

Cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) are marine mammals that have fully adapted to life in water. Unlike other mammals, they do not rely on land for any part of their life cycle. There are about 33 species of cetaceans observed in Canadian waters.

Cetaceans can be divided in two groups: toothed whales (*Odontocetes*) and baleen whales (*Mysticetes*). Both types of cetaceans share the many characteristics that enable them to survive solely in marine habitats. They can, for example, hold their breath for long periods of time while underwater. However, there are a few key features that make them strikingly different. Dive in and discover them!

TOOTHED WHALES

As their name implies, toothed whales have teeth which they use mainly to hunt and break apart their prey. Since most species of toothed whales are social whales living in tight groups or pods, they hunt together using echolocation (gathering information about their surroundings by using sound – a lot like sonar).

A SPERM WHALE | *Physeter macrocephalus*
 Length: About 11m (females) and 16m (males), max. 18m
 Weight: About 15t (females) and 45t (males)
 Range: From the Equator to the edge of pack ice in both hemispheres
 Diet: Large squid, sharks, skates and fish
 Cool Fact: It is capable of diving for over an hour and to depths greater than 1,000m

B KILLER WHALE | *Orcinus orca*
 Length: Up to 8.5m (females) and 10m (males)
 Weight: Up to 7.5t (females) and 10t (males)
 Range: All of the world's oceans
 Diet: Fish, marine mammals, sharks and sea birds
 Cool Fact: Each population can have different dietary needs, behavior patterns, social structures and habitat preferences

C NARWHAL | *Monodon monoceros*
 Length: Around 4m (females) and 4.5m (males), max. 5.4m
 Weight: 1.0 to 1.5t (females) and 1.6 to 1.9t (males)
 Range: Arctic ocean
 Diet: Deep-water fish, squid, shrimp and crab
 Cool Facts:
 » It spends most of winter in deep waters under the sea ice
 » Males (and some females) have a tusk that can be 3m long

D BELUGA | *Delphinapterus leucas*
 Length: About 3.55m (females) and 4.15m (males), max. 4.5m
 Weight: About 1.36t (females) and 1.5t (males), max. 1.9t
 Range: Arctic and subarctic waters, with a small population in the Gulf of St. Lawrence
 Diet: Octopus, squid, crab, shrimp, clams, mussels, snails, sandworms and fish
 Cool Fact: It has a thick layer of blubber that accounts for as much as 40 per cent of its body mass

E HARBOUR PORPOISE | *Phocoena phocoena*
 Length: About 1.5 to 1.7m, max. 2m
 Weight: 50 to 90kg
 Range: Northern temperate and subarctic shallow waters in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans
 Diet: Schooling fish and cephalopods
 Cool Fact: Its name comes from the Latin for pig (*porcus*), and it is sometimes referred to as the "puffing pig" in parts of Atlantic Canada

F PACIFIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN | *Legionorhynchus obliquidens*
 Length: About 2.3m (females) and 2.5m (males)
 Weight: 135 to 180kg
 Range: Temperate waters of the North Pacific Ocean
 Diet: Squid and small schooling fish
 Cool Fact: It is playful and highly acrobatic

G ATLANTIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN | *Legionorhynchus acutus*
 Length: About 2.5m (females) and 3m (males)
 Weight: 150 to 225kg
 Range: Temperate waters of the North Atlantic Ocean shelf and slope
 Diet: Fish, squid and shrimp
 Cool Facts: It often hunts alongside large baleen whales

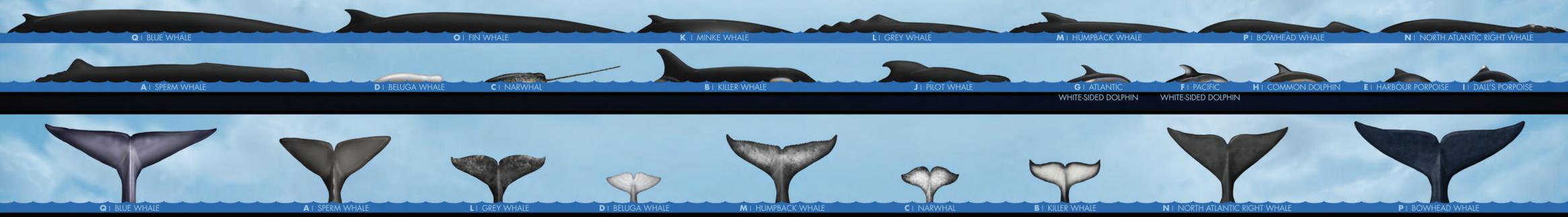
H COMMON DOLPHIN | *Delphinus delphis*
 Length: Up to 2.7m
 Weight: About 200kg
 Range: Occasionally in Canada; prefers warm tropical to cool temperate waters in both Pacific and Atlantic oceans
 Diet: Deep-sea schooling fish and cephalopods
 Cool Fact: It hunts at night time, diving to depths of more than 200m

I DALL'S PORPOISE | *Phocoenoides dalli*
 Length: Up to 2.1m (females) and 2.4m (males)
 Weight: Up to 220kg
 Range: North Pacific Ocean
 Diet: Small fish, crab and shrimp
 Cool Fact: It is the fastest swimming small Cetacean, with a maximum speed of 55 km/h

J LONG-FINNED PILOT WHALE | *Globicephala melas*
 Length: Up to 5.8m (females) and 7.6m (males)
 Weight: Up to 1.3t (females) and up to 2.3t (males)
 Range: Deep temperate or subarctic waters of the Atlantic Ocean
 Diet: Fish, cephalopods and shrimp
 Cool Fact: It is often involved in mass strandings (when many whales become beached at the same time) possibly because of the tight social bonds within a pod



WILD ABOUT WHALES



BALEEN WHALES
 Baleen whales use their baleens (plates made of keratin, like human fingernails) to gather food. When these whales close their mouths, the baleens act as filters, trapping food inside their mouths but releasing water back into the sea. Most baleen whales migrate long distances to feed in northern waters during the summer, and spend the winter months in warmer waters to give birth and mate. They tend to be more solitary than toothed whales.

K MINKE WHALE | *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*
 Length: About 10m
 Weight: Up to 9.2t
 Range: Throughout the Northern Hemisphere, tropical and subtropical waters (winter), northern subarctic waters (summer)
 Diet: Krill, zooplankton and small schooling fish
 Cool Fact: It feeds by lunging into schools of prey while gulping large amounts of water

L GREY WHALE | *Eschrichtius robustus*
 Length: 11.7 to 15.2m (females), 11.1 to 14.3m (males)
 Weight: About 35t
 Range: Shallow coastal waters in the North Pacific Ocean (summer), west coast of Mexico (winter)
 Diet: Small crustaceans, small fish and zooplankton
 Cool Fact: It feeds at the bottom of the ocean by turning on its side, scooping up sand from the sea floor with its mouth and spitting the sand and water through its baleens

M HUMPBACK WHALE | *Megaptera novaeangliae*
 Length: About 14m (females) and about 13m (males)
 Weight: 34 to 45t
 Range: Tropical (winter), temperate and subpolar (summer) waters worldwide
 Diet: Krill, zooplankton and small fish
 Cool Facts:
 » In its wintering grounds, males sing complex songs for hours which can be heard 30km away
 » It migrates the farthest of all mammals to its summering grounds, the record being 8,300km

N NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE | *Eubalaena glacialis*
 Length: Up to 18m
 Weight: Up to 70t
 Range: Shallow coastal temperate and subpolar waters of the Atlantic Ocean (summer), sometimes migrating to southern temperate waters (winter)
 Diet: Mainly zooplankton
 Cool Facts:
 » Its baleens can be 2.4m long
 » Fewer than 450 of these whales remain in the wild

O FIN WHALE | *Balaenoptera physalus*
 Length: 20 to 27m
 Weight: 40 to 80t
 Range: In deep, offshore waters of all major oceans, primarily in temperate to polar latitudes (summer), tropical waters (winter)
 Diet: Krill, small schooling fish and squid
 Cool Fact: It is the second largest animal on Earth, after the Blue Whale

P BOWHEAD WHALE | *Balaena mysticetus*
 Length: 13 to 14m
 Weight: 75 to 100t
 Range: Arctic Ocean
 Diet: Zooplankton, small invertebrates and fish
 Cool Fact: It uses its head to break through thick ice at the surface of the water

Q BLUE WHALE | *Balaenoptera musculus*
 Length: Up to 33m
 Weight: Up to 200t
 Range: Offshore waters worldwide, temperate waters (summer) and tropical waters (winter)
 Diet: Krill, zooplankton and fish
 Cool Facts:
 » It is the largest animal ever known to have lived on Earth!
 » It can consume as much as 4t of krill in a day
 » It can emit sounds louder than a jet aircraft

Historically, many species of cetaceans were hunted in Canadian waters by the whaling industry. Since commercial whaling ended, many species have remained or have become at-risk. Threats facing these species include habitat loss, pollution, disturbance from various human activities, ship strikes and entanglement in fishing gear. Learn how you can help Canada's cetaceans by visiting HWW.ca and CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca.

HINTERLAND WHO'S WHO



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