

Long-finned Pilot whale

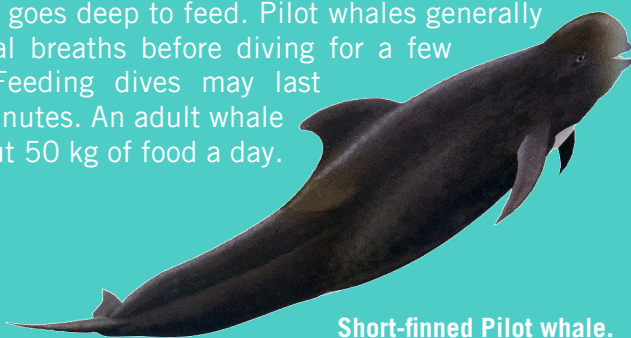
Like the orca, the long-finned pilot whale is really a dolphin. It is jet black or dark grey with grey or white markings on throat and belly and sometimes behind its dorsal fin and eye.

The name Blackfish is also applied to this species and it is sometimes confused with the False Killer Whale.

They are very social, family animals and may travel in groups of up to a hundred. Dominant females often act as a leader. Long-finned Pilot whales often strand themselves on beaches.

Until recently, just one species was thought to occur in New Zealand waters, but a second, the Short-finned Pilot whale was recognized in 1977.

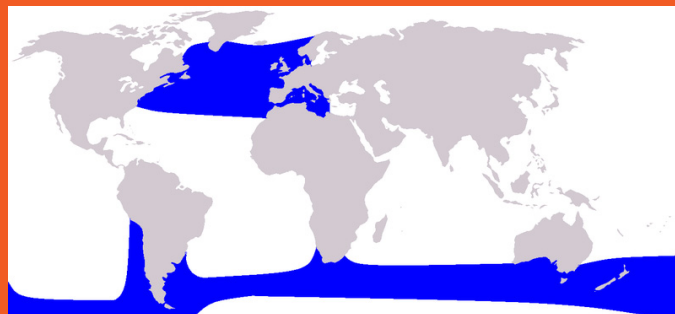
They have strong family bonds, and so when one animal strands, the rest of the pod tends to follow. The whales have also been observed babysitting calves in the pod while the mother goes deep to feed. Pilot whales generally take several breaths before diving for a few minutes. Feeding dives may last over ten minutes. An adult whale needs about 50 kg of food a day.



Short-finned Pilot whale.



Long-finned Pilot whales.



There are two distinct populations – one in the North Atlantic and one in the southern hemisphere.

Whale word mix-up puzzle!

Unscramble each of the clue words.

Take the letters that appear in the circles and unscramble them for the final word.

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<< Write your answer here!

For more interesting information on whales check out our website: aworldwithwhales.com/whale-kids

SAVING THE WHALE MEANS SAVING ITS HISTORY