SCMMSN Species Fact Sheet
Pantropical Spotted Dolphin
(Stenella attenuata)


U.S. Range: From Gulf of Maine to Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean in the Atlantic and
gulf of California, Western Mexico and Hawaii in the Pacific.

Size: Adult max. Male 8'5" (2.57 m) Female 7'10" (2.4 m). Neonates 33" (85 cm)

Identification: Slender body, dark cape, gray sides and light belly. White lower jaw with
white tipped beak. Dark stripe runs from upper jaw to pectoral fin. Tall falcate dorsal fin.
Males might have large post-anal bulge. Spotting varies from absent in juveniles to heavily
spotted in adults. Some populations have little spotting.

Stranding History: Occasionally strands throughout its range, more commonly in the
Southeastern Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. Strandings are rare in South Carolina (one
every decade).

Conservation Status: Listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List.

FYI
The Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits the handling of any marine mammal, dead or alive, and the collection of any parts (e. g.,
teeth, bones) by unauthorized persons.

The South Carolina Marine Mammal Stranding Network personnel are authorized and trained to collect valuable biological data during
stranding events. Public cooperation is greatly appreciated.

To report a stranding, call the South Carolina DNR hotline: 1-800-922-5431.

The majority of live strandings consist of animals that are sick and dying. Marine mammals may carry infectious diseases that might be
contagious to humans. Remember the beach is an unfamiliar environment for them. They are stressed and scared. Please remain at a safe
distance at all times.

For further information on marine mammal strandings or on the South Carolina Marine Mammal Stranding Network, visit our website:
http://bccmws.coastal.edu/stranding
Thank you for your cooperation.

The South Carolina Marine Mammal Stranding Network would like to thank the
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for their permission to use images from the

http://www.iucnredlist.org
Knopf.

The South Carolina Marine Mammal Stranding Network is administered by Coastal Carolina University
under the authority of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Stranding
Agreement Letter, under authorization of Sections 112(c) and 403 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act)