

Dolphin

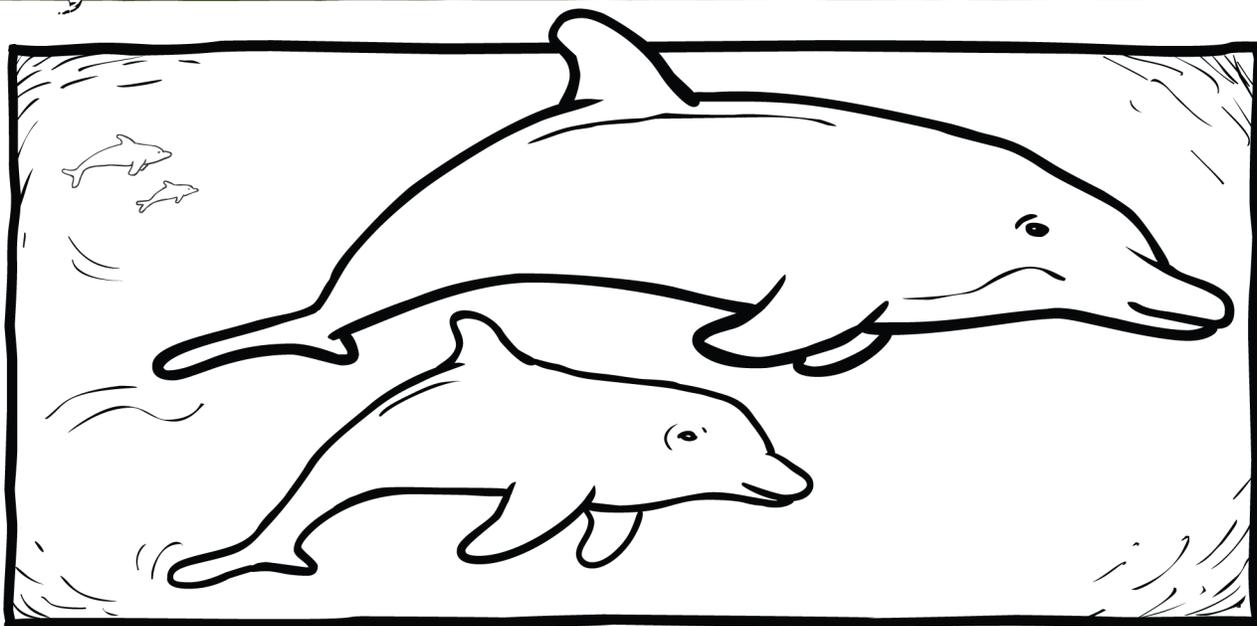
# Bottlenose Dolphin *(Tursiops truncatus)*

## Instant ID

- Marine (saltwater) mammal up to 13 feet long with a flat tail, elongated snout and rounded dorsal fin
- Dark gray above, fading to white underneath
- Its nostrils are on top of its head and called a blow-hole

## Native Niches

- Found in Florida in coastal and open waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean
- Found in tropical and temperate (cold winters, warm summers) waters world wide
- Most likely species of dolphin to be seen from the beaches of Florida State Parks



Dolphin

# **Bottlenose Dolphin** (*Tursiops truncatus*)

## **Favorite Foods**

- Eats small to medium-sized fish, crustaceans and squid
- Hunts by echolocation (reflected sound waves) in murky water

## **Critter Characteristics**

- Will herd fish as a pod (group of dolphins)
- Often seen jumping and riding in the wakes of boats
- Like other mammals, mothers give live birth and nurse young

## **Population Protection**

- Keeping beaches and water ways clean can prevent dolphins from accidentally eating garbage
- Properly disposing of broken fishing lines, hooks and lures keeps dolphins from becoming entangled