A photograph of two Irrawaddy dolphins swimming in a body of water. The dolphin on the left is facing towards the camera, while the one on the right is slightly behind it. The water is a deep blue with some ripples.

LEARNING ABOUT

# THE AYEYARWADY DOLPHIN

Prepared by Stella & Kyi



# Meet the Ayeyarwady Dolphin

A popular kind of Southeast Asia

Scientific name is **\*Orcealla Brevirostris\***

Closely resembles the Australian snubfin dolphin ( same genus,Orcaella).

Initially discovered in the Ayeyarwady River.

One of the endangered species among freshwater dolphins



## WHERE THEY LIVE

Usually found in coastal areas in South and Southeast Asia and freshwater rivers.

Live in brackish water near coasts, river mouths, and estuaries.

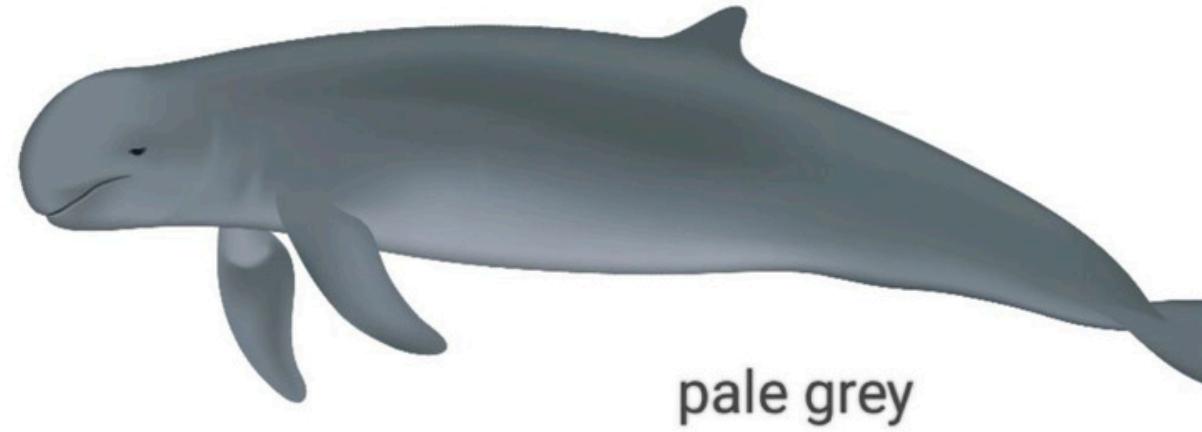
Found in freshwater rivers:

- The Ayeyarwady in Myanmar
- The Mahakam in Indonesia
- The Mekong in Laos

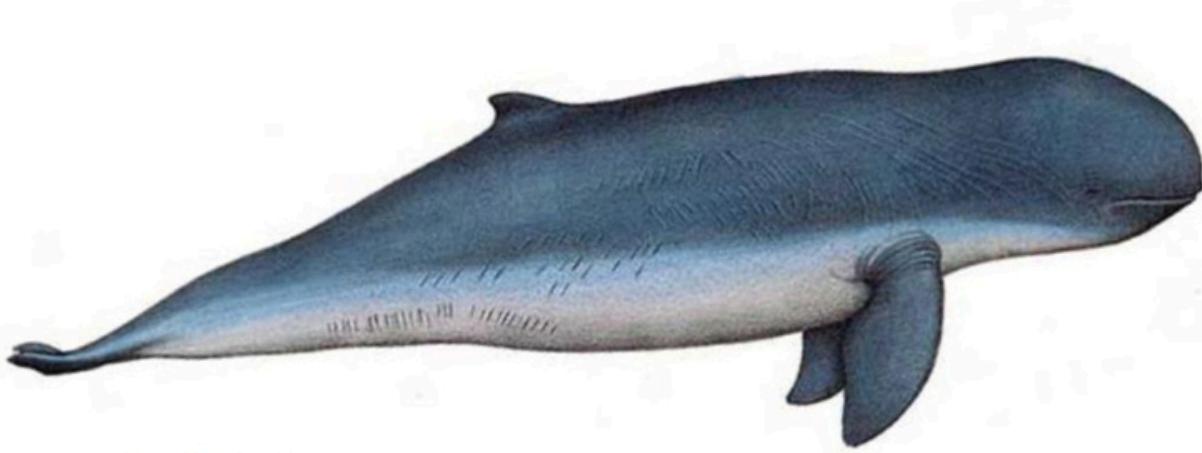
Mostly seen about 1.6 kilometers away from the shore.

In Myanmar, inhabit the Ayeyarwady River between Mandalay and Bamaw.

# What makes them special



pale grey



dark blue



**Colour:** Dark blue, dark, or pale grey.

**Body:** Rounded head with a very bulging forehead, no beak or snout.

**Dorsal fin:** Short, blunt, and triangular.

**Flippers:** Long and broad.

**Average length:** Approximately 2.3 meters.

**Weight:** Ranges from 90 kg to 200 kg.

**Distinctive characteristics:** The unique bond and mutual relationship with the local fishermen.



## How they hangout

Ayeyarwady dolphins are slow swimmers.

Generally found in groups of 3 to 6 members but sometimes up to 15 dolphins are seen together.

Breathe bringing only the head out of the water.

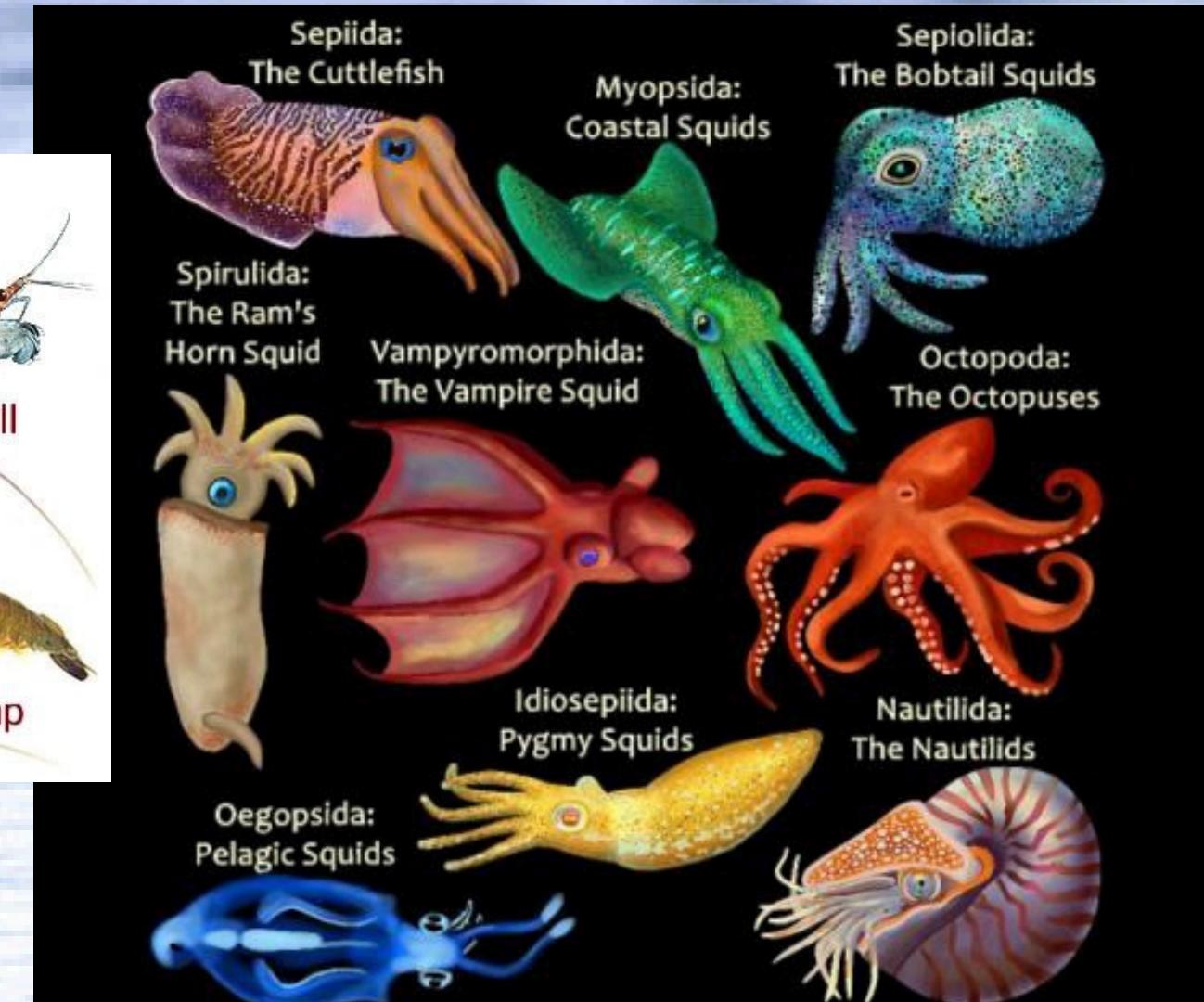
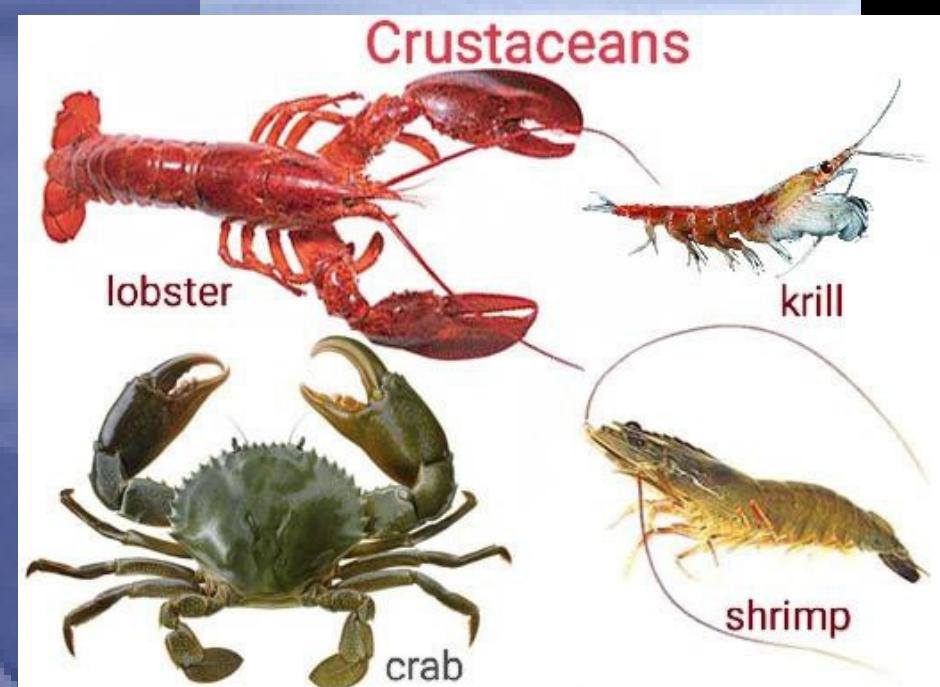
Produce sounds such as whistles, clicks and screeches to communicate with one another.

Squirt streams of water and can reach up to 1.5 metres above the surface of the water.

# What They like to eat

feed on bony fish, fish eggs, and crustaceans which are crabs, lobsters and shrimp, etc..

like to eat cephalopods, such as octopuses, squids, nautilus and cuttle fish, etc...



# Threats They Face

- **Habitat Loss:** Due to dam construction and river development.
- **Bycatch:** Accidental capture in fishing gear.
- **Pollution:** Water pollution affects their health and food sources.
- **Boat Traffic:** Collisions and disturbance from boats.
- **Illegal Trade:** Targeted for their body parts in illegal wildlife trade



# What We're Doing to Help

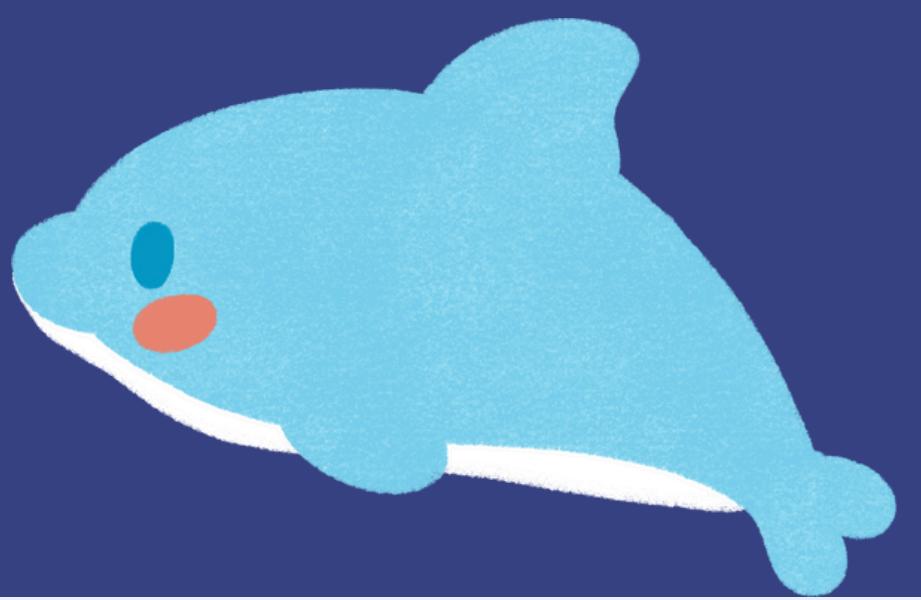
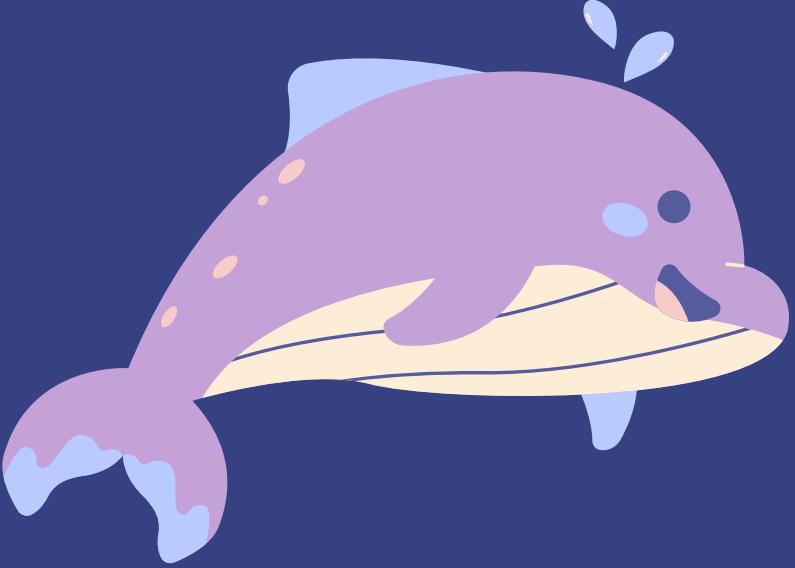
Learning about the things people are doing to protect Ayeyarwady Dolphins:

- Research: Studying their behavior and habitat to inform conservation strategies.
- Protected Areas: Establishing sanctuaries and protected zones.
- Community Engagement: Involving local communities in conservation efforts.
- Fishing Practices: Promoting dolphin-friendly fishing methods.
- Awareness: Raising awareness about their importance and threats.

# Why They Matter To People

- Cultural Significance: Part of local traditions and folklore.
- Tourism: Attract visitors, boosting local economies.
- Ecosystem Health: Indicators of a healthy river ecosystem.
- Biodiversity: Preservation of a unique and endangered species.
- Sustainability: Ensuring a sustainable future for local fisheries.





# Visiting and Learning

- Eco-Tours: Join guided eco-tours along the Ayeyarwady River.
- Research Centers: Visit local research centers focused on dolphins.
- Educational Programs: Engage in educational programs and workshops.
- Community Initiatives: Support local efforts for dolphin conservation.
- Responsible Tourism: Contribute to their preservation through responsible tourism.

Visiting and learning about Ayeyarwady Dolphins offers a unique opportunity to appreciate and support their conservation efforts.

# Keeping Them Safe

- Conservation Awareness: Educate communities about their importance.
- Sustainable Practices: Promote responsible fishing and development.
- Policy Advocacy: Advocate for protective policies and regulations.
- Support Research: Fund and engage in ongoing research efforts.
- Local Engagement: Involve local communities in conservation initiatives.



# Thank You

- 1."Are you interested in learning more about Ayeyarwady Dolphins?"
- 2."Do you know of any other animals that also need protection?"
- 3."What can we do to help these dolphins and other endangered species?"

