

Brazil's most endangered dolphin species

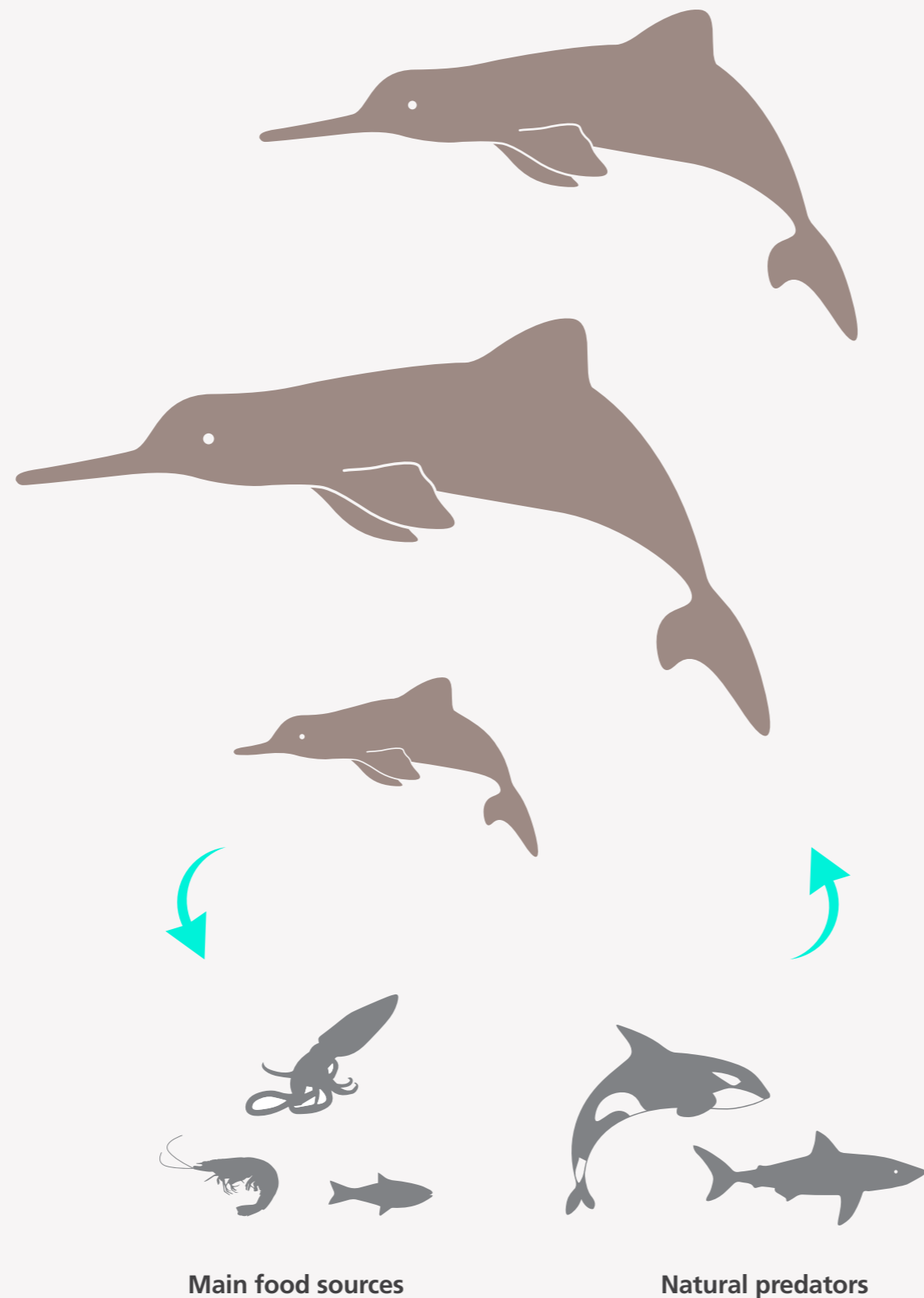


Distribution

- Coastal waters of Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina
- The populations in Espírito Santo and Rio de Janeiro are cut off from the rest
- Franciscana live at depths of up to 30 meters, at distances of 25 to 30 nautical miles from the coast

Threats

- ⚠ Accidental by-catch
- ⚠ Environmental degradation
- ⚠ Food shortages due to overfishing
- ⚠ Almost 3,000 deaths annually across the three countries



Franciscana (*Pontoporia blainvillei*)

Pontoporia blends the Greek words “pontos” (open ocean) and “poros” (passage), in reference to the fact that the species was once believed to inhabit both fresh and salt water. Blainvillei is a tribute to the French naturalist Henri de Blainville.

Behavior

- This species is shy and is easily spooked by boats and motors.

Procreation

- Franciscana are believed to be monogamous:
- Gestation takes 11 months and each female has only one cub. The lactation period lasts roughly nine months.

The size of a dolphin

- Males: 158 cm
- Females: 177 cm
- ⌚ Weight: 29 to 53 kg

Lifespan

21 year

Less than
20
thousand
individuals
remain

Living in
groups of
2 to 30
animals

Fossil record
stretching back
1
million years

Source: GEMARS