

False killer whales X Bottlenose dolphins



Most of the time, false killer whales in New Zealand will be seen with oceanic bottlenose dolphins.

The permanent association with oceanic bottlenose dolphins, a friendship observed nowhere else in the dolphin world!

Although it is still a mystery as to why exactly they hang out, it's likely due to a few things - **1. Predator evasion. 2. Foraging success. 3. Socialising.**

1. Predation is a risk for both species and more sets of eyes may help them to better detect and evade predators. We don't know if this is a mutual cooperation, or if one of the two species is exploiting the detection ability of the other one.

2. Joint feeding frequently occurs as both species hunt and feed on the same prey. This behaviour may arise from prey being more sparsely distributed in the open ocean, making it less likely to find a good feed.

3. Repeated encounters with specific individuals show not only do the two species like to hang out in groups, but specific individuals from each species choose to associate together in different locations.



Seen false killer whales in NZ? Call us on 0800 327 688 and take lots of photos and videos!