

Atlantic White-Sided Dolphin

Leucopleurus acutus



Quick facts

Order Cetartiodactyla

Conservation status
Global *Least concern*



Global trend *Unknown*

Size 2.1 - 2.6 m, males larger

Weight Females maximum 182 kg, males maximum 234 kg

Life span At least 27 years

A large, stout dolphin with white and yellow-ochre markings. Slightly smaller and more pelagic than the white-beaked dolphin, which can appear similar. In the British Isles, it is mainly concentrated around the Hebrides and the north North Sea.

Habitat

Mainly along edges or seaward of continental shelves over depths of 100 - 300 m, also comes onto continental shelves and enters fjords. More pelagic than white-beaked dolphin.

Behaviour

Very gregarious, forming groups of 10s - 1000s. Fast swimmer, frequently breaches, bow-rides occasionally. Often associates and feeds with large baleen whales including fin and humpback whales, also forms groups with pilot whales, bottlenose dolphin, and white-beaked dolphin.

Diet & Feeding

Wide variety of fish, squid, shrimps. Small groups herd fish together.

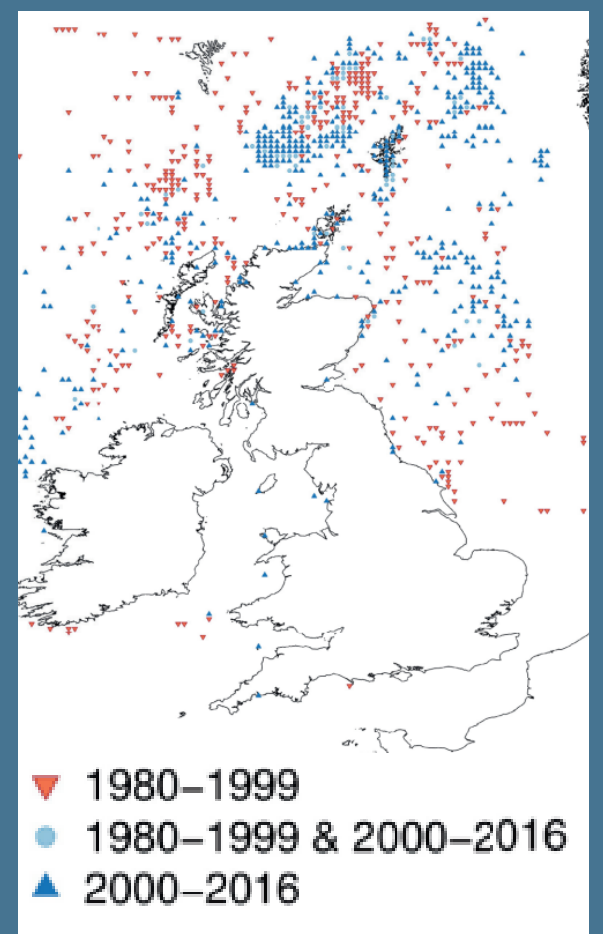
Reproduction

Little known. Births mainly May - August., sometimes as early as February or late as September. Gestation 11 months.

Conservation & Threats

Hunted opportunistically in Canada, Greenland, Faroe Islands. Deaths in fishing gear documented in UK, Ireland, and elsewhere, and likely occurs across most of range. Contaminated with organochlorines, heavy metals, likely ingests plastic debris. Changes to distribution due to climate change probable but little is known. Mass strandings relatively frequent.

Range



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