rivers and channels.

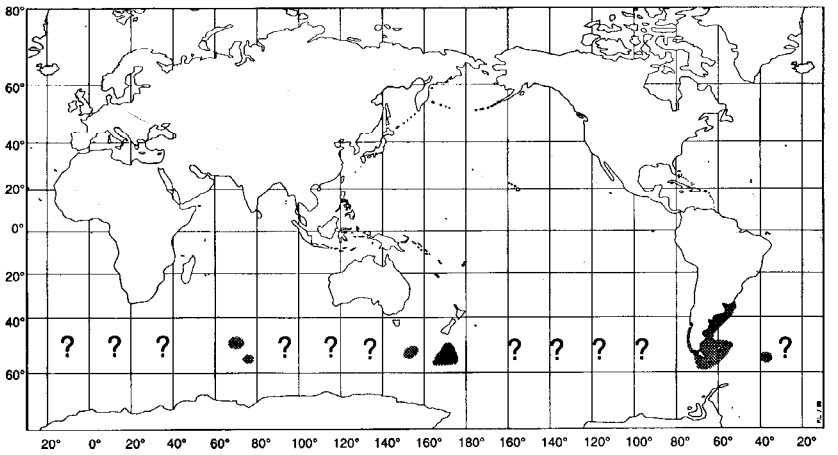


Fig. 372

Biology and Behaviour: In the few known sightings, group sizes were small, apparently mostly singles and pairs. These animals are very inconspicuous when surfacing.

Births appear to occur in the southern spring to summer. Essentially, nothing else is known of this species' behaviour and biology.

Exploitation: In the past, spectacled porpoises were killed deliberately for food. In Argentina and Chile, spectacled porpoises are taken in gillnets, and they may be taken deliberately for crab bait off southern Chile. The effects of these catches on spectacled porpoise populations are not known.

IUCN Status: insufficiently known.