

Marine mammals of Chiloé's Archipelago

Carnivores (order)

Otariidae (*family*) (5 species)

South American fur seal *Arctocephalus australis*

Male 2 meters (6,5 ft) , 180 kg
Female 1,5 meters (85 ft) 40-55 kg (88 - 121 lb)
2 or 3 years to reach sexual maturity
11 months pregnancy, after birth 1 year together
13 females / male
CITES appendix II

South American sea lion *Otaria flavescens*

Male 3,5 meters (11 ft), only comes to land to mate, 9 days 350 kg (770 lb)
Female 2,5 meters (8 ft) 150 kg (330 lb)

Babies after 2 months go in the water
10 females / male
Between 1910 - 1984 360.000 were killed for oil and skins. Now SAFE

Cetacea (order)

Mysticeti (suborder)

Balaenidae (family)

Southern right whale *Eubalaena australis*

17 meters (56 ft) long, head 25% or more of the body
Cephalic calluses (callosities)
Diet: copepods (crustaceans), krill, mysids (opossum shrimp)
Females may have 7 partners, 12 months gestation period
Single offspring every 3-4 years, 6 months nursing, between 9-11 years reach sexual maturity
Males have largest testicles in animal kingdom (1000 lb, 450 kg)
100 year lifespan, one of longest living cetaceans, average 50 years
One of the 3 right whale species (North Atlantic & North pacific right whale)
No dorsal fin
Skimmers, occasionally dive deeper for food
Appendix I CITES

Balaenopteridae (family)

Southern lesser rorqual or minke whale

Balaenoptera bonaerensis

Female slightly bigger than male, 10,7 - 9,8 meters (35 - 32 ft)
Pointy head, long V-shaped body, long flippers and pointed dorsal fin 3/2 down its back
Hold breath for 25 minutes
230 - 260 baleen plates
Prefer cold arctic waters
Solitary animals, groups of three. More when feeding (2.000)
Breaching (40% of body above water and than slam back down)
Gestation period 10-11 months, nursing 6 months- 2 years
Sexual maturity between 6 - 9 years
Average lifespan 50 years
CITES I

Sei whale

Balaenoptera borealis

Females 21 meters (69 ft), males 17-18 meters (55 - 57 ft)
400 baleen plates
Third largest known whales and one of the fastest (30 miles / 48 km per hour)
Many scars due to attacks or injuries
Diet: krill, copepods, fish and plankton (2,000 lb or 900 kg a day)
Cosmopolitan, solitary (6, when feeding up to 50)
Very loud low-pitched sounds
Gestation period 11-13 months, single offspring every 2 - 3 years, 9 months nursing
Maturity at the age of 7 - 11 years, average lifespan 50 - 70 years
CITES I in danger of extinction

Blue whale

Balaenoptera musculus

Apex predators (no predators of their own), only babies are attacked
21 - 26 meters (69 - 85 ft) average, in southern hemisphere up to 30,5 (100 ft)
Weight average 130 tons (28660 lb)
Very small dorsal fin and small flippers (12% size of body)
Tongue is used to push water out while feeding
Only 5% left of original population, used to be 200-300.000 Blue whales
While migrating (up to 4 months) living off of blubber/body fat and stored calories
Gestation 10-12 months
Baby blue whale measures 6 - 7 meters (19 - 23 ft) (1/4 - 1/3 the adult size)
6 - 9 months milk fed, after that solid food hunted themselves
Ages 5 - 10 reach maturity to mate and reproduce
Females larger than males, give birth every 2-3 years
Only under water its solid blue color comes out, otherwise grayish blue
Can eat 40 million krill a day or 3600 kilos (8000 lb)
Hold breath for 35 minutes
CITES I in danger of extinction

Fin whale

Balaenoptera physalus

Females are longer, 26,8 meters in S hemisphere (88 ft)

260 - 480 beards, 70 cm long and 30 cm wide

Second biggest whale, 130 tons (28660 lb)

Cosmopolitan, only not in polar (ice) regions

V-shaped head

Small flippers compared to rest of body

Diet: crustaceans, krill, squid and fish

Groups of 8, sometimes 100 during feeding periods

Work together sometimes by swimming in circles and frightening prey in a small ball

Gestation 12 months, 6 - 12 months mother milk feeding

Males sexual mature 6 - 10, females 7 - 12

They take 30 years to reach physical maturity (max size) and may live up to 90 years

CITES I in danger of extinction

Humpback whale

Megaptera novaeangliae

Beautiful sounds, don't know exactly why yet. Create same sounds together in unison

Female 16 meters (52 ft), male 15 (49 ft)

Broad, round face

Large fluke and unusually long pectoral fins (1/3 length of body)

Diet: fish, krill, salmon, herring, mackerel and capelin

Swallows food whole, live off of body fat during winter (focus on migrating and mating)

Bubble net fishing + slap fins against the water to stun fish and immobilize them

Cosmopolitan, traveling as far as 25,000 km a year, one of the furthest migrating species in the world, mature and experienced whales travel ahead during migration trips

Solitary, mother whale, child and two friends if not in mating, feeding, migration season

Females bear single offspring every 2-3 years, gestation period 11 - 12 months

CITES I vulnerable Between 21,000 - 37,000 left (10% of original population)

Odontoceti (Suborder)

Delphinidae (Family)

Commerson's dolphin

Cephalorhynchus commersoni

Adults measure between 1,4 - 1,7 meters (4 - 5 1/2 ft) Females slightly bigger

Weight 50 - 90 kg (190 lb.)

Round pectoral fins

Very similar to a porpoise (Phocoenidae)

Males have patch on belly that is oval shaped, females have same patch in V shape

116-120 teeth in total

Diet: small fish, shrimp, octopus, squid, marine worms and sometimes algae

Biggest eaters, 10% body weight daily

12 months gestation, 5-9 years to reach sexual maturity

10 year lifespan

Chilean dolphin

Cephalorhynchus eutropia

Measure between 1,2 - 1,7 meters (4 - 5,6 ft)

Weight 30 - 65 kg (66 - 140 lb)

The dorsal fin and flippers (rounded) are small in proportion to body size in comparison with other dolphins

120 teeth in total

Shallow waters (less than 200 m)

CITES II

Range: Valparaiso - Cape Horn

Diet: crustaceans, cephalopods, squid, sardines and small fish

Small groups, 3-10 , less social than other dolphins

Gestation 10-12 months, bare a single offspring once every 2-3 years

20 year lifespan

Long-finned pilot whale

Globicephala melas

Very social, spend large periods together, some live in same pod all their life

Males are 7,6 m (20 ft)

Females 5,6 meters (15 ft)

Weight: 1,8 - 3,5 tons (4,000 lbs. - 7,000 lbs)

Rounded head and bulbous shaped

Diet: mainly squid, also fish and octopus

Fewer teeth than other dolphins (40 - 48), only to grab prey

Pods of 10 or more , sometimes 100

Gestation 12 - 16 months , bear single offspring every 3-5 years

Lifespan 35 years males, 60 females

CITES II

Peale's dolphin

Lagenorhynchus australis

Max length 2,2 m (7 ft)

Weight 115 kg (250 lb)

Dark grey to black colored face and chin

The dark coloring extends from the head of the dolphin to its back and tail with the exception of a white streak that flows from the dorsal fin to the mid section of its body.

The dolphin's sides and belly however are white which is contrasted by a pair of dark grey to black colored flippers.

They have a large dorsal fin and unlike the bottlenose dolphin this species has a very short beak.

Diet: sardines, silverside, cephalopods, crustaceans, mollusks, octopus

No migration

Pods of 2 - 20, sometimes 30

No whistling as form of communication

Gestation 10-12 months, up to 1 1/2 years nurturing

No data on lifespan

Used as crab bait

CITES II

Killer whale

Orcinus orca

The social structure of killer whales is considered one of the most stable social structures of any animal species and is sometimes compared to the cultures of humans and elephants.

Apex (or alpha) predator

Length 5,5 - 9,8 m (20 - 26 ft)

Weight male 3,6 - 5 tons (8000 - 12000 lb) , female 1,3 - 2,7 tons (3000 - 6000 lbs.)

Largest ever 32 feet and 10 tons

In order to maintain their energy killer whales will feast on small aquatic life forms such as [fish](#), [squid](#) and octopus as well as larger marine animals such as [sea lions](#), [seals](#), [marine birds](#), [penguins](#), whales, dolphins and even sharks.

Depending on the region the killer whale lives in their [diets](#) can change dramatically.

For example killer whales that live in resident pods typically consume a diet consisting of fish and squid while killer whales that live on transient pods will primarily consume marine mammals.

Offshore pods also tend to stick to a diet consisting of fish, but physical scarring on these marine mammals shows that they may hunt other marine mammals and sharks as well.

Just as with the types of prey they hunt the killer whales food intake can also vary significantly from one group to another.

Depending on their age and diet killer whales can eat anywhere from 2% to 10% of their body weight in food on a daily basis.

One study suggests that calves (newborn dolphins) will tend to eat a higher percentage of food in body weight than adult dolphins in order to help them grow and develop.

In order to obtain their meals killer whales can often be observed hunting in groups.

While hunting for food these marine mammals the killer whales will base their strategies on the prey they are hunting and use different methods to capture different prey.

When hunting dolphins killer whales have been observed working in spaced out groups to isolate the dolphin and eventually exhaust it until the dolphin was out of energy and no longer able to run.

Some dolphins are really fast swimmers so in order to capture these marine mammals the killer whales will take turns chasing it in order to conserve their own energy while the dolphin slowly tires out.

Once the dolphin is no longer able to run the killer whale may rush in and charge the dolphin, hit it or flip it into the air in order to immobilize it before going in for the kill.

Despite being dolphins themselves killer whales will hunt other dolphin species as a form of food.

When hunting sharks one group of killer whales may attempt to distract the shark while another killer whale sneaks up from behind or beneath the shark to flip it upside down.

Once the shark is flipped over it is unable to attack or move leaving it defenseless and an easy meal.

This both minimizes the killer whales chances of being hurt while maximizing their chances of success.

As stated earlier killer whales have also been observed hunting large whales.

In these situations a group of killer whales may attempt to distract a whale pod and separate a young defenseless child from its parents in order to obtain a meal.

Bottle-nosed dolphin

Tursiops truncatus

Male 2,4 - 3,8 m (8 - 12,5 ft) sexual maturity at 5 years
Female 2,3 - 3.7 m (7,5 - 12 ft) sexual maturity at 10 - 14 years
Weight 180 - 450 kg (400 - 1000 lbs)
Large dorsal fin, pointy, in the middle
Diet: fish, eel, shrimp, crustaceans, shrimp
Swallow food whole instead of chewing
Use echolocation
Migrate (about 3.000 miles), prefer warmer waters
Gestation 11-12 months
Nursing up to 1 1/2 years, travel with mother up to 6 years
lifespan 40 years
Groups of 10 at coast, 25 at open sea.

Phocoenidae (family)

Black porpoise
(Burmeister's)

Phocoene spinipinnis

Shy and timid, disappearing at sight of boats
Measure between 1,5 - 1,8 m (5 - 6 ft)
Weight 40 - 70 kg (88 - 154 lbs)
Diet: anchovies, hake is staple diet among other fish, shrimp and squid
Native to south America
Groups of 2-8, on occasion 70-150
CITES II

Physeteridae (family)

Sperm whale

Physeter macrocephalus

Largest of toothed whales, males 18 m (59 ft) , females 12 m (39 ft)
Weighth: 35 - 40 tons (77,000 - 88,000 lbs)
Head is 40% of body length
The spermaceti organ produces substance for focusing apparatus for the whale's sense of echolocation.
Small paddle shaped fins
The sperm whale is known to have the largest brain of any known animal currently in existence.
Diet: medium to large squid (12 m - 40 ft), octopus and fish. Eat 1 ton a day (2200 lbs)
Deep diving behavior (up to 900 m or 3000 ft), hold breath for up to 90 minutes
Do not really need their teeth
Gestation period 14-16 months
Lifespan 70 years
Natural predator occasionally Killer whales
Produce ambergris (whale vomit) to produce perfumes