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Contents; Preface; I Anatomy and Senses; 1 The Brain; 2 Sound Production and Sound Reception in Delphinoids; 3 Ecology and Evolution of Dolphin Sensory Systems; II Dolphin Communication; 4 Dolphin Societies; 5 Analyzing the Acoustic Communication of Dolphins; 6 Making Sense of It All; III Dolphin Cognition; 7 Experimental Studies of Dolphin Cognitive Abilities; 8 How Do Dolphin Calves Make Sense of Their World?; IV Future Directions of Dolphin Research; 9 The Cognitive Ecology of Dolphin Social Engagement; 10 Whales, Dolphins, and Ethics; 11 Visions of the Future; Contributors; Index

Sommario/riassunto

"Dolphin researchers have collected an impressive amount of data over the last twenty years, thanks to advances in technology for monitoring, recording, and analyzing dolphin behavior as well as increasing interest in exploring and modeling dolphins' cognitive capacities. This volume offers a comprehensive reference to the latest research on dolphin communication and cognition, reporting on findings from both the laboratory and the field. The contributors review a wide range of topics, including vocalization, abstract reasoning abilities, imitation and learning, social cognition, echolocation, and ethical issues in working with cetaceans. The book begins by examining the dolphin brain and its evolution, the anatomy of its unique sound production and reception systems, and its sensory abilities. It next treats communication, reviewing the complexity of dolphins' vocalization, and then describes research on cognition, from both experimental and developmental perspectives. Finally, the book considers the future of dolphin research, including a series of provocative questions that remain unanswered, posed by the volume's expert contributors"--MIT CogNet.
