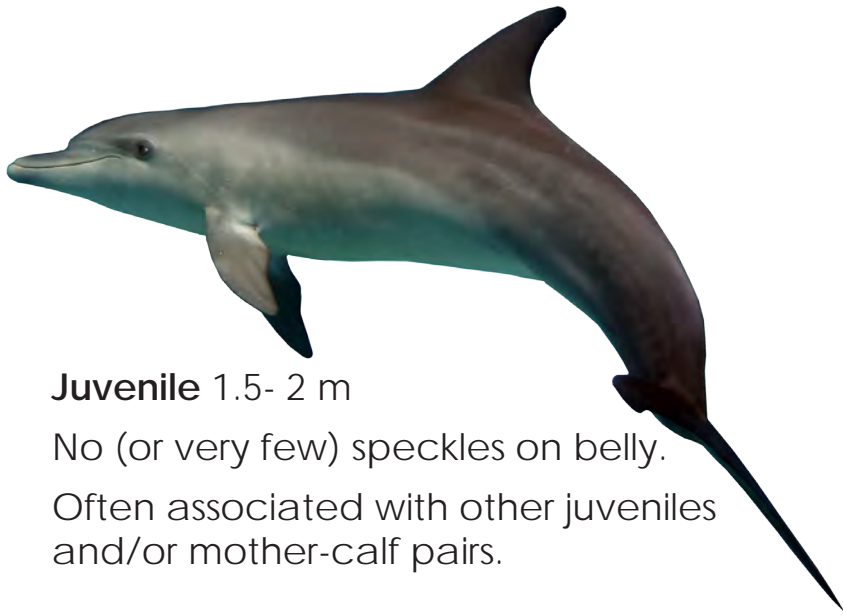


Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops aduncus*)



Juvenile 1.5- 2 m

No (or very few) speckles on belly.

Often associated with other juveniles and/or mother-calf pairs.



Newborn calf 0.7-1.2 m

Fetal folds (vertical stripes) on body sides.

Consistently associated with the mother. Often swims alongside and slightly above the mother ("echelon" position). This position allows a newborn to save energy while swimming.

Adult 2-2.5 m

Many speckles on the belly up to the throat and on lower body sides. The older adults become the more speckles they get.

Males are often associated with other males. Females with their calves and/or other females, but bottlenose dolphins are also often seen in mixed sex groups.



Calf 1-1.5 m

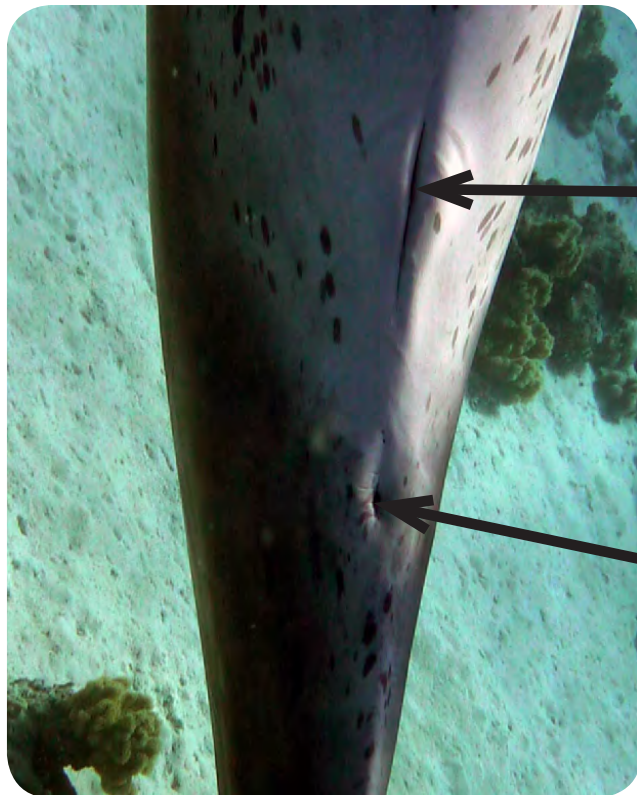
Associated with the mother until weaned at 3-5 years of age.

Often swims underneath the mother close to her mammary glands (baby position). This position provides camouflage to hide from predators and allows ready access to get milk.

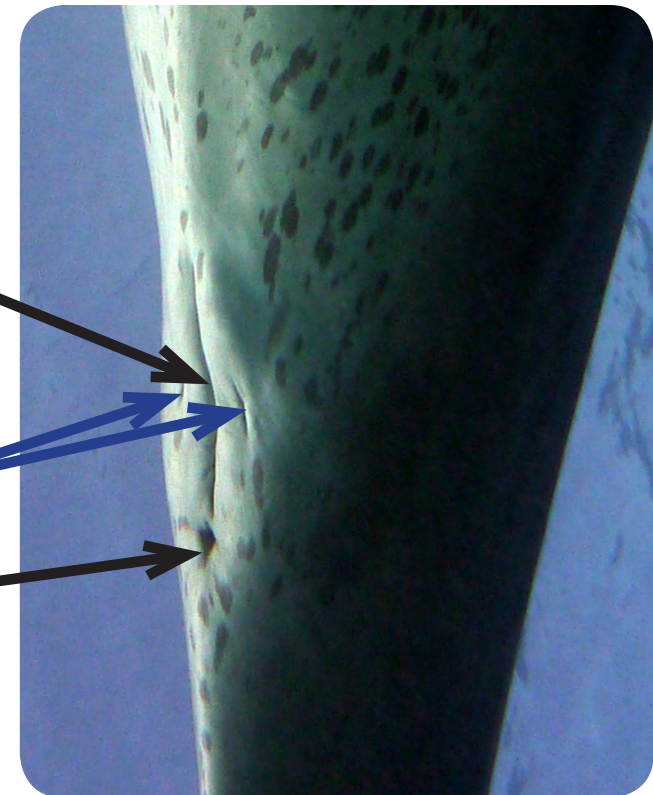
Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops aduncus*)

Gestation time: 12 months
Reproduction: year-round (Peak: May-July)
Age of sexual maturity: 8-12 years
Life expectancy: 40 – 50 years
Weight: up to 230 kg (male)
Distribution: tropical and temperate waters of the Indo-Pacific region (Red Sea, Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean, West-Pacific)

Habitat: coastal, around reefs, seagrass banks
Diet: wide variety of fish, cephalopods (squid, cuttlefish, octopus), sometimes crustaceans, rays, small sharks
Threats: coastal development, overfishing, bycatch, water- and noise pollution, unregulated tourism



male



female

Genital slit

Mammary slits

Anus

Some behaviours



sleeping



nursing



self-rubbing
(here on seagrass)



socializing
(here petting)



playing
(here with a jellyfish)



vomiting



fluke slap
(display, signal of avoidance)



leaping



traveling

Do you know how dolphins sleep?

Dolphins often sleep while swimming, usually in very tight groups. In regular intervals they swim up to the surface for taking a few breaths before diving down again.

Dolphins are voluntary breathers, as they don't have a breathing reflex like humans. Thus, they sleep only with half of the brain at a time while closing just one eye. This allows them to be aware of predators.

Dolphins around Hurghada often sleep in the morning hours and early afternoons. Some of their important resting places are the reefs Fanous, Shaab El Erg and Abu Nugar which they use for protection after hunting in the open sea.


During their resting time mothers give milk to their calves.

Don't disturb dolphins and be careful when you see dolphins during their resting time!!

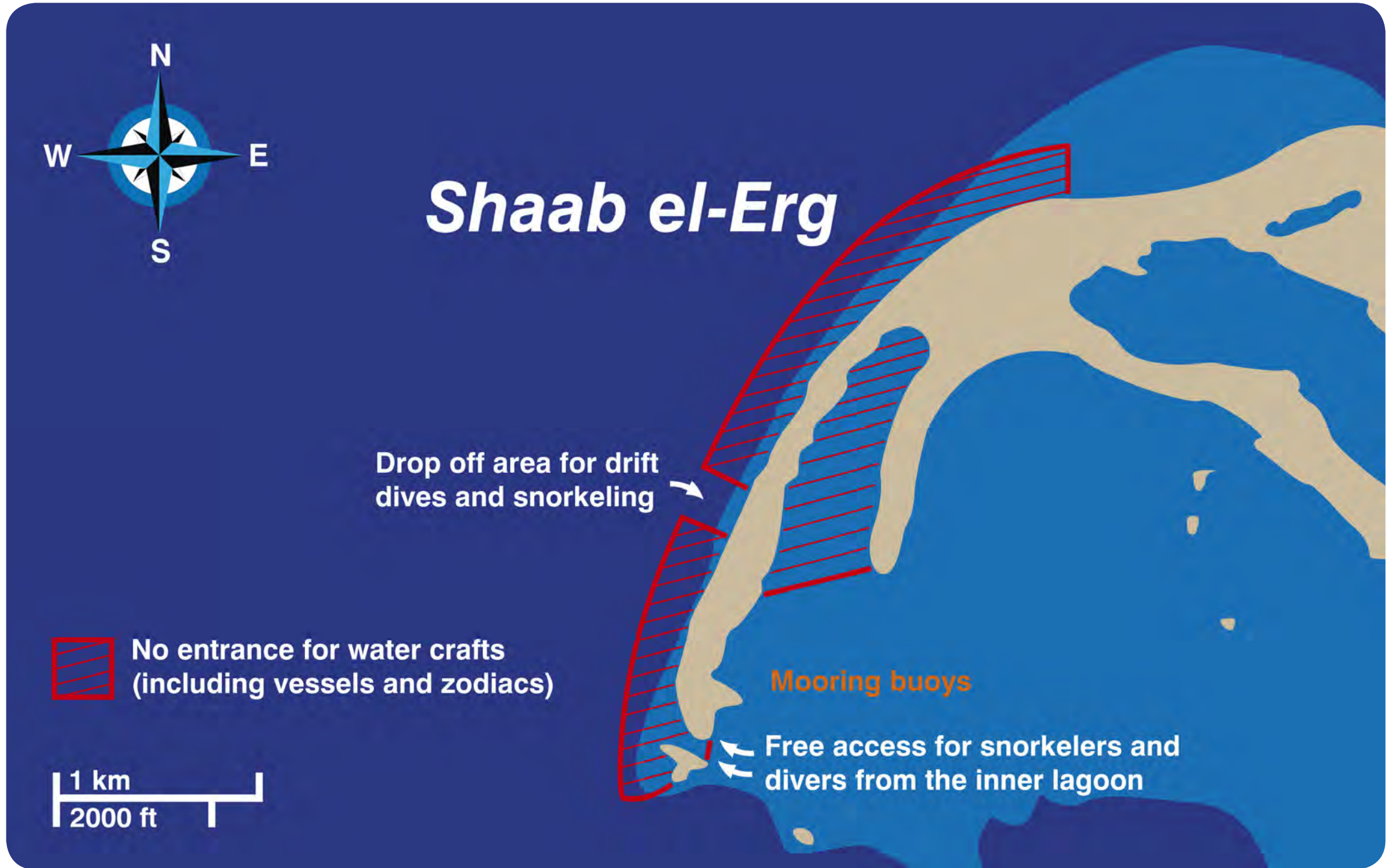


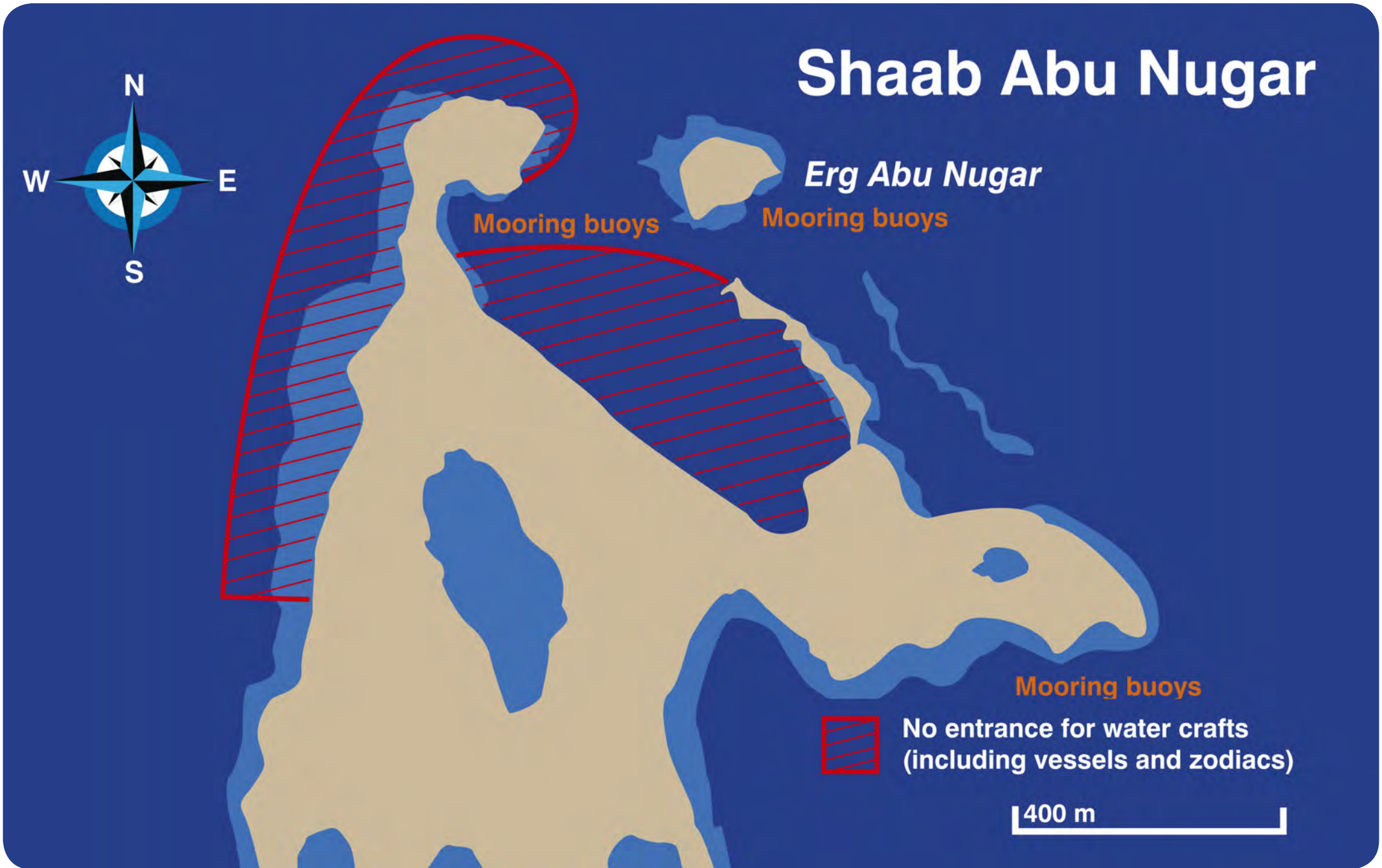


Fanous West

 No entrance for water crafts (including vessels and zodiacs)

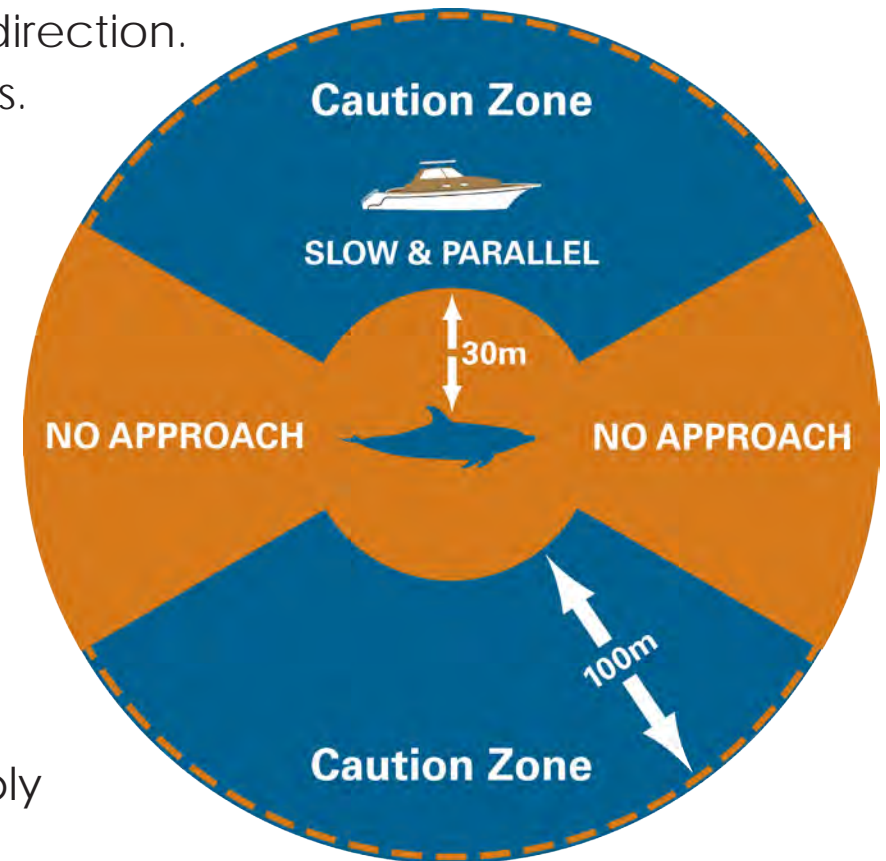
200 m
500 ft





For boat captains

- Always maintain a clearance distance of **minimum 30m** from the dolphins.
- Only approach dolphins in open water by driving carefully and parallel to their swimming direction. Never approach right in front of or behind the dolphins.
- As soon as dolphins are observed, drive slowly at a maximum speed of 4 knots or 7km/h or adjust to speed of the slowest dolphin. Never reverse, accelerate, or change direction suddenly.
 - If dolphins approach your vessel, put your engine in neutral.
 - If dolphins are bow riding, do not suddenly change direction.
- Never herd, chase, encircle or separate dolphin groups. Always leave the animals an "escape route".
- When dolphins are already approached by another boat wait for your turn.
- NEVER follow dolphins inside lagoons and resting areas and keep a safety distance from the reef. Use immediately the moorings at the anchoring place.
- Avoid noises. Do not shout, whistle, use horns or play music.
- Be aware of possible signs of distress (e.g. avoidance, fluke slaps) and, if observed, leave the area at very low speed.
- When calves (young dolphins) are present, always apply extra care.



For swimmers

- All swimmers **MUST** wear fins, mask, snorkel and a lifejacket.
- Enter gently into the water, without jump or excessive splashes.
- Once in the water, always keep quiet and swim gently using your fins only.
- Always swim on the side of the group (parallel) and never dive down from top.
- **DO NOT** chase dolphins. Let them approach and decide how to interact.
- The use of scooters while swimming close to dolphins is strictly forbidden.
- Avoid any loud noises (in particular shouts and whistle).
- Remember that touching dolphins is strictly forbidden. The risk of exchanging diseases is very likely.
- **NEVER** throw trash in the water.
- **NEVER** feed the animals.

