

A WDCCS GUIDE TO UK AND EUROPEAN WHALES AND DOLPHINS



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



Harbour porpoise - *Phocoena phocoena*
L: 1.4 - 1.9 metres



Cuvier's beaked whale - *Ziphius cavirostris*
L: 5.5 - 7 metres



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



Risso's dolphin - *Grampus griseus*
L: 2.6 - 3.8 metres



Common dolphin - *Delphinus delphis*
L: 1.7 - 2.4 metres



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



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










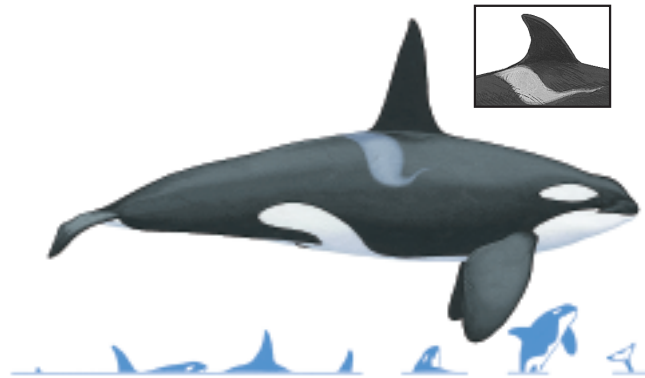
A human swimmer at approx.
the same scale as the whale
& dolphin illustrations



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

Global threats to cetaceans:

-  human disturbance
-  entanglement in nets
-  pollution
-  habitat degradation
-  hunting (shouldn't be taking place in European waters - but minke whales and long-finned pilot whales which use these waters are still hunted by Norway and the Faroe Islanders.)
-  reduced prey resources
-  collisions with vessels



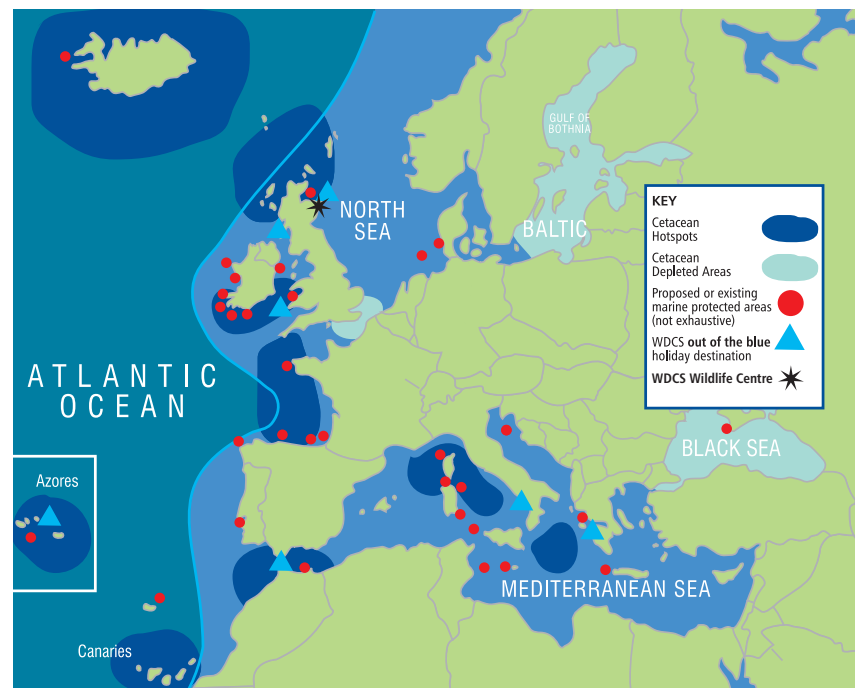
Orca - *Orcinus orca*
(Male illustrated. Inset box shows female dorsal fin)
L: 5.5 - 9.8 metres



Bottlenose dolphin - *Tursiops truncatus*
L: 1.9 - 3.9 metres

There are over 30 species of cetacean (whales, dolphins and porpoises), that include European waters in their ranges. Evidence shows that these waters are likely to be important breeding and calving grounds. There is still much to learn about all cetacean species and the threats that they face in the marine environment.

Where to watch whales, dolphins & porpoises in European waters



The WDCS Wildlife Centre in the Moray Firth, Scotland, is a focus of important research and education work by WDCS. We aim to find out more about whales, dolphins and porpoises in the Firth – particularly the threatened bottlenose dolphins. This helps inform conservation work and fight for better protection for these wonderful animals. By raising awareness of a wide variety of wildlife, including dolphins, the Wildlife Centre promotes the importance of a healthy marine environment and helps secure the future survival of our sealife.



© Charlie Phillips

To Adopt a Dolphin with WDCS visit www.adoptadolphin.com

HOW YOU CAN HELP

To get ACTIVE for whales and dolphins please visit www.wdcs.org/getactive to find out how you can get involved and help us to protect whales and dolphins.

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:

- **Online:** www.wdcs.org/sightings
- **Email:** sightings@wdcs.org
- **Tel:** +44 (0) 1249 449 500 / **Fax:** +44 (0) 1249 449 501
- **Post:** WDCS, Brookfield House, 38 St Paul Street, Chippenham, Wilts, SN15 1LJ, UK

Content of recorded sightings

Don't forget to include...

- Name, address, sighting date & 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

Strandings Information

To report a live stranding in the UK call:

RSPCA (England and Wales) 0870 555 5999

SSPCA (Scotland) 0131 339 0222

Environment Agency 0800 807 060

BDMLR (British Divers Marine Life Rescue)

01825 765 546

To report a dead stranding in the UK call:

the Natural History Museum 0207 942 5155

To join WDCS, please visit www.wdcs.org or call 0870 870 5001 and quote this field guide.

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 they approach the 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 movements, simply stop and put the engine into neutral
- **PLEASE** spend no longer 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 for your safety and theirs

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



MAXIMUM TIME 15 MINUTES

For more information on ACCOBAMS (the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area) please see www.accobams.mc

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