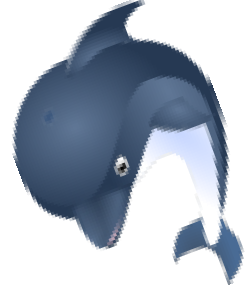


## Special Dolphin Talents



Have you ever thought that the ocean smells fishy? You might think dolphins would agree. But dolphins can't smell! They do have very good eyesight. They also have several other surprising talents.

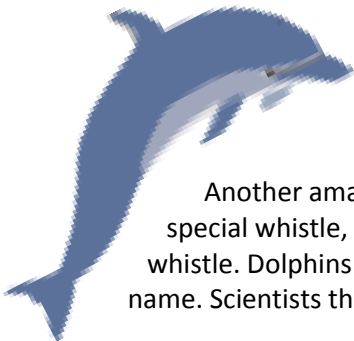
Scientists study dolphins to discover these special talents. They have found that dolphins have their own special language. In one study, a mother dolphin was put in one tank and her baby in another. Then the scientists recorded them "talking" to each other through a special telephone. One researcher said that the dolphins knew who they were talking to. Now the researchers are trying to figure out this secret language. They already know that dolphins use many different noises – squawks, clicks, whistles and squeaks – to talk. They also know that they use their fins, clap their jaws, and blow bubbles. This is like humans using their hands and faces when they talk.

Scientists think that dolphins talk about everything. They may tell each other about finding fish, or even call friends to help them.

Another special talent some dolphins have is finding electric fields. This is important because all living things make electric fields. "Moving, talking, thinking, and even breathing all work to make an electric field. Water carries electricity. This means dolphins can sense living things in water. They use this sense to find fish at the bottom of the sea, where sand gets stirred up, making it hard to see.

To find out how dolphins can do this, scientists covered the snout of a dolphin named Paco. First, Paco's snout was covered. He could not sense the electrical field. Then his snout was uncovered. Paco could sense even tiny electrical fields. Scientists are excited about this discovery. They plan to study this special dolphin sense more.

Perhaps in the future, scientists could train dolphins to use this sense to find people missing in the ocean!



Another amazing thing that dolphins do is to name themselves. When a dolphin hears its special whistle, it whistles back the same thing. It only does that to its own name, or special whistle. Dolphins use these whistles when they meet one another. They are calling each other by name. Scientists think dolphins are the only other kind of animal to have names.