**Life cycle**

Bottlenose Dolphin calves are born in the water after a gestation period of one year and suckle for about 18 months. They remain with the mother for about four years. They are a long-lived species, with an extensive life span of up to 45 years.

This species' life history is well known from years of observation in the wild and from its long history as a captive animal. The social organisation of groups and their size varies greatly, to some extent depending on the habitat. Animals in bays form only small groups of maybe 15 individuals while those off shore may number in the hundreds. Birth of the young occurs after a gestation period of about a year.

<https://australianmuseum.net.au/bottlenose-dolphin>

NOAA bottlenose dolphin

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/dolphins/bottlenose-dolphin.html>

Search Term: dolphin predator-prey environment

### [Food availability and tiger shark predation risk influence bottlenose dolphin habitat use](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1890/0012-9658(2002)083%5b0480:FAATSP%5d2.0.CO;2/full)

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