

Spinner Dolphin

July 1, 2021

In news- A four-feet-long male Spinner dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*) carcass was washed ashore in Odisha's Paradip town within the Bhitarkanika National Park.

About the Spinner Dolphins-

- They are small cetaceans with a slim build and member of the **family Delphinidae of toothed whales**.
- This species has an elongated rostrum and a triangular or sub-triangular dorsal fin.
- They are **found in off-shore tropical waters around the world**.
- It is **famous for its acrobatic displays** in which it spins along its longitudinal axis as it leaps through the air.
- It is sometimes referred to as the **long-snouted dolphin** to distinguish it from the similar Clymene dolphin, which is often called the short-snouted spinner dolphin.
- The species was **described by John Gray in 1828**.
- It is included in **Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972** and in **Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species** and in Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species.
- It is categorised as **'Data deficient'** on the IUCN Red List.
- Though the species primarily inhabits coastal waters, islands, banks, in the eastern tropical Pacific, they live far from shore.
- The **four subspecies** are:
 - Eastern spinner dolphin (*S. l. orientalis*) from the tropical eastern Pacific.
 - Central American or Costa Rican spinner dolphin (*S. l.*

centroamericana) also found in the tropical eastern Pacific.

- Gray's or Hawaiian spinner dolphin (*S. l. longirostris*), from the central Pacific Ocean around Hawaii.
- Dwarf spinner dolphin (*S. l. roseiventris*), first found in the Gulf of Thailand.