



Photo © Fernando Trujillo



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Geographical range



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Amazing Species: Tucuxi

The Tucuxi (*Sotalia fluviatilis*) is a freshwater dolphin species that lives in the Amazon River system in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

These small grey dolphins are usually found in small groups of up to around 6 individuals. They live in the main channels of large and medium sized rivers, but tend to avoid areas of fast-moving water, as well as flooded forests. Tucuxis prey on a variety of fish species.

The number of Tucuxis is declining, with threats including death caused by fishing gear and habitat degradation due to dams and pollution. Eliminating the use of gillnets – curtains of fishing net that hang in the water – and reducing the number of dams in Tucuxi habitat are priorities to enable the population to recover.

This species is included in international legislation such as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). There are also conservation action plans underway for the species at both national and continent-wide levels.