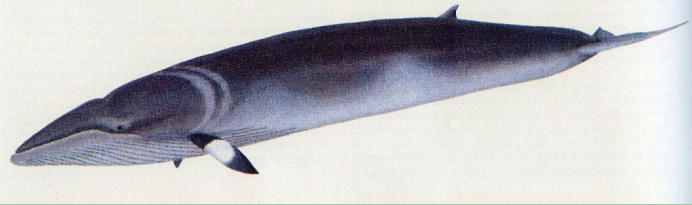


Minke Whale

Minke whales are the smallest of the baleen whales with the exception of the Pygmy Right Whale.

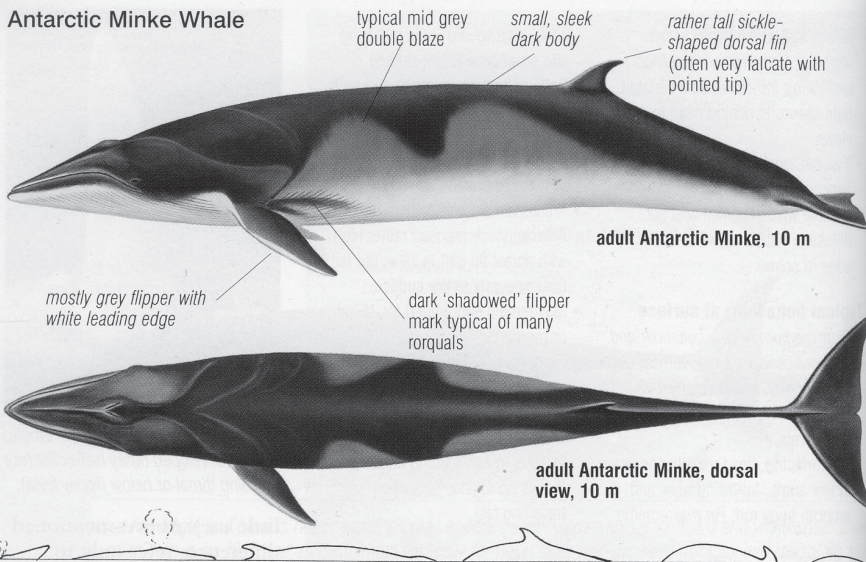
There are three types of Minke: the Antarctic Minke Whale which is the largest at some 10+ metres, the Northern Minke at 9 metres and the Dwarf Minke measuring up to 7.5 meters as an adult.



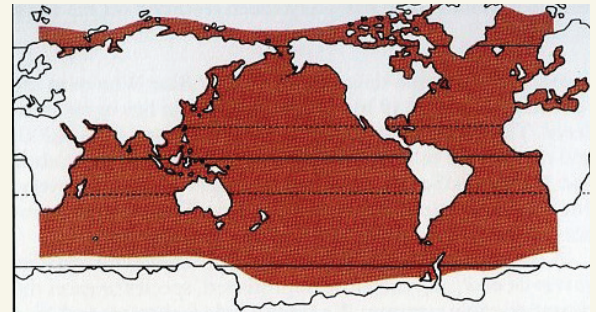
THE NORTHERN MINKE WITH A WHITE PATCH ON ITS FLIPPERS.

Both the Dwarf and Antarctic Minkes are found in the southern hemisphere.

The species was hunted extensively by Japanese and Russian whalers during the 70s and 80s while today Japanese whaling fleets continue to kill several hundred each year for supposed scientific research.



THE MAIN RECOGNITION CHARACTER THAT ALLOWS FOR THE DISTINCTION OF ANTARCTIC MINKE WHALES FROM THE NORTHERN MINKE WHALES IS THE ABSENCE OF A WHITE PATCH ON THE FLIPPERS IN ANTARCTIC MINKE WHALES



MINKES ARE FOUND IN ALL OCEANS, THOUGH THEY ARE RARELY OBSERVED IN THE TROPICS. THEY SEEM TO PREFER ICY WATERS, AND ARE FOUND RIGHT UP TO THE EDGE OF THE ICEPACK IN POLAR REGIONS, AND HAVE ACTUALLY BECOME ENTRAPPED IN THE ICE FIELDS ON OCCASION.

THE ANTARCTIC MINKE WHALE INHABITS ALL OCEANS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE. ITS SUMMER RANGE IS CLOSE TO ANTARCTICA, BUT IT MOVES FURTHER NORTH IN WINTER, OVERLAPPING IN RANGE WITH THE DWARF FORM OF THE COMMON MINKE WHALE.

Minke facts

Minke whales (like all baleen whales) are seasonal feeders and omnivores. They sieve through the ocean water with their baleen and filter out small polar plankton, krill, and small fish, even chasing schools of sardines, anchovies, cod, herring, and capelin. They have the same diet as blue whales.

Minkes often travel in pairs or on their own and can swim at almost 34 km/h which is particularly fast for a whale.

The females bear a single calf every second year. This calf weighs about 450kg at birth and learns to swim in 30 minutes!

While pods have been sighted around New Zealand coasts, most records of the two species come from strandings.

The total Minke population has been estimated at some 800,000 worldwide.

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

SAVING THE
WHALE
MEANS SAVING
ITS HISTORY