

AUSTRALIAN WHALE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

A listing of the world's cetaceans

Biological taxonomy is the means by which science classifies organisms. It enables specific types of organisms (species) to be described so that they may be told apart from other, similar organisms. It also enables organisms with key similarities to be grouped together.

Whales, dolphins and porpoises are all cetaceans i.e. they belong to the taxonomic Order *Cetacea*. Cetaceans can then be arranged into sub-orders, families, sub-families and species.

New cetacean species are still being discovered. Omura's whale (*Balaenoptera omurai*) was first described in 2003, and the Australian snubfin dolphin (*Orcaella heinsohni*) in 2005.

The following list has been prepared by P. J. Garbett of the AWCS. Taxonomy is in a constant state of flux and there is not always universal agreement among scientists, but this is consistent with the nature of science. While every effort has been made to present an accurate account of the world's extant cetacea, the status of some taxa remain controversial. Changes will be made to the list as cetologists publish new, relevant data.

KINGDOM ANIMALIA

PHYLUM CHORDATA (VERTEBRATA)

CLASS MAMMALIA

ORDER CETACEA

SUBORDER MYSTICETI (BALEEN WHALES)

Family Balaenidae

<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i> (Muller, 1776:7)	North Atlantic right whale
<i>Eubalaena japonica</i> (Lacepede, 1818:473)	North Pacific right whale
<i>Eubalaena australis</i> (Desmoulins, 1822:161)	southern right whale
<i>Balaena mysticetus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758:75)	bowhead whale

Family Neobalaenidae

<i>Caperea marginata</i> (Gray, 1846:48)	pygmy right whale
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Family Eschrichtiidae

<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i> (Lilljeborg, 1861:602)	gray whale
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Family Balaenopteridae

Subfamily Megapterinae

<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> (Borowski, 1781:21)	humpback whale
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Subfamily Balaenopterinae

<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata acutorostrata</i> (Lacepede, 1804:xxxvii,134)	North Atlantic minke whale
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata scammoni</i> (Demere, 1986:277)	North Pacific minke whale
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata thalmaha</i> (Deraniyagala, 1963:79)	Sri Lankan minke whale
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i> ssp.	dwarf minke whale
<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i> (Burmeister, 1867:xxiv)	Antarctic minke whale
<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i> (Anderson, 1878:551)	pygmy Bryde's whale
<i>Balaenoptera brydei</i> (Olsen, 1912:Nov.12)	common Bryde's whale
<i>Balaenoptera omurai</i> (Wada, Oishi, and Yamada, 2003:278)	Omura's whale
<i>Balaenoptera borealis borealis</i> (Lesson, 1828:342)	northern sei whale
<i>Balaenoptera borealis schlegelii</i> (Flower, 1865:408)	southern sei whale
<i>Balaenoptera physalus physalus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758:75)	northern fin whale
<i>Balaenoptera physalus quoyi</i> (Fischer, 1829:526)	southern fin whale
<i>Balaenoptera musculus musculus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758:76)	northern blue whale
<i>Balaenoptera musculus brevicauda</i> (Ichihara, 1966:79)	pygmy blue whale
<i>Balaenoptera musculus indica</i> (Blyth, 1859:488)	Indian blue whale
<i>Balaenoptera musculus intermedia</i> (Burmeister, 1871:vii)	Antarctic blue whale

SUBORDER ODONTOCETI (TOOTHED CETACEANS)

Family Platanistidae

<i>Platanista gangetica gangetica</i> (Roxburgh, 1801:170)	Ganges dolphin
<i>Platanista gangetica minor</i> (Owen, 1853:448) ¹	Indus dolphin

Family Iniidae

<i>Inia geoffrensis geoffrensis</i> (Blainville in Desmarest, 1817:151)	Amazon dolphin (or) boto
<i>Inia geoffrensis humboldtiana</i> (Pilleri and Gühr, 1977:11)	Orinoco dolphin
<i>Inia boliviensis</i> (d'Orbigny, 1834:31) ²	Bolivian dolphin

Family Pontoporiidae

<i>Pontoporia blainvillei</i> (Gervais and d'Orbigny, 1844:38)	Franciscana
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Family Lipotidae

<i>Lipotes vexillifer</i> (Miller, 1918:2) ^{3,4}	Yangtze River dolphin (or) baiji
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Family Monodontidae

<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i> (Pallas, 1776:85)	beluga (or) white whale
<i>Monodon monoceros</i> (Linnaeus, 1758:75)	Narwhal

Family Phocoenidae

Subfamily Phocoeninae

<i>Neophocaena phocaenoides phocaenoides</i> (G.Cuvier, 1829:291)	Indian Ocean finless porpoise
<i>Neophocaena phocaenoides sunameri</i> (Pilleri and Gühr, 1975)	Western Pacific finless porpoise
<i>Neophocaena phocaenoides asiaorientalis</i> (Pilleri and Gühr, 1972:107)	Yangtze River finless porpoise
<i>Phocoena phocoena phocoena</i> (Linnaeus, 1758:77)	North Atlantic harbour porpoise
<i>Phocoena phocoena vomerina</i> (Gill, 1865:178)	North Pacific harbour porpoise
<i>Phocoena phocoena relicta</i> (Abel, 1905:387)	Black Sea harbour porpoise
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> ssp.	Western North Pacific harbour porpoise
<i>Phocoena sinus</i> (Norris and McFarland, 1958:22)	vaquita
<i>Phocoena spinipinnis</i> (Burmeister, 1865:228)	Burmeister's porpoise
<i>Phocoena dioptica</i> (Lahille, 1912:269)	spectacled porpoise

Subfamily Phocoenoidinae

<i>Phocoenoides dalli dalli</i> (True, 1885:95)	Dall's porpoise
<i>Phocoenoides dalli truei</i> (Andrews, 1911:32)	True's porpoise

Family Delphinidae

Subfamily Lissodelphinae

<i>Lissodelphis peronii</i> (Lacepede, 1804:316)	southern right whale dolphin
<i>Lissodelphis borealis</i> (Peale, 1848:35)	northern right whale dolphin
<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii commersonii</i> (Lacepede, 1804:317)	Commerson's dolphin
<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii kerguelenensis</i> (Robineau, Goodall, Pichler, and Baker, 2007:172)	Kerguelen dolphin
<i>Cephalorhynchus heavisidii</i> (Gray, 1828:2)	Heaviside's dolphin
<i>Cephalorhynchus eutropia</i> (Gray, 1846:38)	Chilean dolphin
<i>Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori</i> (van Beneden, 1881:877)	Hector's dolphin
<i>Cephalorhynchus hectori mauii</i> (Baker, Smith, and Pichler, 2002:713)	Mau'i's dolphin
<i>Sagmatias cruciger</i> (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824:87)	hourglass dolphin
<i>Sagmatias australis</i> (Peale, 1848:33)	Peale's dolphin
<i>Sagmatias obscurus superciliosus</i> (Lesson and Garnot, 1826:181)	New Zealand dusky dolphin
<i>Sagmatias obscurus obscurus</i> (Gray, 1828:2)	South African dusky dolphin
<i>Sagmatias obscurus fitzroyi</i> (Waterhouse, 1838:23)	South American dusky dolphin
<i>Sagmatias obliquidens</i> (Gill, 1865:177)	Pacific whiteside dolphin

Subfamily Globicephalinae

<i>Feresa attenuata</i> (Gray, 1874:238)	pygmy killer whale
<i>Peponocephala electra</i> (Gray, 1846:35)	melonhead whale
<i>Globicephala melas melas</i> (Traill, 1809:81)	northern longfin pilot whale
<i>Globicephala melas edwardii</i> (Smith, 1834:239)	southern longfin pilot whale
<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i> (Gray, 1846:32) ⁵	shortfin pilot whale
<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i> (Owen, 1846:516)	false killer whale
<i>Grampus griseus</i> (G.Cuvier, 1812:13)	Risso's dolphin

Subfamily Orcininae

<i>Orcinus orca</i> (Linnaeus, 1758:77) ⁶	orca (or) killer whale
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Subfamily Orcaellinae

<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i> (Owen, 1866:24)	Irrawaddy dolphin
<i>Orcaella heinsohni</i> (Beasley, Robertson, and Arnold, 2005:365)	Australian snubfin dolphin

Subfamily Lagenorhynchinae

<i>Leucopleurus acutus</i> (Gray, 1828:2)	Atlantic whiteside dolphin
<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i> (Gray, 1846:84)	Whitebeak dolphin

Subfamily Delphininae^{7,8}

<i>Sousa chinensis</i> (Osbeck, 1765:7) ⁹	Chinese white dolphin
<i>Sousa plumbea</i> (G.Cuvier, 1829:283)	Indian humpback dolphin
<i>Sousa teuszii</i> (Kukenthal, 1892:442)	Atlantic humpback dolphin
<i>Stenella longirostris longirostris</i> (Gray, 1828:1)	spinner dolphin
<i>Stenella longirostris roseiventris</i> (Wagner, 1846:pl. 360)	dwarf spinner dolphin

<i>Stenella longirostris centroamericana</i> (Perrin, 1990:461)	Central American spinner dolphin
<i>Stenella longirostris orientalis</i> (Perrin, 1990:457)	eastern spinner dolphin
<i>Stenella frontalis</i> (G.Cuvier, 1829:288)	Atlantic spotted dolphin
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i> (Meyen, 1833:609)	striped dolphin
<i>Stenella attenuata attenuata</i> (Gray, 1846:44)	pantropical spotted dolphin
<i>Stenella attenuata graffmani</i> (Lonnberg, 1934:1)	Eastern Pacific coastal spotted dolphin
<i>Stenella attenuata</i> ssp. A of Perrin (1975)	Eastern Pacific offshore spotted dolphin
<i>Stenella attenuata</i> ssp. B of Perrin (1975)	Hawaiian spotted dolphin
<i>Stenella clymene</i> (Gray, 1850:115)	clymene dolphin
<i>Lagenodelphis hosei</i> (Fraser, 1956:478)	Fraser's dolphin
<i>Tursiops truncatus truncatus</i> (Montagu, 1821:75)	common bottlenose dolphin
<i>Tursiops truncatus ponticus</i> (Barabasch-Nikiforov, 1940:56)	Black Sea bottlenose dolphin
<i>Tursiops aduncus</i> (Ehrenberg in Hemprich and Ehrenberg, 1832:ftn.1)	Indopacific bottlenose dolphin
<i>Delphinus delphis delphis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758:77)	shortbeak common dolphin
<i>Delphinus delphis ponticus</i> (Barabasch-Nikiforov, 1935:249)	Black Sea common dolphin
<i>Delphinus capensis</i> (Gray, 1828:2)	longbeak common dolphin
<i>Delphinus tropicalis</i> (van Bree, 1971:345) ¹⁰	Indo-Pacific common dolphin

Subfamily Stenoninae	
<i>Steno bredanensis</i> (G.Cuvier in Lesson, 1828:206)	rougtooth dolphin
<i>Sotalia fluviatilis</i> (Gervais, 1853:148)	tucuxi
<i>Sotalia guianensis</i> (P. van Beneden, 1864:1)	costero

Family Ziphiidae	
<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i> (G.Cuvier, 1823:350)	Cuvier's beaked whale
<i>Berardius arnuxii</i> (Duvernoy, 1851:52)	Arnoux's beaked whale
<i>Berardius bairdii</i> (Stejneger, 1883:75)	Baird's beaked whale
<i>Tasmacetus shepherdi</i> (Oliver, 1937:371)	Shepherd's beaked whale
<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i> (Forster, 1770:18)	northern bottlenose whale
<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i> (Flower, 1882:392)	southern bottlenose whale
<i>Indopacetus pacificus</i> (Longman, 1926:269)	Longman's beaked whale
<i>Mesoplodon traversii</i> (Gray, 1874:96)	spade-toothed whale
<i>Mesoplodon hectori</i> (Gray, 1871:117)	Hector's beaked whale
<i>Mesoplodon mirus</i> (True, 1913:1)	True's beaked whale
<i>Mesoplodon europaeus</i> (Gervais, 1855:320)	Gervais' beaked whale
<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i> (Sowerby, 1804:1)	Sowerby's beaked whale
<i>Mesoplodon grayi</i> (von Haast, 1876:9)	Gray's beaked whale
<i>Mesoplodon peruvianus</i> (Reyes, Mead, and Van Waerebeek, 1991:1)	pygmy beaked whale
<i>Mesoplodon perrini</i> (Dalebout, Mead, Baker, Baker, and van Helden, 2002:577)	Perrin's beaked whale
<i>Mesoplodon bowdoini</i> (Andrews, 1908:203)	Andrews' beaked whale
<i>Mesoplodon carlhubbsi</i> (Moore, 1963:422)	Hubbs' beaked whale
<i>Mesoplodon ginkgodens</i> (Nishiwaki and Kamiya, 1958:77)	ginkgo-toothed beaked whale
<i>Mesoplodon layardii</i> (Gray, 1865:357)	strap-toothed whale
<i>Mesoplodon densirostris</i> (Blainville in Desmarest, 1817:178)	Blainville's beaked whale
<i>Mesoplodon stejnegeri</i> (True, 1885:584)	Stejneger's beaked whale

Family Physeteridae	
<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758:76)	sperm whale

Family Kogiidae	
<i>Kogia breviceps</i> (Blainville, 1838:337)	pygmy sperm whale
<i>Kogia sima</i> (Owen, 1866:30) ¹¹	dwarf sperm whale

¹ *Platanista gangetica minor*: Most Authorities consider this taxon as a subspecies although a minority rates it as a separate species.

² *Inia boliviensis*: Status is undecided. While some authorities regard this as a species others consider it only a subspecies.

³ *Lipotes vexillifer*: The monotypic family Lipotidae is considered functionally extinct, comprehensive surveys in 1986 and 1997 respectively revealing 400 and 13 animals. A 38-day census conducted in late 2006 failed to find a single representative.

⁴ *Lipotes vexillifer*: Some authorities classify this species within Pontoporiidae, others place Lipotidae in separate superfamily.

⁵ *Globicephala macrorhynchus*: Two "forms" in Japanese waters may be reclassified as separate subspecies or species.

⁶ *Orcinus orca*: Taxonomic changes to *Orcinus* are imminent. It is expected in the near future that this monotypic genus may be partitioned to include a combination of separate species and/or subspecies, possibly including as many as four more taxa.

⁷ Subfamily Delphininae: In addition to the four *Stenella longirostris* subspecies listed, there may be justification to partition the smaller animals found in Arabian waters as a separate subspecies.

⁸ Subfamily Delphininae: It is expected that publication of a new *Tursiops* taxon may occur in 2011, based on a population distributed in waters of southern Australia.

⁹ *Sousa chinensis*: The Australian population is sufficiently different from other *Sousa* to support redescription as a separate species.

¹⁰ *Delphinus tropicalis*: Some authorities consider this taxon as a separate species while others regard it as a subspecies of *Delphinus capensis*.

¹¹ *Kogia sima*: Genetic evidence supports potential partitioning at the specific level to distinguish the population of the Atlantic Ocean from the Indo-Pacific.