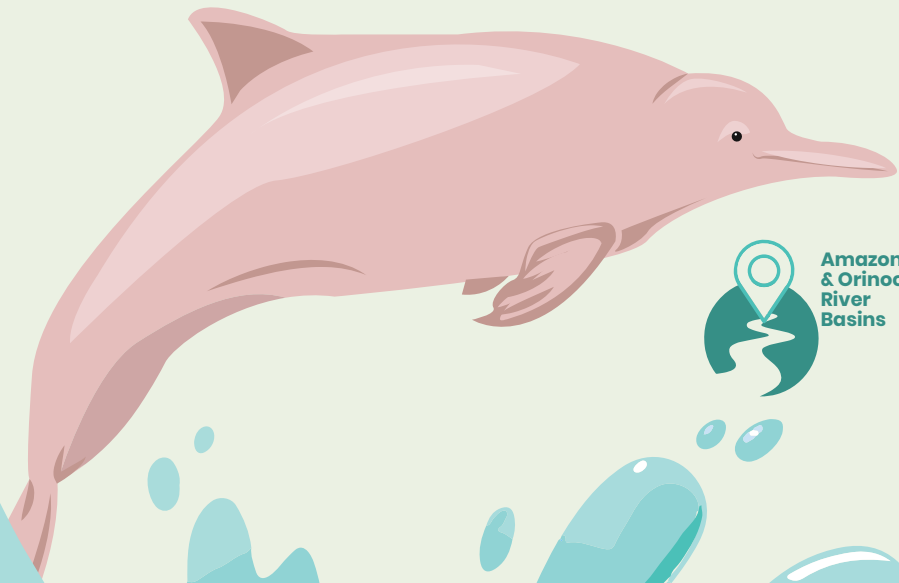


River Dolphins

CONSERVATION STATUS:

ENDANGERED



Amazon & Orinoco River Basins

Amazon river dolphin

Inia geoffrensis

It migrates 3-10 km a day, and unlike any other dolphin, it has a flexible neck which allows it to move its head left and right. This helps it chase fish in the flooded Amazon forest.



Freshwater dolphins are **indicator species**

meaning that when a freshwater dolphin population is thriving, the state of that freshwater basin is also likely flourishing.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED



Mekong, Irrawaddy, Mahakam Rivers

Irrawaddy river dolphin

Orcaella brevirostris

The Irrawaddy dolphin is named after the River Ayeyawady in Myanmar. It can spit water up to 5 ft away in order to herd fish while hunting.



Dolphins emit ultrasonic sounds

known as echolocation which aids both navigation and communication. This ability benefits all river dolphin species, but especially the Indus and Ganges river dolphins which are essentially blind due to living in muddy waters for generations.

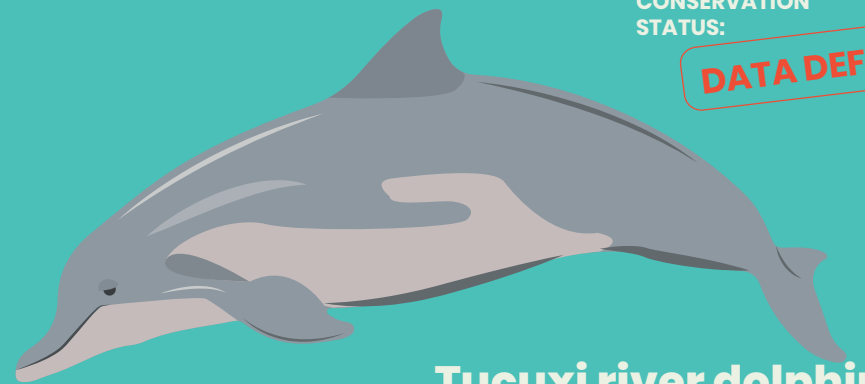
To prevent drowning while sleeping,

only half of the dolphin's brain goes to sleep.



The other half remains awake, so that they can continue to surface to breathe.

Activities such as **dam building, unsustainable fishing, and pollution** have all contributed to the **drastic decline in freshwater dolphin populations.**



CONSERVATION STATUS:

DATA DEFICIENT

Tucuxi river dolphin

Sotalia fluviatilis

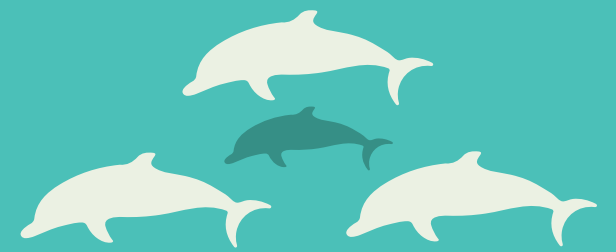
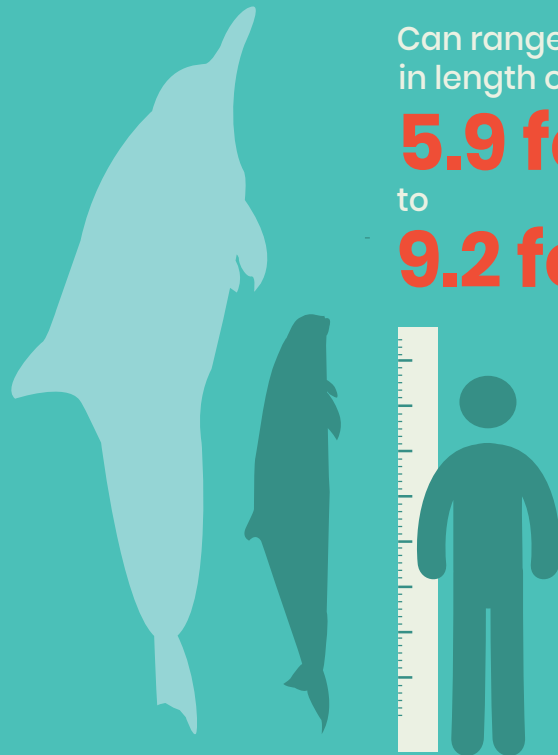
It is the only river dolphin that jumps like marine dolphins. Being relatively small, their gestation period is also relatively short - around 10 months.



Amazon & Orinoco River Basins

Can range in length of

5.9 feet to 9.2 feet

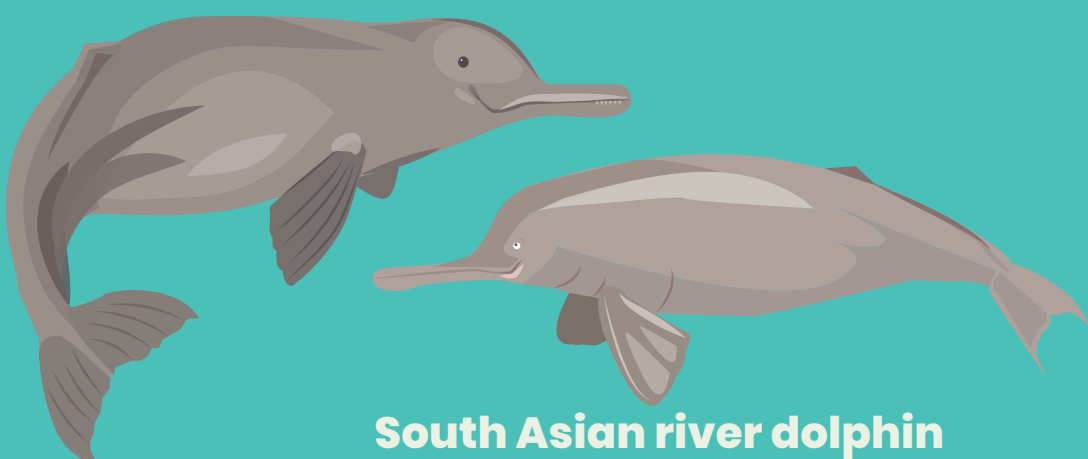


Dolphins

keep their young in the center of the pod to protect them.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

ENDANGERED



Ganges, Brahmaputra, Indus Rivers

South Asian river dolphin

Platanista gangetica gangetica
Platanista gangetica minor

Its range has declined by 80%. The species is locally known as "susu" and "bhulan," referring to the noise the dolphin makes when it breathes.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED



Yangtze River

Yangtze finless porpoise

Neophocaena asiaeorientalis

The Yangtze finless porpoise is known for its mischievous smile, and its intelligence level is on par with a gorilla. They are the only freshwater porpoise in the world!