

Status: Vulnerable

WEST INDIAN MANATEE

Trichechus manatus

Manatees are vegan!
They love to eat seagrasses
and a wide variety of
vegetation.

DID YOU KNOW?

They can be found in coastal areas and inland fresh waters. Manatees often use secluded canals, creeks and lagoons, particularly near the mouths of coastal rivers, for feeding, resting, cavorting, mating, and calving.

Reference: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22103/9356917#habitat-ecology>



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Status: Endangered

BLUE WHALE

*Balaenoptera
musculus*



Photo credit:
Andrew Sutton,
Shutterstock

DID YOU KNOW?

Blue whales are the largest animals to ever live on Earth. They are also among the loudest animals and can be heard by other whales up to 1,000 miles away. Blue whales can weigh up to 330,000 pounds, grow up to 110 feet in length, and live for over 70 years! They feed almost exclusively on krill and can eat as much as 6 tons of krill a day! Blue Whales can be found in all oceans except the Arctic.

References: International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species
<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/2477/156923585>
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/blue-whale>



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FIN WHALE

Balaenoptera physalus

DID YOU KNOW?

The Fin Whale gets its name from the visible fin on its back, near its tail. Fin whales are the second-largest whale species on earth and the fastest of the great whales, being able to maintain speeds of over 10 metres per second. They are found to weigh up to 80 tons, grow up to 85 feet in length, and live for 90 years! Fin whales are typically found in deep, offshore waters of all major oceans.

Photo credit: NOAA

References: International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/2477/156923585>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/blue-whale>



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Status: Data Deficient

BRYDE'S WHALE

Balaenoptera edeni

DID YOU KNOW?

Bryde's (pronounced "broodus") whales can be identified by the three prominent ridges in front of their blowhole. They are named after Johan Bryde, a Norwegian who built the first whaling stations in South Africa. They are found to weigh up to 90,000 pounds and grow up to 55 feet in length. They feed on krill, crustaceans and small fish. Inshore populations, such as those in the Gulf of Mexico, are inherently at risk due to their small population size and low genetic diversity.

Photo credit: NOAA

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/brydes-whale>

International Whaling Commission:

<https://iwc.int/brydes-whale>



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Status: Least Concern

COMMON MINKE WHALE

*Balaenoptera
acutorostrata*

DID YOU KNOW?

Common minke whales are the smallest of the great whales. They can grow up to 35 feet in length and are found to weigh up to 20,000 pounds. They are filter feeders, using the large keratinous flaps in their mouths to feed on small prey instead of teeth. Common minke whales are referred to as cosmopolitan species as they can be found in all oceans and in tropical waters in most seas.

Photo credit: NOAA

References: International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/2474/50348265>
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/minke-whale>



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CUVIER'S BEAKED WHALE

Ziphius cavirostris

DID YOU KNOW?

Cuvier's beaked whales, also known as "goose-beaked whales", are widely distributed in offshore waters of all oceans and have the most extensive range of any beaked whale species. Like all beaked whales, Cuvier's beaked whales appear to prefer deep waters for feeding. They eat mostly deep-sea squid but also some fish and crustaceans.

Cuvier's beaked whales can grow up to 23 feet in length, weigh up to 6800 pounds and can live up to 60 years.



Photo credit:
M. Rosso, CIMA
Foundation

References: International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/23211/9429826>

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



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SPERM WHALE

Physeter Macrocephalus

DID YOU KNOW?

Sperm whales are so named because of the waxy substance in their heads, called spermaceti, which helps them to focus sound. They are the largest of the toothed whales and have as many as 26 large teeth on each side of their lower jaw.

Sperm whales weigh up to 45 tons, grow up to 52 feet in length and can live for 60 years. Their heads are very large and account for about one-third of their body size. Sperm whales can be found in all of the world's oceans and can dive deeper than almost any other marine mammal.



Photo credit:
Tethys Research
Institute, IUCN
Red List

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/sperm-whale>
International Whaling Commission: <https://iwc.int/sperm-whale>



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PYGMY SPERM WHALE

Kogia breviceps

DID YOU KNOW?

Pygmy sperm whales prefer temperate and tropical seas worldwide but are rarely seen at sea. When spotted, they can be confused with dwarf sperm whales due their similar appearances.

Pygmy sperm whales can weigh up to 1000 pounds, grow up to 11.5 feet in length and live for 23 years. They feed in deep waters on cephalopods (such as squid), deep-sea fishes and shrimps. Similar to squids, pygmy sperm whales release a dark ink-like substance to help them escape predators.



Photo credit: NOAA

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/pygmy-sperm-whale>
International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species
<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/11047/17692192>



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DWARF SPERM WHALE

Kogia Simia (formerly
Kogia simus)

DID YOU KNOW?

Dwarf sperm whales are distributed widely in offshore waters of tropical and warm temperate zones. They spend very little time at the water's surface, but when they are spotted they can be seen either alone or in small groups of 16 or fewer individuals.

Dwarf sperm whales are found to weigh up to 600 pounds, grow up to 9 feet in length and live for 22 years. They feed on deep-sea cephalopods (e.g., squid and octopus) crustaceans (e.g., crabs and shrimp) and fish. Similar to pygmy sperm whales, dwarf sperm whales release a dark ink-like substance to help them escape predators.

Photo credit: Keith Rittmaster,
NC Maritime Museum

References: National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/dwarf-sperm-whale>
International Union for Conserva-
tion of Nature's Red List of Threat-
ened Species [https://www.iucnred-
list.org/species/11048/17695273](https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/11048/17695273)



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GERVAIS' BEAKED WHALE

Mesoplodon europaeus

DID YOU KNOW?

These little-known members of the beaked whale family are also called "Antillean" or "Gulf Stream beaked whale". Gervais' beaked whales are known to weigh approximately 2600 pounds and grow up to 17 feet in length.

Both females and males often have a pronounced dark patch around the eye. Only mature males of the Gervais' beaked whale have a pair of teeth that protrude from the lower jaw.

Gervais' beaked whales prefer warm temperate and tropical waters and are known to feed primarily on squid and some fish.



Photo credit:
NOAA

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/gervais-beaked-whale>
International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species
<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/13245/3427527>

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SEI WHALE

Balaenoptera borealis

DID YOU KNOW?

Sei whales are the third largest whale species after blue whales and fin whales. They have long, sleek bodies that are dark bluish-grey to black in colour, with a white or cream-coloured underside. They are found to weigh up to 100,000 pounds, grow up to 60 feet in length, and live for 70 years. Sei whales feed on crustaceans, krill and small schooling fish. They are widely distributed in open ocean waters in temperate and sub-polar regions.



Photo credit: NOAA

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/blue-whale>
International Whaling Commission: <https://iwc.int/sei-whale>



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BLAINVILLE'S BEAKED WHALE

Mesoplodon densirostris

DID YOU KNOW?

These little-known members of the beaked whale family are also known as “dense-beaked whales”. Like other beaked whales, these whales are found mostly offshore in deep, temperate and tropical waters of all oceans where they like to feed on cephalopods and small fish.

Blainville's beaked whales are found to weigh up to 2300 pounds and can grow up to 20 feet in length. Mature males can be distinguished by their two, large tusk-like teeth which are sometimes covered in barnacles.

Photo credit: NOAA

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/blainvilles-beaked-whale>
International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/13244/3426474>



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TRUE'S BEAKED WHALE

Mesoplodon mirus

DID YOU KNOW?

True's beaked whales are little known members of the beaked whale family, named after Frederick W. True, a curator at the Smithsonian Institution.

They can weigh up to 3000 pounds and grow up to 17.5 feet in length. They have been known to display active surface behaviours such as leaping out of the water (breaching). Like other deep-diving whales, true's beaked whales use sound to feed, communicate and navigate in the ocean. They like to feed on small fish and cephalopods, such as squids.



Photo credit:
John Horsfall

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/trues-beaked-whale>
International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/13250/3430702>



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NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE

Eubalaena glacialis

DID YOU KNOW?

Historically, whalers considered the North Atlantic right whale the “right” whale to hunt, hence its name. The species was commercially hunted to the brink of extinction by the early 1890s. It is one of three species of right whales, the other two being the North Pacific right whale and the Southern right whale.

North Atlantic right whales can grow up to 52 feet and are found to weigh up to 70 tons. They like to feed on copepods and other zooplankton.

Photo credit: Moira Brown,
New England Aquarium,
IUCN Red List

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/north-atlantic-right-whale>
International Whaling Commission:
<https://iwc.int/right-whale>



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SOWERBY'S BEAKED WHALE

Mesoplodon bidens

DID YOU KNOW?

These little known members of the beaked whale family are also known as "North Atlantic beaked whales". Sowerby's beaked whales are rarely sighted at sea but are known to live in deep ocean waters where they feed on small, deep-sea fish and cephalopods such as squid.

Sowerby's beaked whales can weigh up to 2900 pounds and grow up to 21 feet in length.



Photo credit:
NOAA

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/sowerbys-beaked-whale>

International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species
<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/13241/3424903>



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KILLER WHALE

Orcinus orca

DID YOU KNOW?

The killer whale, also known as orca, is actually the largest dolphin species, but is called a whale because of its large size. Killer whales are the ocean's top predators and tend to hunt in teams.

They are one of the most recognizable marine mammals, with their distinctive black and white bodies. Killer whales are the most widely distributed of all whale and dolphin species and can be found in every ocean basin. They can weigh up to 11 tons and grow up to 32 feet in length.

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Photo credit: NOAA

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/killer-whale>
International Whaling Commission: <https://iwc.int/killer-whale>



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HUMPBACK WHALE

Megaptera novaeangliae

DID YOU KNOW?

The humpback whale takes its common name from the distinctive hump on its back. Humpback whales are one of the most-watched species of whale and can be found in every ocean and in many nearshore areas associated with coastal and marine tourism. They are known to often leap out of the water (breaching) and slap the surface with their fins and tails (which can grow up to 18 feet wide).

Humpback whales are found to weigh up to 40 tons and grow up to 60 feet in length. They love to feed on krill and small fishes.



Photo credit:
NOAA

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/humpback-whale>
International Whaling Commission: <https://iwc.int/humpback-whale>



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FRASER'S DOLPHIN

Lagenodelphis hosei

DID YOU KNOW?

Fraser's dolphins are named after Francis Fraser, a scientist from the British Museum who first described this species in 1956. They can be found in deep, offshore tropical waters where they dive up to 2000 feet to feed on fish, squid and crustaceans.

They are found to weigh as much as 450 pounds and grow up to 9 feet in length. All Fraser's dolphins have a dark stripe that extends down their side from eye to flipper.



Photo credit:
NOAA

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/frasers-dolphin>;
International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/11140/50360282>



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PANTROPICAL SPOTTED DOLPHIN

Stenella attenuata

DID YOU KNOW?

The Pantropical spotted dolphin is one of the most abundant cetaceans in tropical and subtropical waters around the globe. They are very social and are often seen schooling with other dolphin species. They can be distinguished by the dark cape or coloration on their backs and white-tipped beak.

Pantropical spotted dolphins can grow up to 7 feet, weigh as much as 250 pounds, and live for 46 years. They tend to feed in deep waters on fishes and cephalopods (such as squid).

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/pantropical-spotted-dolphin>
International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species
<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/20729/50373009>

Photo credit:
Edward Thorpe,
IUCN Red List



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ATLANTIC SPOTTED DOLPHIN

Stenella frontalis

DID YOU KNOW?

Atlantic spotted dolphins start to develop spots after their first birthday. This spotting pattern varies with age and location. As the dolphin matures, the spots become darker and more widespread, especially on its back.

Atlantic spotted dolphins swim very quickly and are often described as “acrobatic” swimmers, frequently leaping out of the water or jumping at the water’s surface.

These dolphins can grow up to 7.5 feet in length and weigh as much as 315 pounds. They like to feed on small fish, invertebrates, and cephalopods (such as squid).

Photo credit: NOAA

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/atlantic-spotted-dolphin>
International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List of Threatened Species <https://www.iucn-redlist.org/species/20732/50375312>



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SHORT-FINNED PILOT WHALE

Globicephala macrorhynchus

DID YOU KNOW?

Short-finned pilot whales are one of two species of pilot whale, along with the long-finned pilot whale. They are known as “cheetahs of the deep sea” for their deep, high-speed dives to chase and capture squid.

The short-finned pilot whale is a highly social species with a wide distribution in tropical and temperate waters around the globe. They can grow up to 24 feet in length, weigh as much as 6600 pounds and live up to 60 years.

Photo credit: Paula Olson,
IUCN Red List

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/short-finned-pilot-whale>
International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species <https://www.iucn-redlist.org/species/9249/50355227>



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Photo credit: NOAA

Status: Data Deficient

SPINNER DOLPHIN

Stenella longirostris

DID YOU KNOW?

Spinner dolphins are often seen leaping and spinning out of the water, hence their name. They are found throughout the world in tropical and warm temperate waters.

Most spinner dolphins feed predominantly at night, taking advantage of the nightly migration that brings their prey species to shallower depths and closer to shore. They like to feed on small fish, shrimp and squid.

These dolphins can weigh as much as 170 pounds and grow up to 7 feet in length.

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/spinner-dolphin>

International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/20733/156927622>



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COMMON BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

Tursiops truncatus

DID YOU KNOW?

Common bottlenose dolphins are generally gray in colour and get their name from their short, thick snout. These dolphins are among the most common and well-known cetacean species globally. They are found throughout the world in tropical and temperate waters.

Bottlenose dolphins consume a wide variety of prey species, mostly fish and squid. They can weigh as much as 1400 pounds, grow up to 13 feet in length and live up to 60 years.



Photo credit:
Edward Thorpe,
IUCN Red List

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/common-bottlenose-dolphin>

International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22563/156932432>



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STRIPED DOLPHIN

Stenella coeruleoalba

DID YOU KNOW?

Striped dolphins have a unique coloration pattern, which includes bold, thin stripes that extend from the eye to the flipper and another set of stripes down the side of the body to the anal region.

They are one of the most abundant cetaceans in tropical, subtropical, and temperate waters around the globe. Striped dolphins are known to display a unique surface behaviour in which the animal jumps out of the water and vigorously rotates its tail in a circular motion while airborne (roto-tailing).

Adult males tend to grow up to 9 feet in length and weigh up to 350 pounds, while adult females grow up to 8 feet and weigh as much as 330 pounds.

Photo credit: Robert Baldwin
Fujairah Whale Research
Project

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/striped-dolphin>
International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/20731/50374282>



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RISSO'S DOLPHIN

Grampus griseus

DID YOU KNOW?

The Risso's dolphin is a widely distributed species that primarily inhabits waters of the continental slope and outer shelf in tropical and temperate regions. They prefer to feed at night, mainly on fish, krill and cephalopods (e.g., squid, octopus).

These dolphins can live for 35 years or more and grow up to 13 feet in length. As Risso's dolphins age, their coloration lightens from black, dark gray, or brown to pale gray or almost white.



Photo credit:
NOAA

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/rissos-dolphin>
International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of
Threatened Species <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/9461/50356660>



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Status: Least Concern

MELON-HEADED WHALE

Peponocephala electra

DID YOU KNOW?

Melon-headed whales are social animals and often occur in groups of hundreds to over 1,000 individuals. They can be found primarily in deep, tropical waters worldwide. They are nocturnal predators and like to feed on fish, squid, cuttlefish and shrimp.

Melon-headed whales can grow up to 9 feet in length, weigh up to 460 pounds and live for 45 years. Their pointed flippers and large number of smaller teeth are two of their distinguishing features from pygmy sperm whales and false killer whales, to whom they are closely related.

Photo credit: Jeremy Kiszka, IUCN Red List

References: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/18228/en>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/melon-headed-whale>



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The Ministry of the Environment is part of The Government Offices of Sweden. It is responsible for matters related to reduced climate emissions, a non-toxic everyday environment and strengthening biodiversity on land and in water. Sweden supports UNEP and wants to strengthen the UN's role in the environmental area and intergovernmental environmental cooperation

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Status: Least Concern

SHORT-BEAKED COMMON

DOLPHIN

Delphinus delphis

DID YOU KNOW?

Short-beaked common dolphins are widely distributed and can be found in warm tropical to cool temperate waters. They like to rest during the day and dive at night to feed on fish and squid.

They have a distinctive dark gray, hourglass-looking cape which extends along the back from the head to just below the dorsal fin. Short-beaked common dolphins can weigh as much as 170 pounds, grow up to 6 feet in length, and live up to 40 years.



Photo credit:
NOAA

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/short-beaked-common-dolphin>

International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/41762/10557372>



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Status: Least Concern

ROUGH-TOOTHED DOLPHIN

Steno bredanensis

DID YOU KNOW?

Rough-toothed dolphins are found in deep oceanic waters throughout tropical and warmer temperate areas of the world. They have dark gray bodies and a “reptilian” appearance that is unique among dolphins.

Rough-toothed dolphins can grow up to 8.5 feet in length, weigh as much as 350 pounds and live for 36 years. They like to feed on squids and different types of fish.

Photo credit: Jeremy Kiszka, IUCN Red List

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/rough-toothed-dolphin>
International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/20738/178929751>



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Status: Data Deficient

FALSE KILLER WHALE

Pseudorca crassidens

DID YOU KNOW?

False killer whales are large members of the dolphin family. They generally prefer deep offshore tropical to subtropical waters of all ocean basins. They like to feed on large fish and cephalopods, such as squid, and have been known to attack and consume small dolphins that have been injured or disoriented.

False killer whales can grow up to 20 feet in length and weigh as much as 3000 pounds. Adult females tend to live longer than adult males, with a lifespan up to 63 years.



Photo credit:
John Horsfall

References: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/false-killer-whale>
International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/18596/145357488>



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Status: Data Deficient

PYGMY KILLER WHALE

Feresa attenuata

DID YOU KNOW?

The pygmy killer whale is actually part of the oceanic dolphin family. It is often confused with the false killer whale and melon-headed whale, but can be distinguished by the rounded tips on its flipper, its rounded head, and its darker cape with lighter lateral pigmentation.

Pygmy killer whales prefer deep, warm ocean waters and like to feed on squid and fish. They can grow up to 8.5 feet in length and weigh as much as 500 pounds.

Photo credit: NOAA

References: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations <http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/18192/en>
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/pygmy-killer-whale>

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