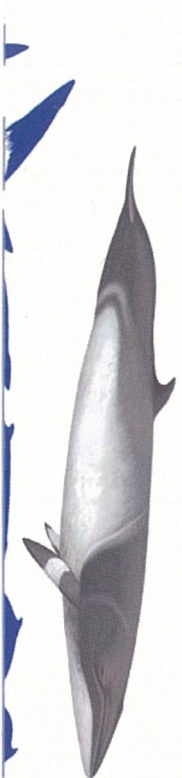


A WDCS guide to Mediterranean and Black Sea Whales and Dolphins



Minke whale - *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*
L: 7 - 10 metres



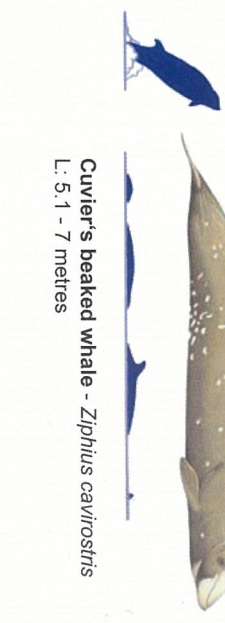
A human diver at approx. the same scale as the whale and dolphin illustrations.



Risso's dolphin - *Grampus griseus*
L: 3.3 - 4.1 metres



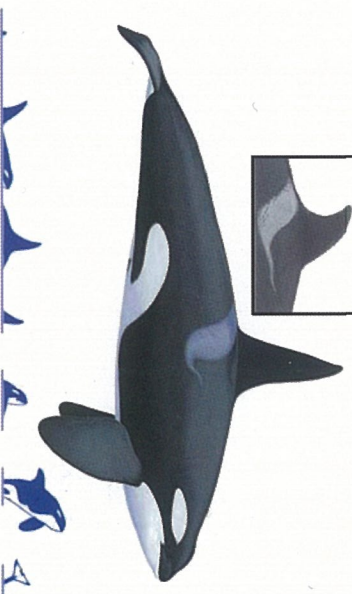
Common dolphin - *Delphinus delphis*
L: 1.7 - 2.4 metres
Black Sea subspecies (*Delphinus delphis ponticus*)



Cuvier's beaked whale - *Ziphius cavirostris*
L: 5.1 - 7 metres



Fin whale - *Balaenoptera physalus*
L: 18 - 22 metres



Orca - *Orcinus orca*
(Male illustrated. Inset box shows female dorsal fin)
L: 5.5 - 9.8 metres



Sperm whale - *Physeter macrocephalus*
L: 11 - 18 metres



Bottlenose dolphin - *Tursiops truncatus*
L: 1.9 - 3.9 metres
Black Sea subspecies (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*)



Long-finned pilot whale - *Globicephala melas*
L: 3.8 - 6 metres



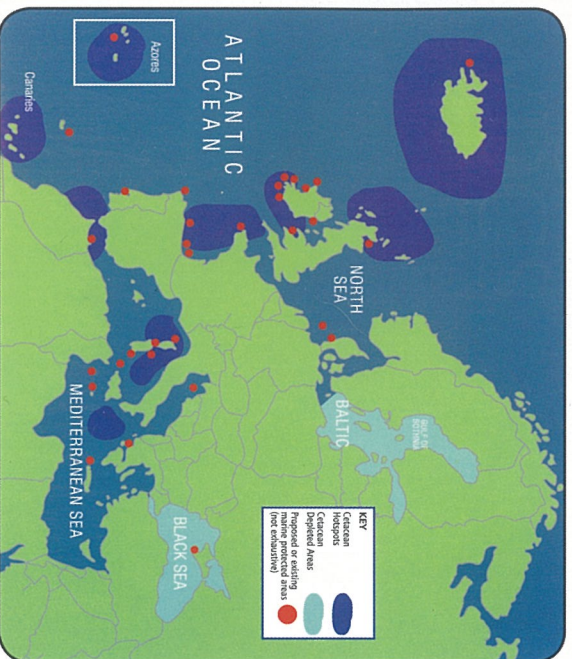
Harbour porpoise - *Phocoena phocoena*
L: 1.4 - 1.9 metres
Black Sea subspecies (*Phocoena phocoena relicta*)



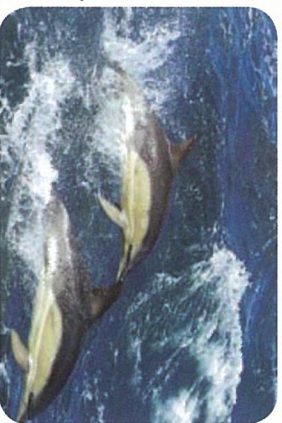
Striped dolphin - *Stenella coeruleoalba*
L: 1.8 - 2.5 metres



Whales and Dolphins in European Waters



Whales and Dolphins in Mediterranean and Black Sea Waters



Common dolphins in the Mediterranean are no longer common

18 species of whales, dolphins and porpoises inhabit or travel through Mediterranean waters and the harbour porpoise, common and bottlenose dolphin are found in the Black Sea.

There is still much to learn about all cetacean species and the threats that they face in the marine environment. Many are in need of conservation action to protect them from harm.

In particular, we do know that four species are at greater risk than others are of declining and disappearing from these waters. These are the short-beaked common dolphin, harbour porpoise, sperm whale and common bottlenose dolphin.

How you can help

WDCS runs projects and campaigns to protect whales, dolphins and porpoises around the world. GOB is a regional partner in the Mediterranean. For more information on how you can get involved, or to donate to our work, please go to www.wdcs.org, or www.gobmallorca.com.

Report your sightings

Your sightings of whales and dolphins play an invaluable role in cetacean research and conservation work. They contribute to the WDCS Sightings Database and will help WDCS to protect these animals around our coasts.

Please report your sightings to:

WDCS: www.wdcs.org/sightings. Email: sightings@wdcs.org

GOB (Balearic Group of Ornithology and Defence of Nature): www.gobmallorca.com. Email: conservacio@gobmallorca.com

Content of recorded sightings

- Name, address, sighting date and location
- Duration of sighting and distance (metres)
- Species seen (please note if definite, probable, or possible)
- Number of animals in the group (min and max)
- Behaviour if known (feeding, resting, active, travelling etc)
- Environmental data (sea state, windforce, visibility)
- Other vessels or wildlife in the area

Report a stranding

Please report any live stranding to the relevant animal rescue organisation in your region, it is important that such animals are responded to swiftly and by appropriately trained experts.

It would also be extremely useful if you can report dead strandings because the bodies can be examined to determine causes of death and other useful information. It is important that you or your pets do not touch the body. Cetaceans can carry diseases which are transferable to humans.

WDCS Code of Conduct

Whales and dolphins are highly intelligent animals. They are sensitive to disturbance and can be hit by vessels, including their propellers. If whales or dolphins approach your boat or bow-ride, maintain a slow speed and course until clear. Cetaceans should never be chased or harassed in an attempt to make them bow-ride.

WHEN WATCHING DOLPHINS ALWAYS LET THEM DECIDE WHAT HAPPENS!

When watching marine mammals please follow these simple guidelines:

- **KEEP** your distance! Never go closer than 100m (200m if another boat is present)
- **NEVER** drive head on to or move between, scatter or separate dolphins. If unsure of their movement, simply stop and put the engine into neutral.
- **PLEASE** spend no more than 15 minutes near the animals.
- **SPECIAL** care must be taken with mothers and young
- **MAINTAIN** a steady direction and slow 'no wake' speed
- **NEVER** try to swim with cetaceans or to touch them for your safety and theirs.

Do not dispose of any rubbish, litter or contaminants at sea.



MAXIMUM TIME 15 MINUTES