

# COMMON DOLPHIN

## Deilf choiteann

### *Delphinus delphis*

Widely distributed in British and Irish waters the Common Dolphin is usually found in groups of 10-30. They are fast swimmers, reaching speeds of 24km per hour or faster if threatened.

**Description:** The distinctive yellowish hourglass pattern on their sides makes them easy to identify. Common dolphins measure up to 2.4 metres.

**Habitat:** Common dolphins are inquisitive and sociable, often approaching boats and hitching a free ride in the wake caused by the boat, an activity known as 'bow-riding'. To the delight of the passengers, they will often travel alongside a boat for several miles.

**Diet:** The common dolphin has between 80-120 sharp pointed teeth on each jaw and eats a varied diet of squid and fish, such as cod, herring, and mackerel.

Tá an Deilf Choiteann le fáil go forleathan i bhfarraigí na hÉireann agus na Breataine agus is iondúil go mbíonn idir dheich agus tríocha díobh i dteannta a chéile. Snámhóirí tapaidh iad a shroicheann luas 24 ciliméadar in aghaidh na huaire nó níos tapúla i gcás go mbagraítear orthu.

**Cur síos:** Is furasta aithint iad ón bpatrún buí orláiste ar a draobh. Tá na deilfeanna coiteanna 2.4 méadar ar fhad.

**Gnáthóg:** Tá na deilfeanna coiteanna fiosrach agus caidriúil agus is minic iad ag druidim le báid ag lorg síbe sa mharbhshruith, eachtra a dtugtar bogharéim uirthi. Cúis mhór ríméide do na paisinéirí go dtaistleoidh siad go minic taobh leis an mbád ar feadh roinnt mílte.

**Cothú:** Tá idir 80-120 fiacal bhiorach ghéar ar gach giall ag an deilf choiteann agus itheann sí bia ilchineálach mar scuic agus iasc, leithéidí troisc, scadáin agus ronnaigh.

