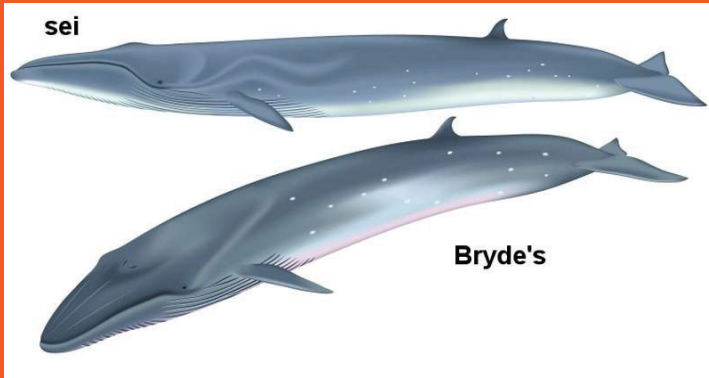


Bryde's Whale

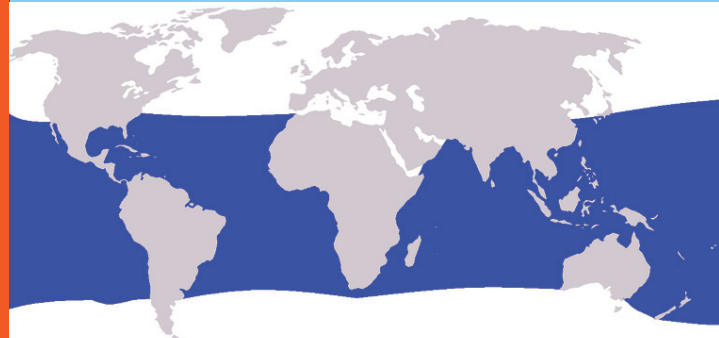


The Bryde's whale is a baleen whale. Bryde's is pronounced 'Brooders'. It belongs to the same group as blue whales and humpback whales. It has twin blowholes and no teeth. Instead it has two rows of baleen plates. Bryde's have an upright dorsal fin and their flippers are small and slender. The broad, centrally notched tail flukes never break the surface. They reach an average length of some 14 metres, and weigh approximately 13 tonnes. Bryde's whales closely resemble their close relative the Sei whale. Sei and Bryde's whales are frequently confused, being similar in size and general appearance, however Bryde's whales are slightly shorter than Sei whales.

The shallow-diving, hard-to-spot and widely dispersed Bryde's whale makes it very vulnerable to vessel traffic and an average of two per year have been killed by vessels in the Hauraki Gulf, Auckland, since 1989, a concerning number given the small size of the population. Ports of Auckland is trying to establish ways of minimizing such strikes.

There may be up to 90,000–100,000 animals worldwide, with two-thirds inhabiting the Northern Hemisphere. Around New Zealand, Bryde's whales are most common between North and East Capes but have been reported as far south as Cook Strait. They are the most commonly sighted large whales in the coastal waters of northern New Zealand. Despite this, surprisingly little is known about them, either in New Zealand or anywhere else.

They usually appear individually or in pairs, and occasionally in loose aggregations of up to twenty animals around feeding areas. They eat krill, squid and fish. They sometimes generate short powerful, low frequency sounds that resemble a human moan



Wordfind

See if you can find the following words in our Bryde's whale wordfind!

- | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|
| BRYDES | SQUID | POD |
| BALEEN | WHALE | SLENDER |
| FLIPPER | HUMPBACK | BLOWHOLE |
| SEI | HAURAKI | |

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I E S R R Q W K U G D
A E O E E N J H E J I
M L H P D D I U L Q U
Q O A P N T S M A A Q
W H U I E Q K P H Y S
U W R L L P P B W W U
Y O A F S O A A G T I
B L K J D L N C H K G
K B I L E K K K B Y U
D R K E O Q W R J I V
A E N R G W O T W I Y
  
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For more interesting information on whales check out our website: aworldwithwhales.com/whale-kids

SAVING THE
WHALE
MEANS SAVING
ITS HISTORY