



Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea

Classification



Class: *Mammal*

Order: *Cetacea*

Suborders: *Mysticetes* and *Odontocetes*

➤ 30 Families

➤ 81 Species

➤ 40 Genus



Mysticetes of the Mediterranean



Suborder includes 4 Families (*Eschrichtiidae*, *Balaenidae*, *Neobalaenidae* e *Balaenopteridae*), divided into 6 Genus and 11 Species.

Common Species (♦), Occasional (♦) or Rare (♦)

➤ *Balaenopteridae*

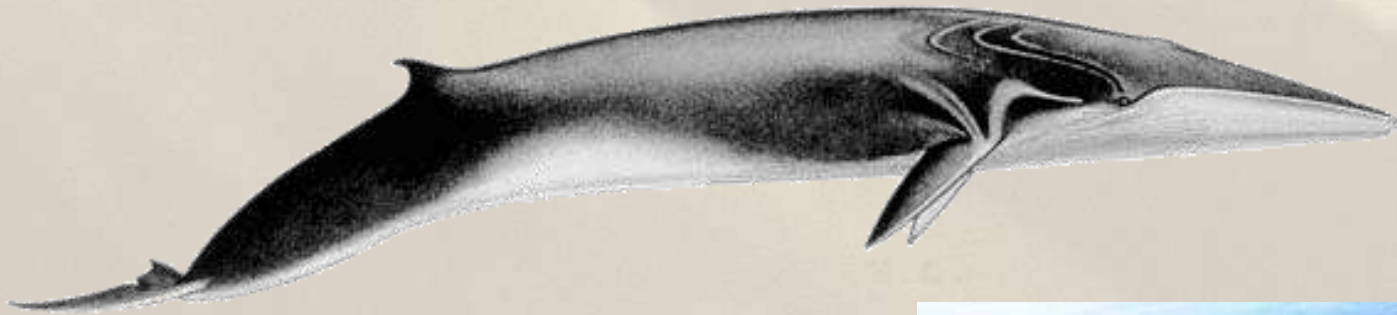
- ✓ **Fin Whale** (*Balaenoptera physalus*) (♦)
- ✓ **Minke Whale** (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)(♦)
- ✓ **Sei Whale** (*Balaenoptera borealis*) (♦)

➤ *Balaenidae*

- ✓ **Humpback Whale** (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) (♦)
- ✓ **Northern Right Whale** (*Eubalaena glacialis*) (♦)



Fin Whale



- **Classification:** Linneo 1758
- **Latin name:** *Balaenoptera physalus*
- **Habitat:** pelagic





Fin Whale

➤ Description

- ✓ **Size:** 15-25 m in length and 45-75 tonnes in weight
- ✓ **Morphology:** streamlined body;
- ✓ **Longevity:** approx. 60 years
- ✓ **Food:** euphausiids, fish, cephalopods



Fin Whale



➤ Behaviour



Fin Whale

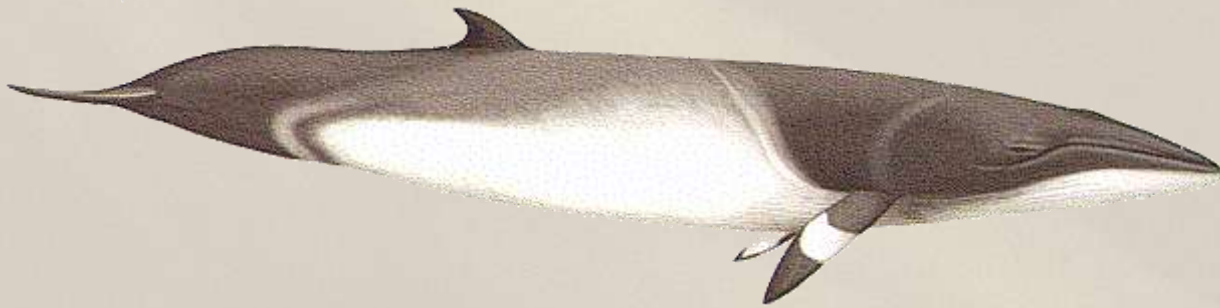


- **Human Impact**
- **Population estimate and IUCN classification:**
 - ✓ **worldwide:** 50-100,000 individuals. Vulnerable
 - ✓ **Mediterranean:** 3500 individuals (Western Mediterranean only)





Minke Whale



- **Classification:** Lacépède 1804
- **Latin name:** *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*
- **Habitat:** coastal and pelagic

Minke Whale



➤ Description

- ✓ **Size:** 8-10 m in length and 8-13.5 tonnes in weight
- ✓ **Morphology:** streamlined body;
- ✓ **Longevity:** approx. 60 years;

➤ Food: euphausiids, cephalopods;



Minke Whale



- Behaviour
- Human impact
- Population estimate and IUCN classification:
 - ✓ **Worldwide:** 610.000-1.284.000 indiv.
 - ✓ **Mediterranean:** no estimate



Odontocetes of the Mediterranean



Suborder includes 9 Families (*Physeteridae*, *Kogiidae*, *Monodontidae*, *Ziphiidae*, *Delphinidae*, *Pontoporiidae*, *Platanistidae*, *Iniidae*, and *Phocoenidae*), divided into 36 Genus and 70 Species.

Common (♦), Occasional (♦) or Rare (♦)

➤ *Physeteridae*

- ✓ Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) (♦)

➤ *Kogiidae*

- ✓ Dwarf Sperm Whale (*Kogia simus*) (♦)

➤ *Ziphiidae*

- ✓ Blainville's Beaked Whale (*Mesoplodon dentirostris*) (♦)
- ✓ Cuvier's Beaked Whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*) (♦)



Sperm Whale



- **Classification:** Linneus 1758
- **Latin name:** *Physeter macrocephalus*
- **Habitat:** remarkable depths, pelagic in general





Sperm Whale

➤ Description

- ✓ **Size:** males -> 15-20,5 m in length and 45-57 tonnes in weight; females -> 11-13 m and 20 tonnes
- ✓ **Morphology:** massive square body;
- ✓ **Longevity:** approx. 70 years;
- ✓ **Food:** squid and octopus



Sperm Whale



➤ Behaviour



Sperm Whale



➤ Human Impact



Sperm Whale



- **Population estimate and IUCN classification:**
 - ✓ **Worldwide:** approx. 2.000.000 individuals
 - ✓ **Mediterranean:** no estimate



Cuvier's Beaked Whale



➤ **Classification:**

➤ **Latin name:** *Ziphius
cavirostris*

➤ **Habitat:** remarkable depths, rarely
in the costal zone



Cuvier's Beaked Whale



➤ Description

- ✓ **dimensions:** females max 7,5 m, medium weight 3 t; males 7m;
- ✓ **morphology:** pectoral and dorsal fins are small; the beak is not set apart from the melon; the mouth line is curved to the back.



Cuvier's Beaked Whale



- ✓ **Longevity:** approx. 60 years;
- ✓ **Food:** deep-sea squid and fish;

➤ **Behaviour**

➤ **Human Impact**

➤ **Population estimate and IUCN classification:**

- ✓ **Worldwide:** no estimate
- ✓ **Mediterranean:** no estimate

Odontocetes of the Mediterranean



Common Species (♦), Occasional (♦) or Rare (♦)

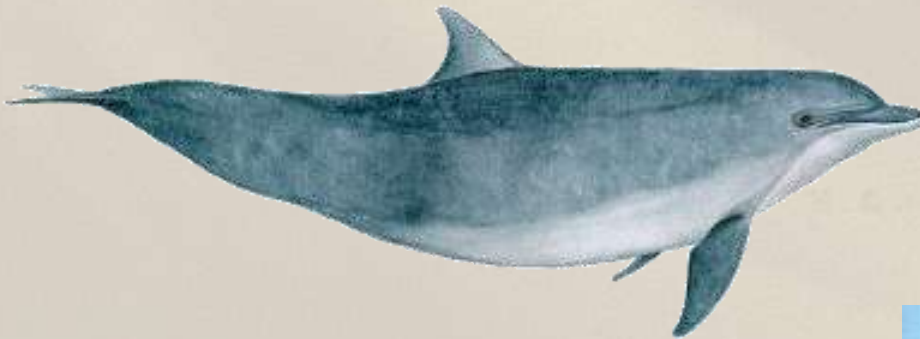
➤ *Delphinidae*

- ✓ Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) (♦)
- ✓ Risso's Dolphin (*Grampus griseus*) (♦)
- ✓ Long-Finned Pilot Whale (*Globicephala melas*) (♦)
- ✓ Striped Dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*) (♦)
- ✓ Short-Beaked Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) (♦)
- ✓ Orca (Killer Whale) (*Orcinus orca*) (♦)
- ✓ False Killer Whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*) (♦)
- ✓ Rough-Toothed Dolphin (*Steno bredanensis*) (♦)

➤ *Phocoenidae*

- ✓ Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) (♦)

Bottlenose dolphin



➤ **Classification:** Montague, 1821

➤ **Latin name:** *Tursiops truncatus*

➤ **Habitat:** coastal





Bottlenose Dolphin



➤ Description

- ✓ **Dimensions:** 2.7 - 3 m of length and 200-400 Kg
- ✓ **Morphology:** robust body;
- ✓ **Longevity:** approx. 30-40 years;
- ✓ **Food:** Bottom-dwelling species, fish, squid, octopus & cuttlefish.

Bottlenose Dolphin



- Behaviour
- Antropological Impact
- Population estimation and IUCN classification:
 - ✓ **Worldwide:** no estimation, though considered common
 - ✓ **Mediterranean:** no global estimation; 113 individuals (IC 95% = 107-121) in the North-East Adriatic (Croatia)





Risso's Dolphin



- **Classification:** G. Cuvier, 1812
- **Latin name:** *Grampus griseus*
- **Habitat:** continental shelf





Risso's Dolphin

➤ Description

- ✓ **Dimensions:** 2,8-4 m in length and 500Kg
- ✓ **Morphology:** robust body;
- ✓ **Longevity:** unknown;
- ✓ **Food:** cephalopods, occasionally other fish;



Risso's Dolphin



- Behaviour
- Antropological Impact
- Population estimation and IUCN classification:
 - ✓ Worldwide: unknown
 - ✓ Mediterranean: NW 200-300



Long-finned Pilot Whale



- **Classification:** Traill, 1809
- **Latin name:** *Globicephala melas*
- **Habitat:** Pelagic



Long-finned Pilot Whale



➤ Description

- ✓ **Dimensions:** males -> 6-7 m of length and 2 tonnes; females -> 5.5 m and 1 tonne.
- ✓ **Morphology:** robust body;
- ✓ **Longevity:** 35-60 years;
- ✓ **Food:** cephalopods, occasionally other fish;

Long-finned Pilot Whale



- Behaviour
- Antropological Impact
- Population estiamtion and IUCN classification:
 - ✓ **Worldwide:** unknown, though considered common;
 - ✓ **Mediterranean:** no estimation;



Striped dolphin



➤ **Classificazione:** Meyen, 1833

➤ **Latin name:** *Stenella
coerulealba*

➤ **Habitat:** pelagic



Striped Dolphin



➤ Description

- ✓ **Dimensions:** 2-2.5 m of length and 150 Kg
- ✓ **Morfology:** well-shaped;
- ✓ **Longevity:** unknown;
- ✓ **Food:** cephalopods, fish





Striped Dolphin



- **Behaviour**
- **Anthropogenic Impact**
- **Population estimation and IUCN classification:**
 - ✓ **Worldwide:** unknown, though considered common
 - ✓ **Mediterranean:** West Mediterranean (Tirrenian excluded) 117.880 individuals



Common Dolphin



- **Classification:** Linneo, 1758
- **Latin name:** *Delphinus delphis*
- **Habitat:** coastal and pelagic



Common Dolphin



➤ Description

- ✓ **Dimensions:** 2.5 m of length and 130 Kg
- ✓ **Morphology:** streamlined body;
- ✓ **Longevity:** unknown;
- ✓ **Food:** blue fish and squid;

Common Dolphin



- **Behaviour**
- **Antropological Impact**
- **Population estimation and IUCN classification:**
 - ✓ **Worldwide:** unknown, though considered common;
 - ✓ **Mediterranean:** unknown;

