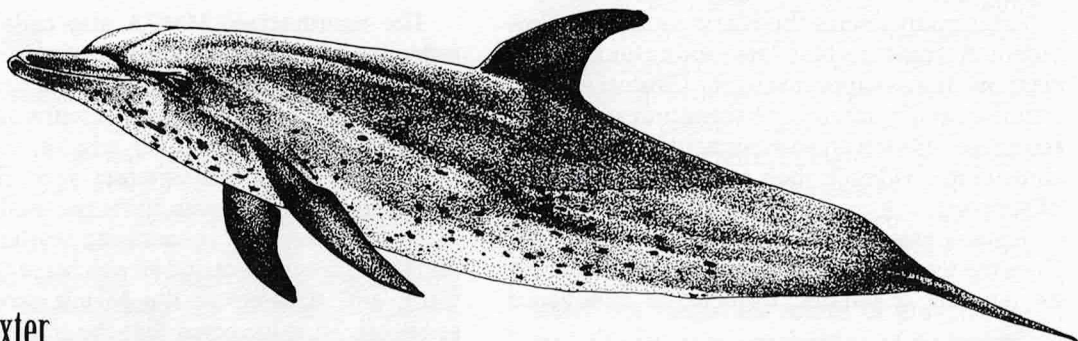


Dolphin Profile



Poindexter

First Observed: by the Wild Dolphin Project in 1985.

Gender: Male

Age: Late speckled

Family Lines: Male offspring of PR 1 and sibling to Providence, who was born in 1993.

Marks: Subtle “hump” in the leading edge of the dorsal fin; speckled ventral and sides with two spots under the left eye and one on the lower left mandible.

In 1985 Poindexter was first seen as a two-tone, swimming close alongside his mother, PR 1. Several years later (1990), Poindexter was still seen in close association with his mother, who had become pregnant. In 1991, PR 1 lost her calf and did not give birth again until 1993. Today this new calf we call Providence remains healthy and strong. Through these years, Poindexter gradually spent less time with his mother and began to spend more time with his peers. He has grown and matured into an independent juvenile on his way to becoming a young adult.

Like most juveniles, Poindexter is especially friendly and curious, using play as a tool to learn the rules of his dolphin society. Much of his time is spent practicing new skills through play-fight-

ing, chasing, mimicking, and observing other dolphins. In the future these skills will contribute to Poindexter's developing social relationships and cohesiveness in male subgroups.

In the past several years Poindexter has associated with a variety of young animals including the males Latitude, Navel, Zigzag, Dash, and Big Wave, and the females Caroh, Nassau, and Diamond. As he matures these associations will most likely change into a consistent single-gender male subgroup or coalition. These current associations are all age-related peers, with the exception of Big Wave, a slightly older mottled male, who is currently part of a coalition. This particular relationship between Big Wave and younger males such as Poindexter is possibly a recruitment strategy for new male coalitions.

As Poindexter's peer group begins to develop, so will his responsibilities within his society. Supervising juvenile subgroups, intensified courtship behaviors, mating, and the recruiting of new young males into his coalition are some of the ways in which he will mature. Through future developmental observations, Poindexter may provide us insight into understanding the role young male dolphins play within the framework of this particular society.