White-beaked dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*)

MarLIN – Marine Life Information Network
Marine Evidence–based Sensitivity Assessment (MarESA) Review

Morvan Barnes

2008-06-02

A report from:

The Marine Life Information Network, Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.

Please note. This MarESA report is a dated version of the online review. Please refer to the website for the most up-to-date version [https://www.marlin.ac.uk/species/detail/117]. All terms and the MarESA methodology are outlined on the website (https://www.marlin.ac.uk)

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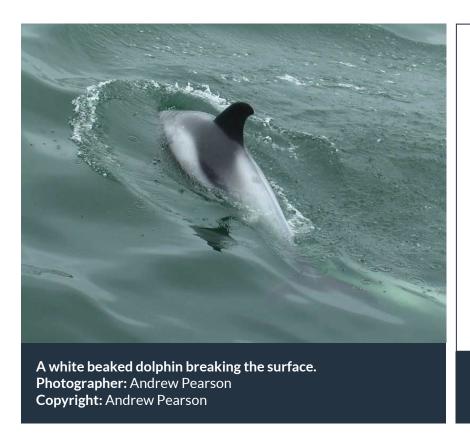
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Maryan Darnes

See online review for distribution map

Distribution data supplied by the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). To interrogate UK data visit the NBN Atlas.

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Researched by	Morvair parries	Refereed by	Aumin
Authority	(Gray, 1846)		
Other common	-	Synonyms	-

Summary

names

Description

Lagenorhynchus albirostris is a toothed whale and can be recognised as such by the single blowhole and the presence of teeth. It is a member of the dolphin family with a characteristic prominent median notch in the flukes, a smooth crease-less throat and sharply pointed teeth. The white-beaked dolphin reaches up to 3.2 m in length. It has moderately long and slender flippers and small tail flukes. The dorsal fin is tall, large and located on the middle of the back. The head is smoothly sloping with a distinct but small snout. It has a complex, gradually changing colour pattern. The dorsal and lateral colouration is dark grey and the belly and beak are white. Wisp-like light grey colouration on the flanks with a light grey saddle.

Deferred by

Q Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

Found all around the British Isles, particularly off the coasts of Scotland and in the North Sea but also south-west Britain and western Ireland.

♥ Global distribution

Habitat

The white-beaked dolphin is an offshore species and prefers waters less than 200 m deep.

↓ Depth range

Q Identifying features

- Slender body up to 3.2 m in length.
- Tall, large dorsal fin located on the middle of the back.
- Very deepened tail stock.
- Gradually changing, wispy colouration dark grey above, white below with a light grey saddle are and lateral wisp.
- No distinct black lines.
- Beak is usually white.
- Short slender flippers.
- Gently sloping head with a short, thick beak.
- · Straight mouthline.

Additional information

White-beaked dolphins are usually found in large pods of up to several thousand individuals. Mixed schools with other species including Atlantic white-sided dolphins, *Lagenorhynchus acutus*, have been recorded. Their surface behaviour is typical of dolphins with acrobatic leaps and bowriding are not uncommon. Dive duration is unknown (Kinze, 2002).

Listed by



Solution Further information sources

Search on:



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