

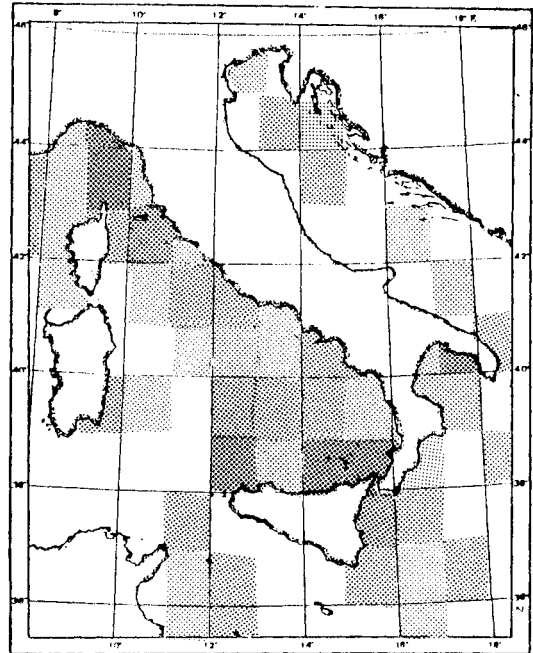
of the schools (as shown in the table below) which seems often atypical: in fact, a lot of common dolphins were sighted alone or in pair and that fact could indicate an environmental difficulty (maybe noise or pollution).

specimens per school													
1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-100	101-500	>500
16	15	11	13	13	38	27	15	11	4	3	4	1	-
amount of records													

The common dolphin is well distributed in all the central Mediterranean Sea, as shown on the map.

The breeding season is in summer (TOSCHI, 1965): coupling D. delphis were sighted in June (3) and July (3); calves are reported during all the months (except December), but mainly during spring and summer. Adults were seen jumping clear of the water or lobtailing and they habitually ride the bow of moving vessels. 4 records of stranding (involving 5 specimens) were reported within July 1978-October 1982. One specimen was captured by a trawl net and another one by a gill net.

By the present data, it is impossible to differentiate a Mediterranean population of common dolphin, due, also, to the few research carried on that problem, but it is hypothesized that a certain number of specimens could live at least for long periods inside the Mediterranean Sea.



REFERENCE

TOSCHI A., 1965 - Fauna d'Italia - VII) Mammalia. Ed. Calderini, Bologna, 647 pp.