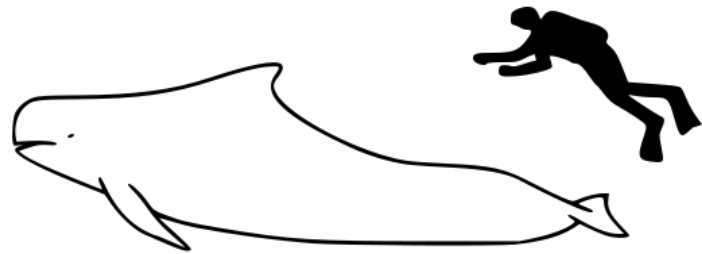


PILOT WHALES



The pilot whale, like the killer whale, is a member of the dolphin family, and is second only to the killer whale in size. Displaying intelligence equal to that of the bottlenose dolphin, the pilot whale is easily trained. One captive pilot whale named Morgan was trained by Navy scientists to retrieve beeper-attached objects from the ocean floor at depths of over 1,600 feet. Carrying a clamping recovery device in his mouth, he attached it to the located object, which was then raised to the surface by compressed air balloons. The pilot whale is extremely social, and is well known for stranding in groups of a few animals to several hundred at a time.

- Average Length: 12.5 - 20 ft
- Average Weight: 1.8 - 3.5 tons
- Nicknames: long-finned pilot whale, Blackfish
- Range: cold temperate and subpolar waters of all oceans except the North Pacific
- Population: unknown
- Pilot whales are one of the most commonly mass-stranded whales
- Young whales may breach, but this is rare in adults
- Capable of diving to at least 1,965 ft, but most dives are 100-195 ft
- Pilot Whales are not actually whales – they're from the dolphin family.
- They use echolocation – a series of clicks which bounce off of nearby objects and are picked up by their ears, allowing the whales to locate predators, prey and their environment.
- The only country that has specific laws on viewing pilot whales is New Zealand.
- Mothers can nurse calves up until they are 18 years old – that's a lot of milk!
- They can dive up to 1600ft, Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, is only a fourth of this at 4,409 ft.
- They are called "the Cheetahs of the Deep" because of their fast diving style.
- Their dorsal fins are like human finger prints – no two are exactly the same.
- When they sleep on the surface it is called "logging" and when they're swimming around in no particular direction it is called "milling".