

FINN – our resident Carlingford Lough dolphin

Guidelines for his safety from marineconnection.org



Finn is a solitary male bottlenose dolphin, a species usually found in large family/social groups known as pods, it is therefore a mystery to where this lone dolphin has come from.



Bottlenose are the most familiar of the dolphin species, which have a near-global distribution (except the polar regions) with coastal populations entering into bays, estuaries and river mouths.

As Finn currently lives in Irish waters, he is protected under the Wildlife Act (1976) and also under a no. of international directives and agreements which Ireland is signatory to.

Finn's presence will undoubtedly lead to an increase in marine craft and therefore naturally lead to an increase in the likelihood of an encounter with the dolphin, who is by nature a sociable animal.

Marine Connection is calling for all water users (boat/jet ski owners, wind surfers, kayakers, swimmers and divers) in the Carlingford Lough area to be vigilant, and if they spot the dolphin, allow him his space.

Disrupting his resting or feeding times can negatively impact Finn causing a "disruption of natural behavioral patterns" and as he would usually burn up to 33,000 calories a day - equivalent to 25 kilograms of fish - he needs time to do so.



Please keep your distance, show him respect and be responsible



With bottlenose dolphins usually living up to 50 years of age, Finn could remain in the area for many years, similar to Fungie the Dingle solitary dolphin who lived in the bay for 37 years. Watching a solitary dolphin in his natural habitat is a very special experience but just as we humans need our personal space, so does Finn the dolphin.

Marine Connection documents solitary dolphins (and whales) around the world, so if you spot Finn please report your sightings to the organisation in order that they can keep track of him on their database (info@marineconnection.org).

