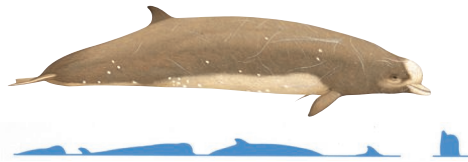


SOUTHERN OCEAN whales and dolphins

-  whaling
-  climate change
-  entanglement in fishing gear
-  pollution
-  habitat degradation
-  reduced prey resources
-  collisions with vessels
-  human disturbance
-  marine debris



Southern bottlenose whale
Hyperoodon planifrons 7 - 8 m



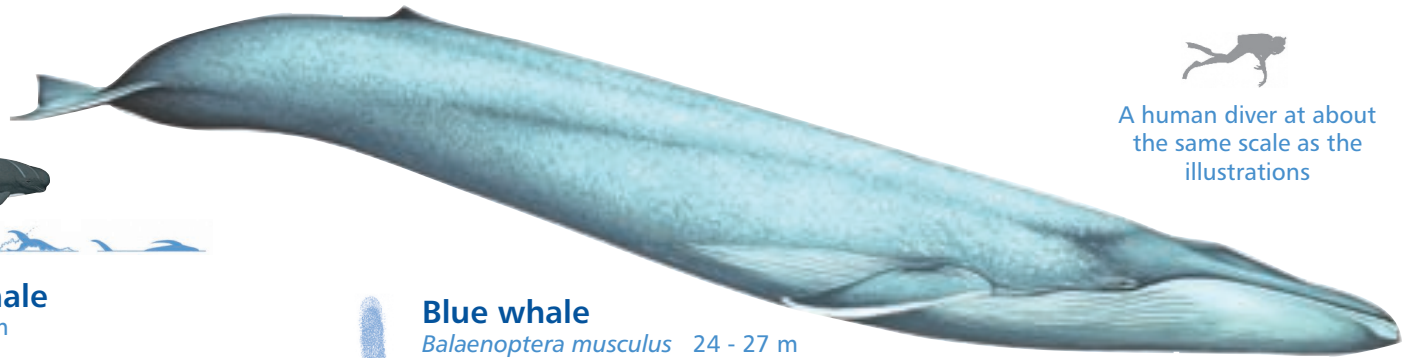
Humpback whale
Megaptera novaeangliae 11.5 - 15 m



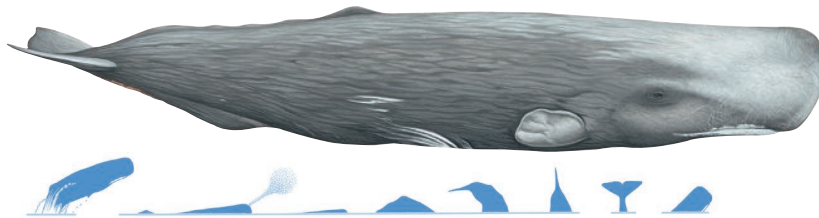
Antarctic minke whale
Balaenoptera bonaerensis 7 - 10 m



Long-finned pilot whale
Globicephala melas 3.8 - 6 m



Blue whale
Balaenoptera musculus 24 - 27 m



Sperm whale
Physeter macrocephalus 11 - 18 m



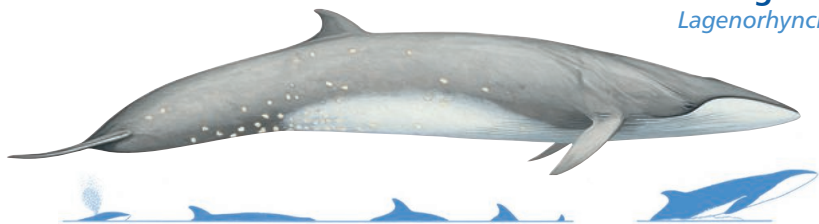
Hourglass dolphin
Lagenorhynchus cruciger 1.6 - 1.8 m



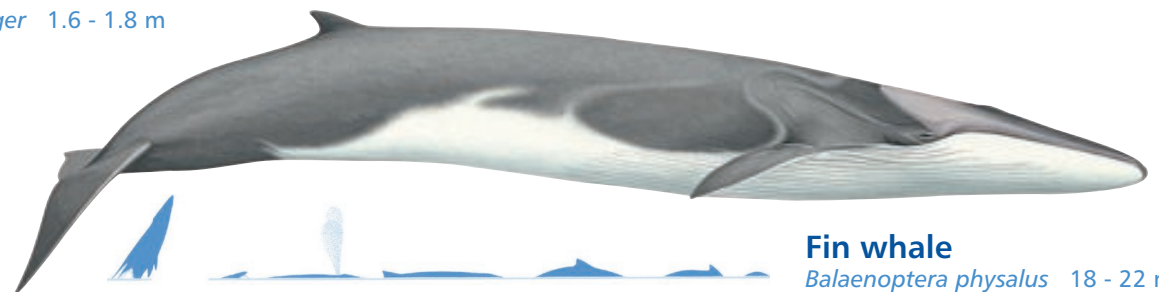
Arnoux's beaked whale
Berardius arnuxii 7.8 - 9.7 m



Spectacled porpoise
Phocoena dioptrica 1.3 - 2.2 m



Sei whale
Balaenoptera borealis 12 - 16 m



Fin whale
Balaenoptera physalus 18 - 22 m



A human diver at about the same scale as the illustrations

SOUTHERN OCEAN whales and dolphins

Antarctica is unique

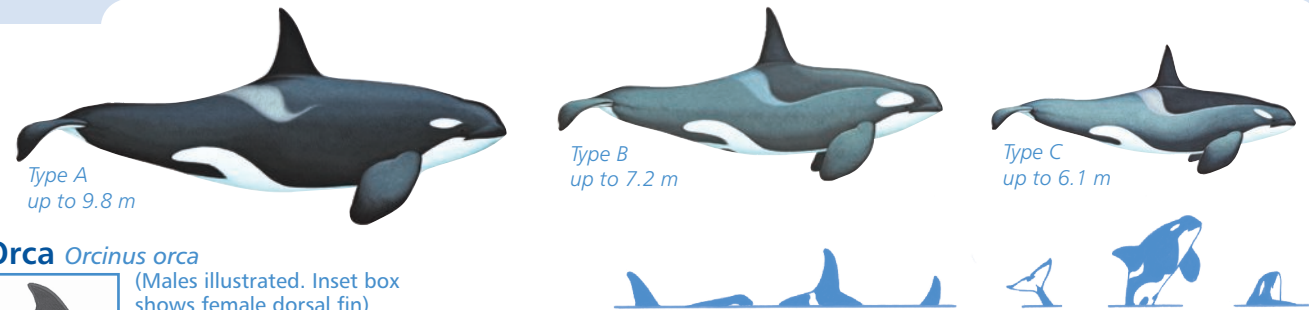
The Southern Ocean around the Antarctic continent includes Earth's largest marine mammal feeding ground. It is the foremost example of habitat that is critical to the survival of many species, each dependent on the health of a complex food web, based in part on krill. Many species, particularly the large baleen whales that depend on krill, migrate to the region each year. Others, including dolphins, killer whales (orcas), beaked whales, sperm whales and some minke whales, rely on the region year-round.

For decades many species of large whales and seals were hunted, some to the brink of extinction. In 1982 the International Whaling Commission (IWC) prohibited indefinitely the commercial killing of all large whales, as well as the minke whale and orca. In 1994 the IWC established the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary to ensure the long-term recovery of Southern Hemisphere whale populations from the effects of 20th Century whaling.

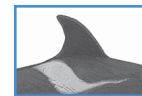
Despite Antarctica's remoteness and harsh weather conditions, there is growing commercial interest in its living resources. Krill and fish fisheries are expected to explode in coming years, as krill is increasingly used for salmon aquaculture food and nutraceutical industries, and fish are further depleted in other oceans. Biological prospecting for Antarctic organisms, whose parts can be used for commercial products, is also rapidly expanding.

The identification and subsequent designation of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the region, including critical habitat, will help to manage resources and protect whales, dolphins and other marine life. We need to ensure that Antarctica and the Southern Ocean (south of 60° S.) – designated as 'a natural reserve, devoted to peace and science' in the Environmental Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty – is protected for generations to come.

ASOC's goal is to obtain international agreement on the Ross Sea as one of the world's largest MPAs. The Ross Sea is one of the least disturbed ecosystems on Earth and is important as a feeding area for whales, seals, penguins, seabirds, fish and other marine species. As climate warms, it may be Earth's last refuge of sea ice and its associated biota. Measures of primary productivity, plankton stocks and top predators indicate the Ross Sea to be the richest stretch of water of its size in the Southern Ocean. Please join us in supporting the designation of the Ross Sea as an MPA.



Orca *Orcinus orca*

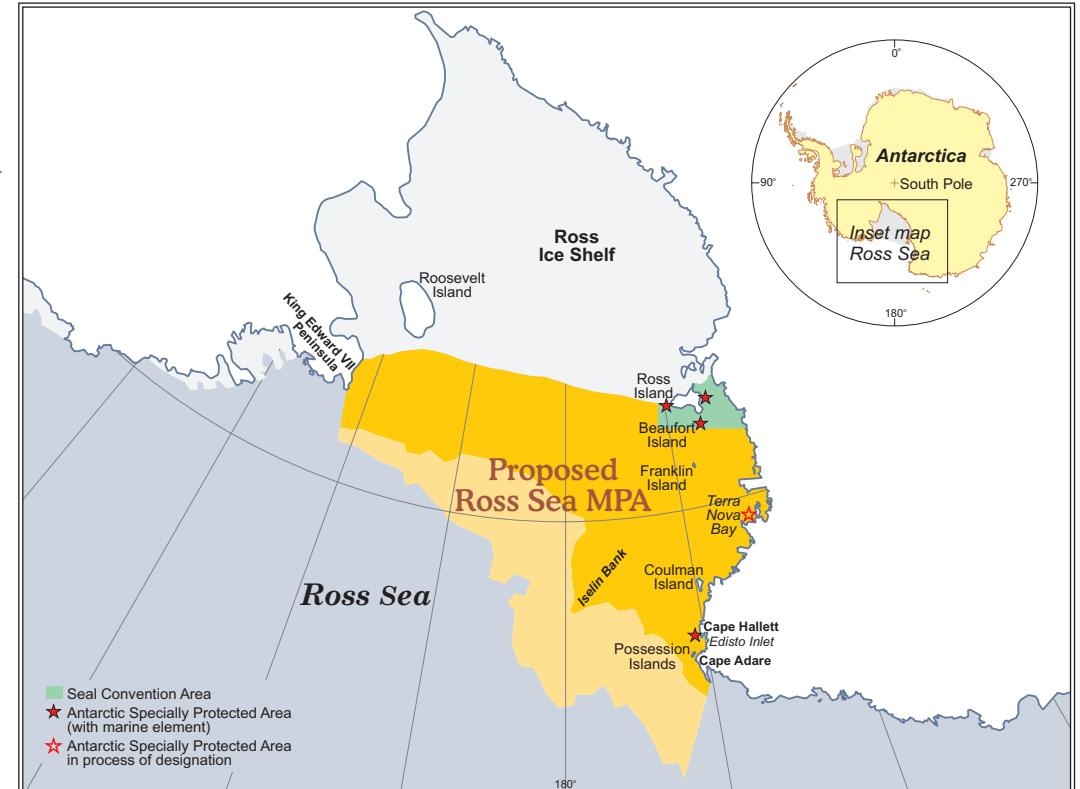


(Males illustrated. Inset box shows female dorsal fin)

The three types of Antarctic orca exhibit some striking differences in their morphology (including eye patch and dorsal cape) and their biology. Type A feed predominantly on minke whales, Type B on seals, and Type C on fish.

Protected Places

Full protection for the Ross Sea is a cornerstone of the Global Campaign for Marine Protected Areas initiated by WDCCS, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society. WDCCS is calling for a network of 12 highly protected areas for whales and dolphins worldwide by 2012. The aim is to address the lack of critical habitat protection for whales and dolphins as well as to help fulfil international MPA targets. For more information, go to: www.whales.org



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Map by Lesley Frampton with assistance by David Ainley and Erich Hoyt

Produced by WDCCS in association with ASOC.
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