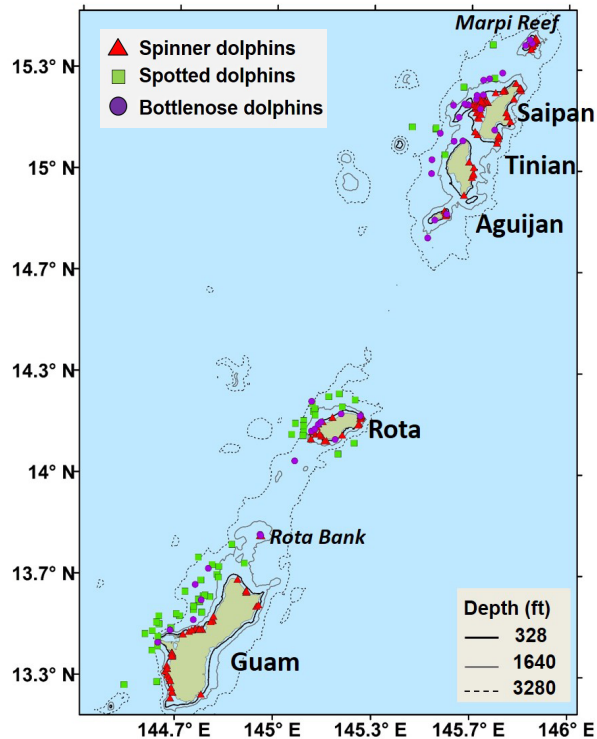


## Cetacean Sightings in the Marianas

The NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center's Cetacean Research Program has been studying whales and dolphins in the Marianas since 2010.

We conducted surveys from ships in 2010, 2015, and 2018, and from small boats in 2010-2019 and sighted 16 different species of cetaceans (see inside pages).

Our 3 most frequently sighted species during our surveys around Guam, Rota, Saipan, Tinian, and Aguijan were spinner dolphins, pantropical spotted dolphins, and bottlenose dolphins.



Spinner dolphins were sighted close to shore (within 0.5 nmi) at each island and at offshore reefs, Rota Bank and Marpi Reef, where the water is shallow (<330 ft depth). We sighted spotted dolphins farther from shore (>1 nmi) and in deeper waters (1,000-10,000 ft) than spinner dolphins. Bottlenose dolphins were sighted close to shore, as well as offshore (0.2-10.0 nmi), where water depths ranged 60-3,400 ft.

## Acoustic Detections

Beaked whales are deep-diving species that we rarely sight during our surveys. However, acoustic recordings tell us beaked whales occur regularly in the Marianas. We have acoustic recordings of Blainville's, Cuvier's, Longman's, and an unidentified species of beaked whale.

Our acoustic instruments have also recorded vocalizations from minke, fin, and blue whales, which we have not yet sighted in the Marianas.



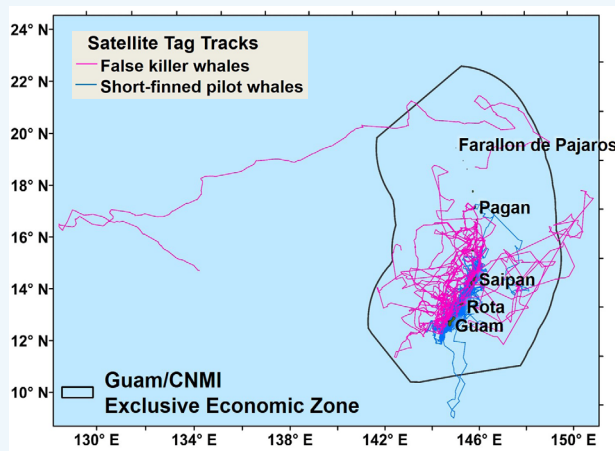
Male Blainville's beaked whale head with teeth erupting from the lower jaw.

## Movement Data

Between 2013 and 2018, we deployed satellite tags that provided us movement tracks of pantropical spotted dolphins, bottlenose dolphins, false killer whales, short-finned pilot whales, sperm whales, and melon-headed whales.

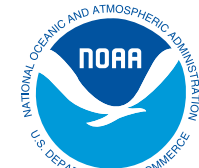
False killer whales (pink) traveled great distances over short periods of time and used both nearshore and offshore areas. One individual traveled >1,000 nmi west of the islands.

Short-finned pilot whales (blue) tagged off Guam and Rota primarily used areas within 10 nmi from shore, but one individual traveled >200 nmi south of Guam before returning to the islands.



Spinner Dolphins  
*Stenella longirostris*

# WHALES AND DOLPHINS OF THE MARIANAS



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# WHALES AND DOLPHINS IN THE MARIANAS

A total of 16 cetacean species were seen during our surveys of the Marianas in 2010-2019.  
Maximum length measurements are listed. Illustrations are not drawn to scale.

These 3 species were the most commonly seen during our surveys of the Marianas.

