

Feeding

Dolphins and porpoises are **carnivores**, or meat eaters. They mainly eat fish, such as anchovies, mackerel, herring and cod, as well as squid.

Swallowed whole

Dolphins and porpoises have small, sharp teeth, which they use to grip a fish's slippery body. As they cannot chew, dolphins and porpoises swallow small fish whole. Before swallowing, however, they carefully position the fish head first to prevent the spines along the back of the fish from sticking in their throat. If a fish is too large to swallow whole, dolphins will rip it up before swallowing it in pieces.



Dolphins eat a wide variety of fish, such as these mackerel.

Dolphins have as many as 90 small, cone-shaped teeth.

Dolphins trap small fish between their teeth and then swallow them whole.



Dolphin fact!

A bottlenose dolphin eats 20 kilograms of fish a day, the weight of 12 chickens.