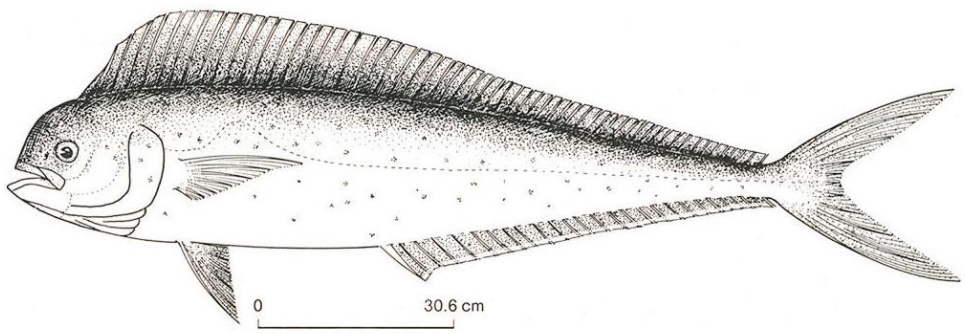




# Dolphin

*Coryphaena hippurus*  
Dorado comun



## Description

**Range:** The dolphin, a bony fish of the family Coryphaenidae, is found in the western Atlantic throughout tropical and subtropical waters and throughout the Gulf of Mexico. Primarily an oceanic species, the dolphin occasionally enters coastal waters where the salinity is similar to oceanic waters. Dolphins are common in coastal waters of the northern Gulf mainly during summer months.

**Habitat:** This fish is an epipelagic species and is known for its inclination to follow ships and aggregate below or near floating objects.

**Feeding and Behavior:** This predator feeds during the day and night, favoring fish (especially flying fish), some cephalopods, and crustaceans. Usually these food items are taken from the top of the water column. Dolphins are seldom found alone, but more commonly found in pairs or schools.

**Reproduction:** Spawning occurs in the open sea year-round. Year-round nursery areas for juvenile dolphins are found in oceanic and coastal waters where the salinity is high.

**Movement:** Dolphins are believed to migrate southward in the fall and winter, returning to the northern Gulf in the spring and summer.

**Fisheries:** Commercially caught throughout its range, the dolphin is marketed fresh as a very highly prized food fish. Sport fishermen throughout the range value it as a popular game fish.

**References:** Palko, B.J., G.L. Beardsley, and W.J. Richards, 1982; Rose, C.D.,and W.W. Hassler, 1974.

- Adult Area (Year-round)
- Adult Area (Summer)

Spawning and nursery areas occur year-round throughout adult areas.

## References

Fischer, W., ed., 1978; Palko, B.J., G.L. Beardsley, and W.J. Richards, 1982; Rivas, L.R., pers. comm.

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