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Commission des Thons de l'Océan Indien

Cetacean species identification

IOTC ROS SFO TR10.4

Category: Species identification

IOTC ROS SFO TR10



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The slides in this presentation are taken from several identification guides and supported where possible with photographs taken by observers out at sea.



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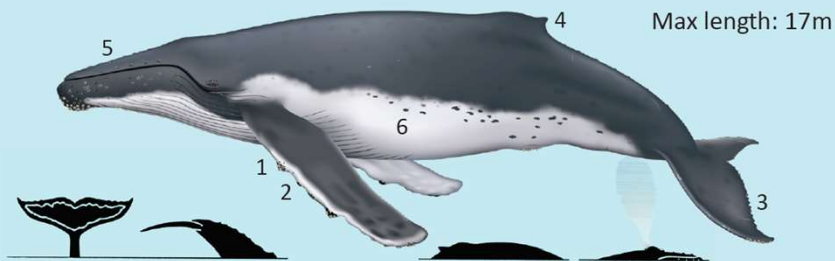
iotc ctoi

Humpback Whale

Megaptera novaeangliae

SP: rorcual jorobado, ballena jorobado
FR: baleine à bosse, mégaptère, jubarte
JA: ザトウクジラ
CH: 座头鲸

HUW
137092



Key Diagnostic Features:

1. Very long flippers up to 1/3rd of total body length
2. Series of bumps on flipper edges
3. Serrated trailing edge to tail flukes
4. Low broad dorsal hump
5. Tubercles on the head
6. Black and white colouration
7. 14-35 long throat pleats extending to the naval
8. Baleen: 270-400 pairs of black/olive baleen plates

Location of
Endangered
non-migratory
Arabian Sea
humpback
whale popu-
lation



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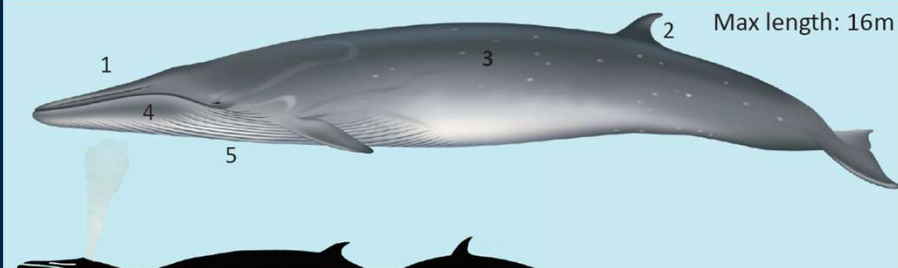
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Bryde's Whale

Balaenoptera edeni/brydei complex

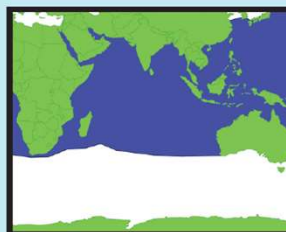
SP: rorqual tropical, ballena de Bryde
FR: rorqual de Bryde
JA: カツオクジラ
CH: 布賴德的鯨魚

BRW
137089



Key Diagnostic Features:

1. Three prominent ridges down centre of head
2. Tall falcate dorsal fin
3. Dark grey above with some scars, lighter below
4. Jaws and lips dark
5. 40-70 throat pleats reach to, or past the naval
6. Baleen: 250-370 pairs of grey baleen plates with coarse light grey fringes



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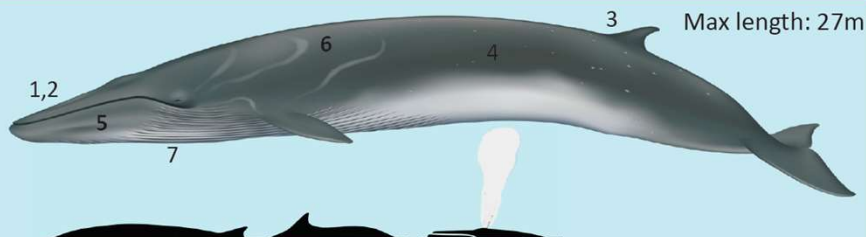


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Fin Whale *Balaenoptera physalus*

SP: rorqual común, ballena de aleta
FR: rorqual commun
JA: ナカスクジラ
CH: 鯨魚

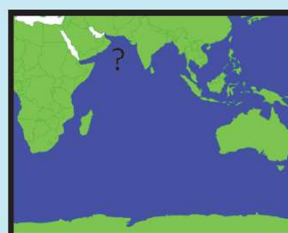
FIW
137091



Max length: 27m

Key Diagnostic Features:

1. V-shaped head (viewed from above)
2. Single ridge along centre of head
3. Dorsal fin taller and more falcate than blue whale
4. Colour: black/dark brown fading to light underneath
5. Left lower jaw dark, right lower jaw white
6. Many white swirls/chevrons on body
7. 50-100 long throat pleats that reach the naval
8. Baleen: 260-480 plates/side, dark grey to black fringed with lines of yellow/white or olive green



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Note falcate, swept back fin, pointy fin tip (slightly rounded tip), other features?



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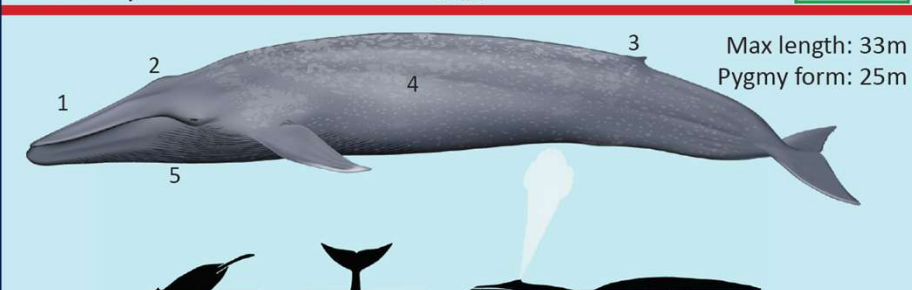
Blue Whale

Balaenoptera musculus

SP: ballena azul
FR: rorqual bleu, baleine bleu
JA: シロナガスクジラ
CH: 藍鯨

BLW

137090



Key Diagnostic Features:

1. U-shaped head (viewed from above)
2. Single ridge along centre of head and large splash-guard around blowholes
3. Dorsal fin very small $\frac{3}{4}$ of the distance from the snout
4. Colour: Mottled blue and light grey
5. 60-88 long throat pleats extending near the naval
6. Baleen: 260-400 pairs of black plates each <1m long, with coarse bristles



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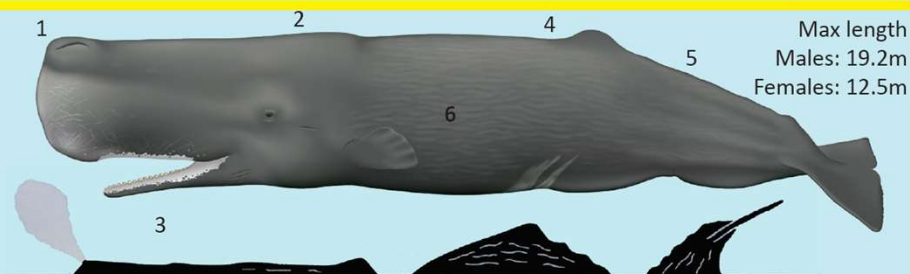
Sperm Whale

Physeter macrocephalus

SP: cachalote
FR: cachalot
JA: マッコウクジラ
CH: 抹香鯨

SPW

137119



Key Diagnostic Features:

1. Huge square head
2. Blow-hole offset to left
3. Narrow under-slung lower jaw
4. Low, rounded dorsal hump
5. Series of bumps on tail stock
6. Colour: predominantly black
7. Teeth: 18-26 teeth in each lower jaw



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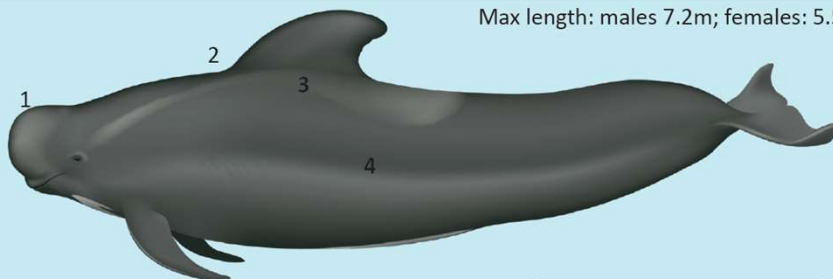
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Short-finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala macrorhynchus*

SP: calderón de aletas cortas
FR: globicéphale tropical
JA: コビレゴンドウ
CH: 短翅髯鯨

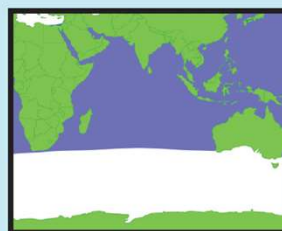
SHW
137096

Max length: males 7.2m; females: 5.5m



Key Diagnostic Features:

1. Bulbous round head
2. Dorsal fin only 1/3 way from the head
3. Dorsal fin has very wide base
4. Black brownish, light gray anchor patch on chest
5. Large bulky robust animal
6. Teeth: 7-9 teeth in each tooth row



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Long-finned Pilot

Whale Globicephala melas



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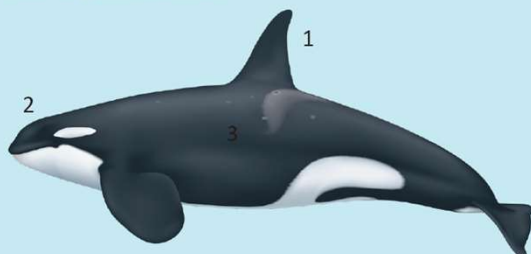
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Killer Whale *Orcinus orca*

SP: orca
FR: orque
JA: シャチ
CH: 逆戟鯨

KIW
137102

Max length male: 9.8m



Max length female: 8.5m



Key Diagnostic Features:

1. Very tall straight dorsal fin:
up to 2m in males and 0.9m females
2. Blunt snout, poorly defined beak
3. Unique black and white pattern
4. Teeth: 10-14 teeth/tooth row



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Killer whale
Orcinus orca



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Note dorsal fin and discolouration



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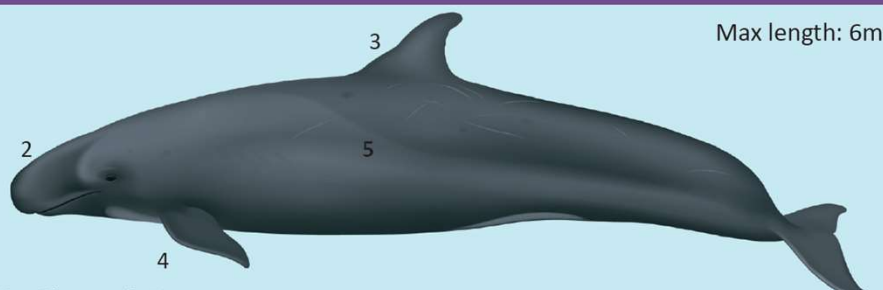
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False Killer Whale

Pseudorca crassidens

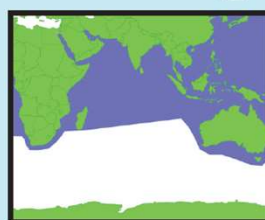
SP: orca falsa
FR: faux-orque, pseudorque
JA: オキゴンドウ
CH: 假虎鯨

FAW
137104



Key Diagnostic Features:

1. Long slender body
2. No beak, rounded head
3. Dorsal fin: narrow base, moderate height, tip often rounded
4. Flippers with hump on leading edge
5. Colour: Dark grey or black
6. Teeth: 7-12 teeth in each tooth row



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Can have more pointy dorsal



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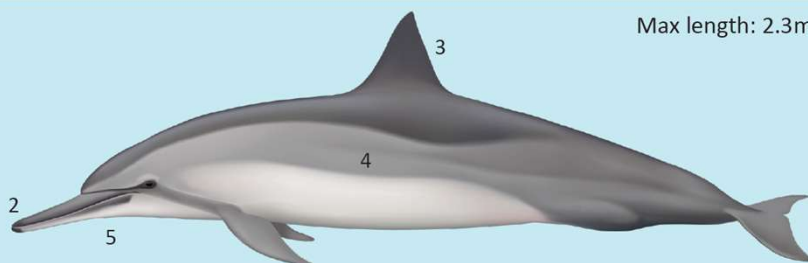


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Spinner Dolphin *Stenella longirostris*

SP: estenela giradora, delfin giradora
FR: dauphin à long bec
JA: ハシナガイルカ
CH: 飞旋海豚

DSI
137109



Key Diagnostic Features:

1. Petite slender dolphin
2. Very long thin rostrum
3. Small triangular dorsal fin
4. Colour: Tripartite pattern, darker above, lighter below
5. Dark eye to flipper stripe and dark lips
6. Teeth: 40-62 small teeth in each tooth row

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Dolphins



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Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis**

SP: Delfín común de rostro largo
FR: Dauphin commun
JA: マイルカ
CH: 普通海豚

DCO
137094



Max length: 2.6m

Key Diagnostic Features:

1. Exceptionally long beak
2. Flat sloping melon
3. Distinctive dark gray V colour pattern below dorsal fin
4. Large cream/gold patch on side between dorsal fin and eye
5. Teeth: 54-67 teeth in each tooth row

* *D. d. tropicalis* and *D. d. delphis* occur in the Indian Ocean



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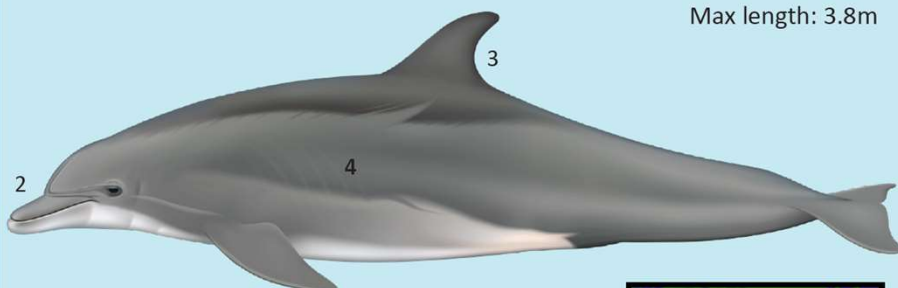
Common Bottlenose Dolphin

Tursiops truncatus

SP: Tursiön
FR: Grand dauphin
JA: ハンドウイルカ
CH: 普通宽吻海豚

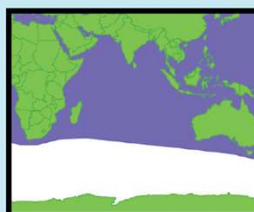
DBO
137111

Max length: 3.8m



Key Diagnostic Features

1. Large robust gray dolphin
2. Short stocky beak separated from melon by a crease
3. Tall falcate dorsal fin near middle of back
4. Colour: dark slate gray fading lighter below
5. Teeth: 18-27 teeth in each tooth row



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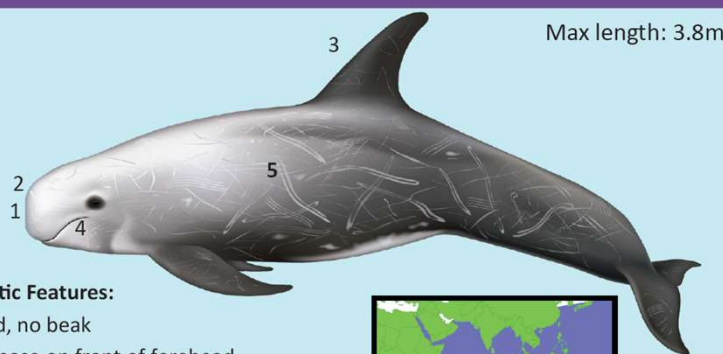
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Risso's Dolphin

Grampus griseus

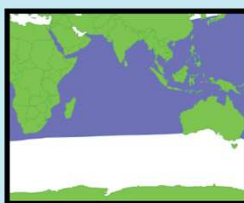
SP: delfin de Risso
FR: grampus, dauphin de Risso
JA: ハナゴンドウ
CH: 皇家的海豚

DRR
137098



Key Diagnostic Features:

1. Blunt head, no beak
2. Vertical crease on front of forehead
3. Very tall, falcate dorsal fin
4. Mouthline slopes up
5. Colour: from dark gray to white due to scars
6. Teeth: 2-7 on each side of lower jaw



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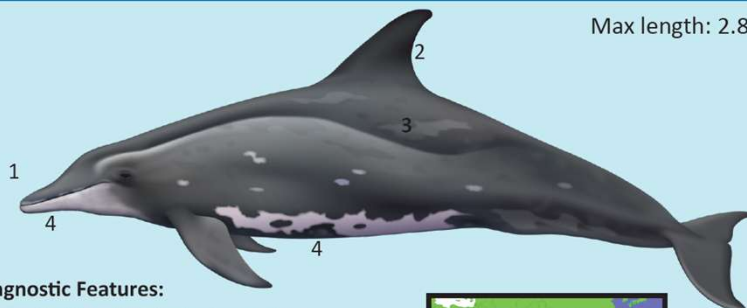
Rough-toothed Dolphin

Steno bredanensis

SP: esteno, delfin de dientes rugosos
FR: sténo
JA: シフハイルカ
CH: 粗齿海豚

RTD
137110

Max length: 2.8m



Key Diagnostic Features:

1. Long conical head with sloping melon
2. Large prominent falcate dorsal fin
3. Dark gray dorsal cape narrows in front of dorsal fin
4. Belly, lips and lower jaw white/pink
5. Teeth: 19-28 in each tooth row
6. Teeth wrinkled and ridged



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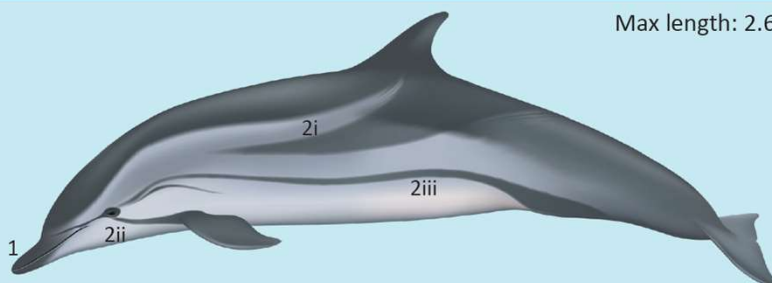
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Striped Dolphin *Stenella coeruleoalba*

SP: estenela listada, delfin listado
FR: dauphin bleu et blanc
JA: スジイルカ
CH: 条纹海豚

DST
137107

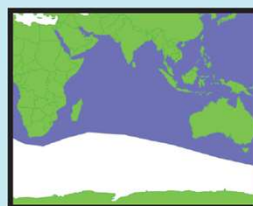
Max length: 2.6m



Key Diagnostic Features:

1. Moderate length beak separated by crease from melon
2. Diagnostic colour pattern:
 - i) gray spinal blaze,
 - ii) dark eye to flipper stripe and
 - iii) dark stripe from eye along the side
3. Teeth: 40-55 teeth in each tooth row

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Exercise:

1.



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Identify the animal noting specific diagnostic features that make it possible to determine the species.



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Exercise:



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Identify the animal noting specific diagnostic features that make it possible to determine the species.



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Exercise:

3.



Identify the animal noting specific diagnostic features that make it possible to determine the species.



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ANY QUESTIONS?



send us a message via Talents LMS



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