# Dolphin ID

All dolphins are common bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus) unless otherwise noted

## How do you tell the dolphins apart?

The tail flukes and dorsal fin of each dolphin are one-of-a-kind (no two dolphins have the same shape or markings on their tail flukes or dorsal fin)! For this reason, we say that a dolphin's tail flukes and dorsal fin are a dolphin's fingerprints. Dolphins can also have special color patterns on their skin, freckles, and a personality that is all their own.

### **Betty**

**DOB**: Undetermined, known to be in her 50s as of 2019

**Key Features**: white markings along dorsal fin & tip of rostrum, tail flukes and dorsal fin featuring many notches

Relations: mother of Age & Dazzle





#### **Boomer**

DOB: September 2, 2015

**Key Features:** curved dorsal fin, notch in dorsal fin, lower rostrum lighter in color than top rostrum

**Relations**: son of Shaka & Sunny





### **Briland**

**DOB**: March 17, 2004

**Key Features**: lighter in color dorsally, pink ventral side, hooked dorsal fin, white on dorsal fin

**Relations**: no direct familial relations at Marineland at this time





## Casique

**DOB**: April 30, 2002

**Key Features**: notch in tail fluke, long narrow rostrum, sloped melon, lightning bolt-shaped markings on rostrum

**Relations**: daughter of Dazzle





## Lightning

**DOB**: Undetermined, estimated to be 42 years as of 2019

**Key Features**: large tail flukes that curve upwards

**Relations**: father of Miramar



### **Dazzle**

**DOB**: April 7, 1989

**Key Features**: D shaped notch in dorsal fin

**Relations**: daughter of Betty, mother of Casique





### **Miramar**

**DOB**: August 20, 2011

**Key Features**: high contrast between dorsal coloration and ventral coloration, short rostrum

**Relations**: son of Lightning



**Revised June 2020** 

# Dolphin ID

### Niele\*

**DOB**: June 30, 1994

**Key Features**: zigzagged dorsal fin, white on dorsal fin

**Relations**: no direct familial relations at Marineland at this time \*Niele means "nosy" in Hawaiian



### Sunny

**DOB**: January 12, 1984

**Key Features**: longest of our dolphins, freckles, notch on peduncle

**Relations**: father of 'Oli, Boomer, Surge





## Zac

**DOB**: February 23, 1995

**Key Features**: largest by weight, triangular dorsal fin, darker in color

**Relations**: no direct familial relations at Marineland at this time \*Zac's grandfather was a Pacific bottlenose (Tursiops aduncus) dolphin, which may account for his larger size

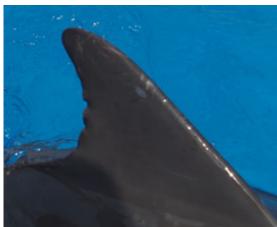


### 'Oli

**DOB**: July 8, 2016

**Key Features**: "lasagna noodle" dorsal fin, large melon, round body

**Relations**: son of Sunny





## Surge

DOB: September 29, 2016

**Key Features**: lower rostrum longer than top rostrum, lean body shape

**Relations**: son of Sunny





#### Shaka

**DOB**: Undetermined, known to be in her 30s as of 2019

**Key Features**: zigzagged edge of dorsal fin, freckles, largest female

**Relations**: mother of Boomer





### Tocoi

**DOB**: June 11, 2008

**Key Features**: notch in upper dorsal fin, dark lines around eyes

**Relations**: no direct familial relations at Marineland at this time





## General Atlantic bottlenose dolphin facts

Scientific name: Tursiops truncatus

• Early scientists incorrectly believed that worn, truncated teeth were a characteristic of the species, giving the species the genus name "truncatus".

Average adult length in ocean: 7.2-8.9 feet

Average adult length in human care: 8.5 feet

Average adult weight: 485-595lbs

Average life expectancy in ocean: 8.3-17.4 years

Average life expectancy in human care: 22.8 years

• Survival rates of dolphins both in ocean populations and in human care have been increasing. Life expectancy may vary based upon geographic location and researcher study methods.

**Source: AMMPA**