

Cuvier's (goose-beaked) whale

ZIPHIUS CAVIROSTRIS

Cuvier's beaked whales are one of the most common beaked whales in the world. They have a wide range in habitats. They are found in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres. They can live in deep, cold water and also in shallow, warmer water. They are very sensitive to noise, and this has resulted in many being stranded in noisy seas, such as the Mediterranean.

Almost all our knowledge of Goosebeaks comes from strandings, which occur on all tropical and temperate shores.

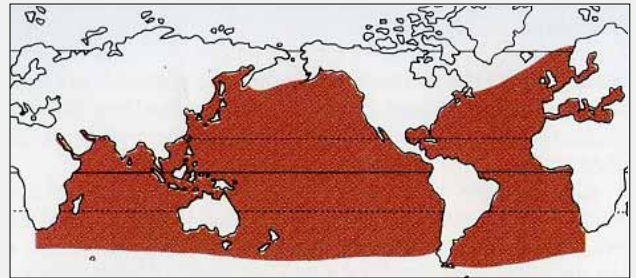
They can grow to around 5-7metres in length and weigh around 2,500kg. There is no significant size difference between the male and female whales. They live to be around 40 years old.

They have a shorter beak in comparison to other species of beaked whales. They vary in colour from dark gray to reddish brown. However, they each have a white stripe running down their back.

Cuvier's beaked whales eat several different species of squid, as well as other deep-sea fish.



CUVIER'S WHALES



CUVIER'S ARE FOUND IN BOTH THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN HEMISPHERES, IN DEEP, COLD WATERS AND WARMER WATERS.



A STRANDED CUVIER'S WHALE.

'Successive Strandings' by Steve Reekie.*

LOCATION: COBDEN BEACH, GREYMOUTH

This Cuvier's beaked whale (Ziphius cavirostris) washed up on Cobden beach on June 1, 2013. A 17 metre sperm whale, a two metre juvenile long-finned pilot whale and a three metre pygmy sperm whale washed up on the West Coast in the same two-day period. Easily the rarest of these, the Cuvier's is one of 21 species of beaked whale, a species that is best known from strandings—the deep-diving oceanic whales are rarely seen in the wild, says Don Neale, a Department of Conservation marine specialist.

New Zealand has one of the world's highest rates of whale strandings. Records have been kept since 1840 and detail approximately 13,000 individual incidents, including more than 2,000 successful rescues. Where whales are not successfully rescued, the Department of Conservation liaises with local iwi over use of the jaw bone for customary purposes, provides skeletal material to Te Papa, and sends tissue samples to the University of Auckland to be used in a tissue archive providing useful genetic information to researchers from all over the world.

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SAVING THE WHALE MEANS SAVING ITS HISTORY