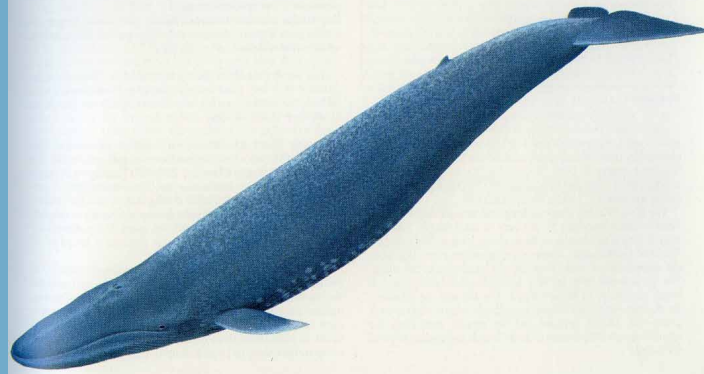


Blue Whale

BALAENA MUSCULUS
Musculus meaning little mouse or muscle.

Blue Whales are the largest animals ever to live in our planet's history and its mass greatly exceeds that of the largest dinosaurs. The largest recorded Blue Whale caught was 30 metres in length and weighed close to 180,000 kgs!

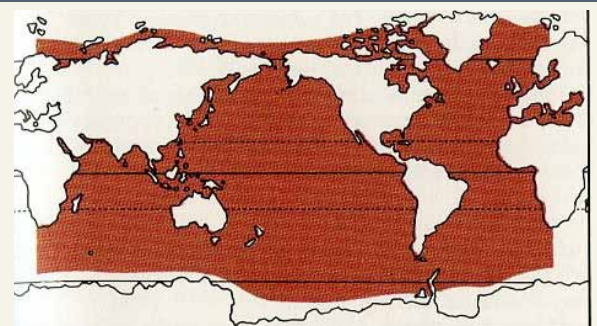
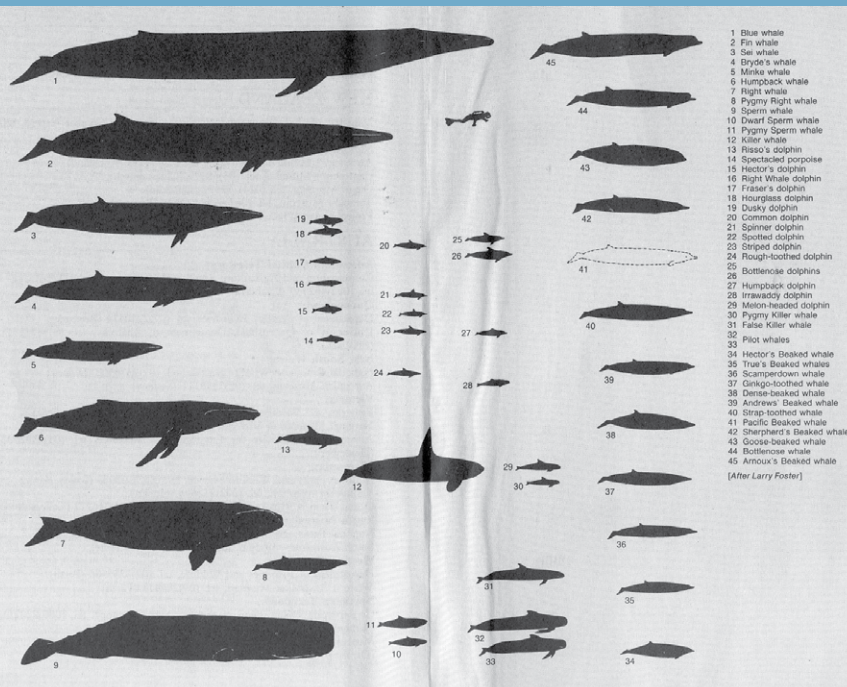
(SEE COMPARATIVE SIZES IN DIAGRAM BELOW)



As a baleen whale they feed on swarming planktonic creatures and travel in small close-knit groups of 3-4 whales.

The Blue Whale was the mainstay of the foreign whaling industry between 1925 and 1938 when some 360,000 were killed in the Antarctic.

Today's population has never fully recovered and a slow recovery is evidence that it could be a century before they reach numbers at which they are beyond danger of extinction.



THE BLUE WHALE IS FOUND MOSTLY IN COLD AND TEMPERATE WATERS, AND IT PREFERS DEEPER OCEAN WATERS TO COASTAL WATERS. LIKE MANY OTHER BALEEN WHALES, IT FEEDS IN COOL WATERS AT HIGH LATITUDES, AND GENERALLY MIGRATES TO WARMER TEMPERATE AND TROPICAL WATERS TO BREED AND GIVE BIRTH.

The Tory Channel station in the Marlborough Sounds took a few Blue Whales over the years but being an oceanic creature, unlike the Humpback which concentrates in coastal waters, it was only rarely seen.

Earlier this month (February 2014) a small group of Blue Whales were sighted in the Taranaki Bight.



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

SAVING THE WHALE MEANS SAVING ITS HISTORY