

ODONTOCETES: THE TOOTHED WHALES

The 72 species of toothed whales are listed below by the categories of threat of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™

Lipotes vexillifer Bajji (CR/EX)	Phocoena sinus Vaquita (CR)	Cephalorhynchus hectori Hector's dolphin (EN) New Zealand North Island subspecies <i>C. h. maui</i> (CR)	Platanista gangetica South Asian river dolphin (EN)	Neophocaena phocaenoides Finless porpoise (VU) Yangtze subspecies <i>N. p. asiatica</i> (EN)	Orcaella brevirostris Irrawaddy dolphin (VU) Ayeyarwady, Mahakam and Mekong River, Malampaya Sound and Songkhla Lake subpopulations (CR)	Physeter macrocephalus Sperm whale (VU)
Pontoporia blainvillei Franciscana (VU)	Sousa teuszii Atlantic humpback dolphin (VU)	Cephalorhynchus eutropia Chilean dolphin (NT)	Delphinapterus leucas Beluga whale (NT) Cook Inlet subpopulation (CR)	Monodon monoceros Narwhal (NT)	Orcaella heinsohni Australian snubfin dolphin (NT)	Sousa chinensis Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (NT) Eastern Taiwan Strait subpopulation (CR)
Delphinus delphis Short-beaked common dolphin (LC) Black Sea subspecies <i>D. d. ponticus</i> (VU) Mediterranean subpopulation (EN)	Grampus griseus Risso's dolphin (LC)	Hyperoodon planifrons Southern bottlenose whale (LC)	Lagenodelphis hosei Fraser's dolphin (LC)	Lagenorhynchus acutus Atlantic white-sided dolphin (LC)	Lagenorhynchus albirostris White-beaked dolphin (LC)	Lagenorhynchus cruciger Hourglass dolphin (LC)
Lagenorhynchus obliquidens Pacific white-sided dolphin (LC)	Lissodelphis borealis Northern right-whale dolphin (LC)	Peponocephala electra Melon-headed whale (LC)	Phocoenoides dalli Dall's porpoise (LC)	Phocoena phocaena Harbour porpoise (LC) Black Sea subspecies <i>P. p. melitica</i> (EN) Baltic Sea subpopulation (CR)	Stenella attenuata Pantropical spotted dolphin (LC)	Stenella coeruleoalba Striped dolphin (LC)
Steno bredanensis Rough-toothed dolphin (LC)	Tursiops truncatus Common bottlenose dolphin (LC) Black Sea subspecies <i>T. t. ponticus</i> (EN)	Ziphius cavirostris Cuvier's beaked whale (LC)	Berardius arnuxii Arnoux's beaked whale (DD)	Berardius bairdii Baird's beaked whale (DD)	Cephalorhynchus commersonii Commerson's dolphin (DD)	Cephalorhynchus heavisidii Heaviside's dolphin (DD)
Delphinus capensis Long-beaked common dolphin (DD)	Feresa attenuata Pygmy killer whale (DD)	Globicephala macrorhynchus Short-finned pilot whale (DD)	Globicephala melas Long-finned pilot whale (DD)	Hyperoodon ampullatus Northern bottlenose whale (DD)	Indopacetus pacificus Longman's beaked whale (DD)	Inia geoffrensis Amazon river dolphin (DD)
Kogia breviceps Pygmy sperm whale (DD)	Kogia sima Dwarf sperm whale (DD)	Lagenorhynchus australis Peale's dolphin (DD)	Lagenorhynchus obscurus Dusky dolphin (DD)	Lissodelphis peronii Southern right-whale dolphin (DD)	Mesoplodon bidens Sowerby's beaked whale (DD)	Mesoplodon bowdoini Andrews' beaked whale (DD)
Mesoplodon carlhubbsi Hubbs' beaked whale (DD)	Mesoplodon densirostris Blainville's beaked whale (DD)	Mesoplodon europaeus Gervais' beaked whale (DD)	Mesoplodon ginkgodens Ginkgo-toothed beaked whale (DD)	Mesoplodon grayi Gray's beaked whale (DD)	Mesoplodon hectori Hector's beaked whale (DD)	Mesoplodon layardii Strap-toothed beaked whale (DD)
Mesoplodon mirus True's beaked whale (DD)	Mesoplodon perrini Perrin's beaked whale (DD)	Mesoplodon peruvianus Peruvian beaked whale (DD)	Mesoplodon stejnegeri Stejneger's beaked whale (DD)	Mesoplodon traversii Spade-toothed beaked whale (DD)	Orcinus orca Killer whale (DD)	Phocoena dioptica Spectacled porpoise (DD)
Phocoena spinipinnis Burmeister's porpoise (DD)	Pseudorca crassidens False killer whale (DD)	Sotalia fluviatilis Tucuxi (DD)	Sotalia guianensis Guiana dolphin (DD)	Stenella clymene Clymene dolphin (DD)	Stenella frontalis Atlantic spotted dolphin (DD)	Stenella longirostris Spinner dolphin (DD) Eastern Pacific subspecies <i>S. l. orientalis</i> (VU)
Tasmacetus shepherdi Shepherd's beaked whale (DD)	Tursiops aduncus Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin (DD)	<p>Red List Category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possibly Extinct Critically Endangered (CR) Endangered (EN) Vulnerable (VU) Near Threatened (NT) Least Concern (LC) Data Deficient (DD) <p><small>(based on the 2006 Cetacean Update of the IUCN)</small></p>				

Toothed whales

The toothed whales form an extraordinary group of marine mammals, ranging in size over several orders of magnitude from the smallest harbour porpoises in the Black Sea (1.3 m long and 45 kg) to the cosmopolitan sperm whale (18 m long, 57,000 kg). As opposed to baleen whales, the toothed whales have jaws with teeth and only a single blowhole. They occur in a wide range of marine and freshwater habitats, from the Arctic to the tropics and some species live in large river systems such as the Amazon, Ganges, Indus and Yangtze. They rely on air to breathe and some, such as the sperm whale, can hold their breath for over one hour and dive several thousand metres deep to find and capture prey. All the members of this group are very vocal, using sound to identify themselves, to communicate and to echolocate.

They emit focussed echolocation signals through a specialised organ above their upper jaw, called the melon, and receive echoes from objects through the lower jaw and inner ear. Their large brains reflect their capability of processing complex acoustic information, to navigate and to detect fish, shrimp and squid even in completely dark or turbid waters. Toothed whales are threatened by a multitude of human activities. Many populations were hunted to near extinction, and others continue to be hunted locally at unsustainable levels even today. Habitat degradation, including pollution by an ever increasing cocktail of persistent pollutants and noise from military and industrial activities as well as shipping, is of increasing concern. The most serious threat to the toothed whales today, however, is ongoing and unsustainable mortality in fishing operations. They become entangled and caught in gillnets, traps, trawls and other gear and subsequently drown. Some populations also suffer from prey depletion due to overfishing.

In 2006, a dedicated expedition failed to detect any live specimens of the Baiji in the Yangtze river system and the species is now believed to be extinct. Current estimates for the Vaquita population in the Northern Gulf of California are less than 150 animals and extinction may occur within the next few years. This poster shows for the first time all the toothed whales sorted according to the threat level they are faced with. It may be surprising to note that our knowledge on the majority of toothed whales (57% even today) is too limited to decide whether a species is threatened or not. The full species reports can be found at www.cms.int. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as CMS or Bonn Convention) is an international treaty which aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides the Secretariat of the Convention.

Full species reports: www.cms.int



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