

Sperm Whale



Type: toothed

Length: 33-60 feet

Color: body is dark brown to dark gray; belly and area near mouth and head are often light gray or white

Features/Markings: skin often appears wrinkled; enormous square –shaped head that is 1/3 of the body's length; single blowhole located on the left side of head.

Teeth: 25-30 teeth on the lower jaw, tooth sockets in the upper jaw

Food: giant squid, fish, octopus, skate and sometimes even sharks.

Endangered? yes. U.S. Endangered Species list; Worldwide population is estimated between 200,000 and 1,500,000.

Interesting Facts: Sperm Whales can stay underwater for up to two hours at a time. They have the largest head of any animal. Their worst enemy is the Giant Squid.

Right Whale



Type: baleen

Length: 50-54 feet

Color: skin is black with white patches on throat and belly

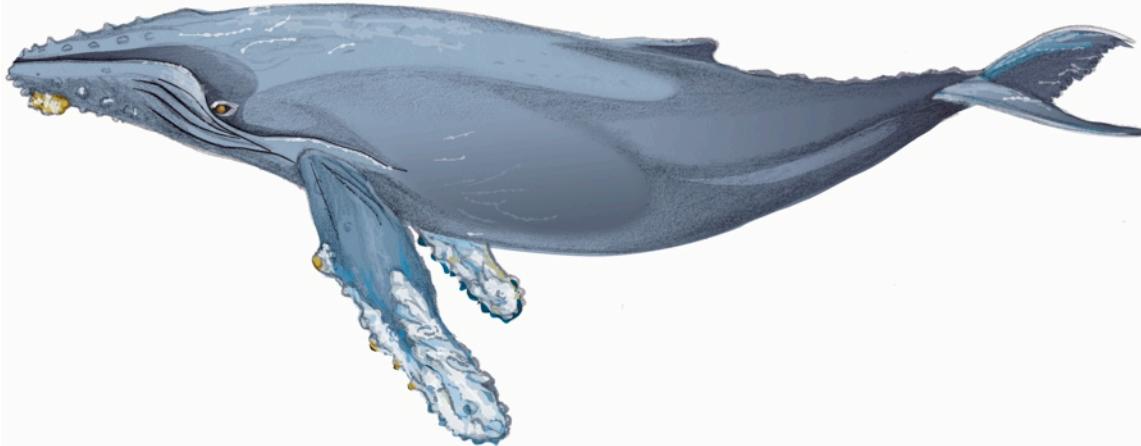
Features/Markings: large head is about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the body length.; rough areas of skin on head and lips called *callosites*, used to identify individuals

Food: plankton, krill and other tiny crustaceans

Endangered? yes. U.S. Endangered Species List; Estimated 4,700 Right whales worldwide. North Atlantic Right whale estimates are between 300-400.

Fast Facts: Right whales are the most endangered great whale in the world. The name came from Yankee whalers who said it was the “right” whale to catch.

Humpback



Type: baleen

Length: 52 feet

Color: body is black on the dorsal (upper) side and mottled black and white on the ventral (under) side; color pattern extends to the flukes, distinct to each whale.

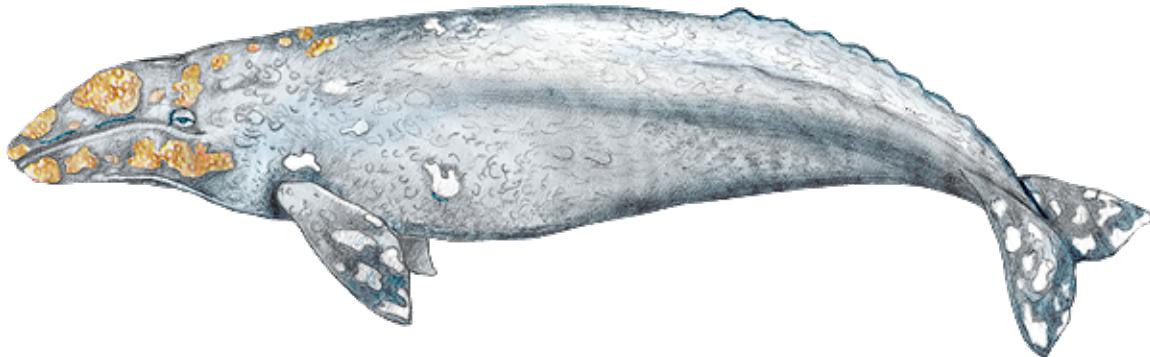
Features/Markings: the head of the humpback is broad and rounded when viewed from above, but slim in profile. The body is not as streamlined as other baleen whales, but is quite round narrowing to a slender tail.

Food: plankton, krill and other tiny crustaceans

Endangered? Yes. U.S. Endangered Species List: Estimated 50,000 Humpback whales today

Fast Facts: Humpback do a head-rise, also known as a “spyhop” slowly rising its head out of the water to below its eyes. Scientists believe this allows them to get a better look at the activity going on above the surface. Male humpbacks do a head lunge which is the same thing as a dog baring its teeth at its opponent. They also fill their throats up with water to puff up the area in order to appear bigger and more threatening.

Gray



Type: baleen

Length: male adult gray whales measure 45-46 feet long; adult females are slightly larger up to 50 feet long.

Color: the gray whale received its name from the gray patches and white mottling on its dark skin. There are many scratches, scattered patches of white barnacles on its skin, along with orange whale lice.

Features/Markings: They have a streamlined body, with a narrow, tapered head. The upper jaw is arched in profile, and slightly overlaps the lower jaw.

Food: they are seasonal feeders who eat meat from the mud on the Arctic Ocean floor. They generally feed on their right side sucking up mouthfuls of mud and filtering out small crustaceans, plankton and mollusks with their baleen. During migration and when in warmer waters for breeding, they live off their thick layer of blubber, eating very little.

Endangered? They are a protected species, so the population has increased to 21,000 world wide.

Fast Facts: the gray whale's main predators are humans and killer whales (orcas). Many gray whales have healed scars and killer whale teeth marks on their flukes and flippers.

Bowhead



Type: baleen

Length: 50-60 feet long; adult females are slightly larger.

Color: Bowheads are blue-black in color, except for a variable amount of white on the lower jaw. A series of irregular black spots are usually found on the white patch

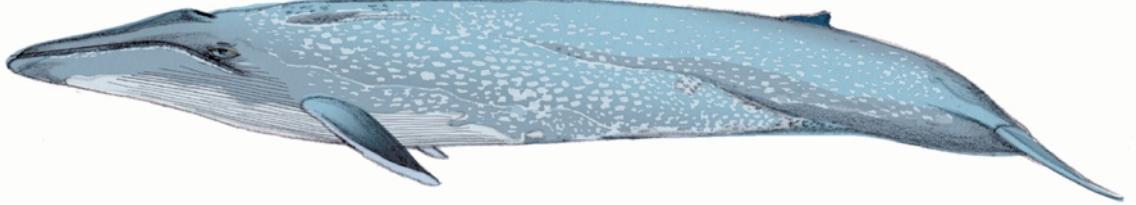
Features/Markings: The bowhead has a massive body protected from the icy Arctic waters by a layer of blubber up to 2 feet thick. Its head is immense, making up nearly 1/3 of the bowhead's total body length.

Food: plankton and tiny crustaceans filtered through baleen

Endangered? Yes; U.S. Endangered Species List there are approximately 7,800 to 10,000 worldwide

Fast Facts: Only the Inuit native people of Alaska are allowed to legally hunt a small number of whales per year for food and oil. Their yearly hunt is part of their traditional lifestyle.

Blue



Type: baleen

Length: they can grow to over 100 feet long.

Color: The blue whale is blue-gray in color, but often with lighter gray mottling on a darker background. The underside of its flippers may be a lighter color or white; the under side of the fluke is dark. The blue whale acquires microorganisms called diatoms in the cold waters which gives the underside of its body a yellowish green color.

Features/Markings: Its body is long, somewhat tapered and streamlines, with the head making up less than one fourth of its total body length. The upper part of its head is very broad and flat and almost U-shaped. Its body is smooth and relatively free of parasites, but a few barnacles may attach themselves

Food: Seasonal feeder eating tiny organisms like krill and plankton which they filter through baleen.

Endangered: Yes; U.S. Endangered Species List there are an estimated 10,000 – 16,000 worldwide.

Fast Facts: The blue whale's heart is about the size of a Volkswagen bug car. The aorta is so big that a human being could crawl through it. A blue whale's tongue is large enough for a full-grown elephant to stand on it.