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Risso's Dolphin (*Grampus griseus*)

Although widely distributed in the UK and present year round, it is not considered to be especially numerous, preferring deeper waters. Little is known regarding Risso's dolphin within Orkney waters in terms of abundance, population status and structure, ranges, residency and social dynamics.

IUCN STATUS

Globally listed as **LEAST CONCERN** (2018), but in Europe is considered **DATA DEFICIENT** (2007) with the current population trend or size of population **UNKNOWN**.

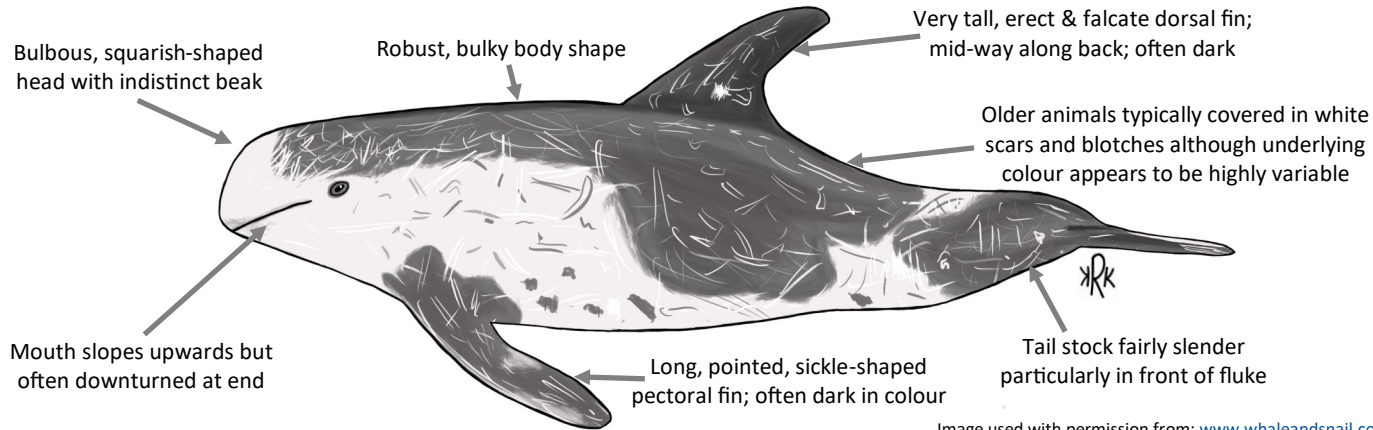
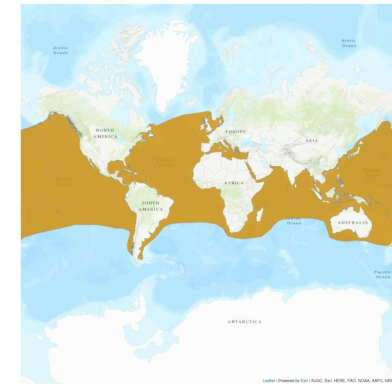


Image used with permission from: www.whaleandsnail.com

DISTRIBUTION MAP



Legend
■ EXTANT (RESIDENT)

Compiled by:
IUCN International Union for Conservation of Nature 2012

DID YOU KNOW?

- Some of the scarring on Risso's dolphin comes from interactions with their favourite food - squid!
- Risso's dolphin only have 2 to 7 pairs of teeth in their lower jaw!
- Risso's dolphin is the sole member of the genus *Grampus*, which was once a common name for the Orca. Its origin is mysterious – perhaps from the French for 'big fish' - grand poisson ?



PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

Scarring, nicks and dorsal fin shape make this species an excellent candidate for photo-identification although the behaviour of the species also presents challenges as it spends relatively long periods submerged and is 'quiet' in nature.

OMMRI is compiling a photo identification catalogue for Risso's Dolphin. Please send any good photos of this species to us for comparison with known animals and inclusion in our catalogue. All images will be credited to the observer.

photos@ommri.org

KEY FACTS

Length: ADULT: 2.8 - 3.8 m
CALF: 1 -1.5 m

Weight: ADULT: 300 - 500 kg

Life span: 40 - 50 years

Prey: Cephalopods

Sexual Maturity: Female: 8-10 yrs; male 10-12 yrs

Gestation: 13 - 14 months; 1 calf every 2 to 3 years

Dive time: 1 - 10 minutes

PLEASE REPORT ANY MARINE MAMMAL SIGHTINGS TO OMMRI

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www.ommri.org/sightings

MAIN THREATS

- ◆ **Bycatch** - caught accidentally by fisheries globally
- ◆ **Pollution** - noise, plastic, etc
- ◆ **Hunting** - Risso's dolphin are still hunted in several countries for fertilizer, fish bait and food.