

# Comprehensive Marine Life Encyclopedia

## Whales

Whales are the largest mammals on Earth. Species include blue whales, humpback whales, and sperm whales. They communicate using complex vocalizations and migrate thousands of kilometers annually. Blue whales can weigh over 180 tons and primarily feed on krill.

## Dolphins

Dolphins are highly intelligent marine mammals known for social behavior and echolocation. They live in pods and demonstrate problem-solving abilities. Dolphins feed mainly on fish and squid.

## Sharks

Sharks are apex predators essential for maintaining healthy ocean ecosystems. There are over 500 species of sharks, including great white, hammerhead, and tiger sharks. They regulate prey populations and prevent overgrazing of coral reefs.

## Coral Reefs

Coral reefs are biodiversity hotspots supporting over 25% of all marine species. They protect coastlines from erosion and provide habitat for fish, mollusks, and crustaceans. Climate change and ocean acidification pose major threats to coral reefs.

## Sea Turtles

Sea turtles are ancient reptiles that have existed for over 100 million years. They migrate long distances between feeding and nesting sites. Species include green turtles, hawksbill turtles, and leatherback turtles.

## Deep Sea Life

Deep sea ecosystems exist under extreme pressure and darkness. Species such as anglerfish, giant squid, and bioluminescent organisms thrive here. These creatures have unique adaptations such as light-producing organs.