Common Bottlenose Dolphins of Oʻahu

HITt0220 ♀ sighted 2003-2022

HITt0228 ♀ sighted 2003-2020

HITt0524 ♀ sighted 2007-2016

HITt0773 sighted 2007-2022

HITt1086 ♀ sighted 2013-2022

HITt1087 sighted 2016-2022

HITt1091 sighted 2011-2022

HITt1108 ♀ sighted 2007-2022

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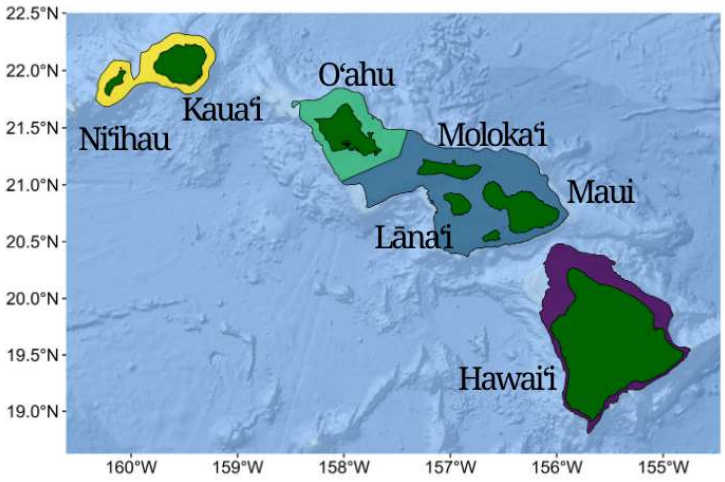
The Hawaiian Islands are home to five distinct populations of common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), including four island-associated resident populations centered around Kauaʻi and Niʻihau, Oʻahu, Maui Nui, and Hawaiʻi Island, and a rarely-seen offshore population that lives in deeper waters. Each of these populations is genetically and behaviorally distinctive. With the exception of the Hawaiʻi Island population, there is evidence that bottlenose dolphin populations in Hawaiʻi are currently in decline.



We've found that island-associated bottlenose dolphins love shallow water, and are most frequently seen in waters under 500 m (~1,650 ft) deep. Recently though, we've discovered that some bottlenose dolphins from Oʻahu occasionally travel as far east as Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi! Here, you can see the recognized boundaries of each island-associated population in Hawaiian waters.

To contribute photos, scan the QR code, or email hawaii@cascadiaresearch.org

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Bottlenose dolphins eat a wide variety of reef-associated and nearshore fish species. They are capable of incredibly deep foraging dives: the deepest we've ever recorded was to 896 m (2,940 ft)!

Remoras, also called whalesuckers, can use their modified dorsal fins to hitch a ride on bottlenose dolphins, often resulting in skin damage. Several species of dolphins in Hawaiʻi have been observed trying to get rid of these hitchhikers.

Satellite tags that track both locations and dive behavior are currently being used to learn more about where and how bottlenose dolphins spend their time. Here you can see a satellite tag trackline from a bottlenose dolphin tagged off Oʻahu in 2016, along with an image of the tag attached to the dorsal fin.

Scan the QR code to explore the different species of Hawaiian whales!