

Marine Mammal Species Fact Sheet



Long-finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala melas*

Size: 16-18 ft. 4,000-5,000 lbs

Body: Long robust body, bulbous head with prominent melon and slight beak. Sickle-shaped flippers are sharply pointed and long. Black with white caps behind dorsal fin, very prominent white anchor between fins, very long peduncle.

Diet: Squid and fish

Habitat: Pelagic continental shelf edge and slope, submerged banks, or associated with Gulf Stream features.



Short-Finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala macrorhynchus*

Size: 15-18 ft. 3,000-4,000 lbs

Body: Long robust body, flippers gently curved, pointed and less than one-sixth of body length, all black, diffuse white anchor between fins, very long dorsal fin.

Diet: Squid, fish

Habitat: Tropical, pelagic to coastal; in the Gulf Stream



Risso's Dolphin *Grampus griseus*

Size: 10-12.5 ft., 500-600 lbs.

Body: Blunt head with squared melon but no beak. Vertical crease in forehead. Light gray back and sides with darker dorsal fin, flippers, and flukes. White color from scarring, large prominent dorsal fin, and darker than body. Large black eye

Diet: Squid specialist

Habitat: Pelagic; continental shelf edge and steep upper sections of slope. Tropical waters



Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*

Size: 6-12 ft. 330-1,435 lbs

Body: Short, thick well-defined beak. Coastal form is shorter and slimmer, offshore form is larger. Gray with no distinctive color pattern. Dorsal fin is tall with broad base, located on the middle back.

Diet: Fish, invertebrates, and squid

Habitat: Coastal form: Shallow, warm inshore waters. Offshore form: offshore waters of shelf edge and slope.



Pygmy Sperm Whale *Kogia breviceps*

Size: 10-12 ft 695-880 lbs

Body: Robust body with squared or conical shark-like head with tiny underslung lower jaw. Dark gray, lighter down sides to white belly. Pale crescent-shaped false gill on each side between eye and flipper. Tiny dorsal fin, located aft of mid-back.

Diet: Squid, fish, crustaceans

Habitat: Pelagic; continental shelf edge, and slope.



Harbor Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*

Size: 4.5-6 ft 125-145 lbs

Body: Smallest cetacean in the U.S. Atlantic. Stocky with small pointed flippers, no beak. Dark gray or black on back with lighter sides and white belly. No distinctive markings. Dorsal fin is small, triangular; located slightly aft of mid-body.

Diet: Schooling fish and invertebrates

Habitat: Coastal, cold waters usually less than 650 ft.



Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*

Size: 36-52 ft. 25-30 tons

Body: Flippers long, flukes broad with irregular trailing edge. Black with white on throat and belly. Small dorsal fin with a broad base, raised bump in front, and "knuckles" behind. Shows flukes when diving.

Diet: Small schooling fish (herring, sand lance, capelin) and krill.

Habitat: Pelagic and coastal.



Minke Whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

Size: 29-33 ft. 5-10 tons

Body: Small, sleek body, head is sharply pointed with a flat rostrum. Flippers pointed, flukes broad. Black or dark grey, white band on both flippers. Prominent dorsal fin, two thirds back on body. Shows flukes when diving.

Diet: Variety of schooling fish, squid, and zooplankton.

Habitat: Pelagic, but common in bays and shallow coastal waters.



Atlantic Spotted Dolphin *Stenella frontalis*

Size: 7-7.5 ft 220-310 lbs

Body: Long, thick white-tipped beak. Tricolor background, variable spotting. Dorsal fin is tall, dark, located on middle back.

Diet: Squid and variety of fish

Habitat: Coastal to pelagic. Tropical to warm-temperate waters over the continental shelf.



Pantropical Spotted Dolphin *Stenella attenuata*

Size: 5.2-8.5 ft 220-255 lbs

Body: Slender body with long narrow, white-tipped beak. Bicolor background, distinct cape is narrow at face, dips deeply forward of dorsal fin. Small spots develop with age. Dorsal fin is tall and slender.

Diet: Squid, and schooling fish.

Habitat: Pelagic; deep waters seaward of shelf edge, tropical to warm-temperate waters.



Common dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

Size: 7.5-8.5 ft 155-245 lbs

Body: Slender body, with long pointed beak. Black back and cape form V-shaped saddle, hourglass pattern on sides: tan patch forward and gray patch aft. Black beak and eye ring, line from jaw to flipper.

Diet: Variety of fish and squid

Habitat: Pelagic; subtropical to temperate waters >100 fathoms.



Striped Dolphin *Stenella coeruleoalba*

Size: 7-8 ft 200-330 lbs

Body: Slender body with narrow pale tail stock, moderately long dark beak. Bold light blaze from shoulder to dorsal fin, black stripe from eye to anus. Dorsal fin is tall and dark.

Diet: Deepwater squid, fish, and shrimp.

Habitat: Pelagic; deep waters of continental shelf edge and slope. Associated with Gulf Stream north wall.

