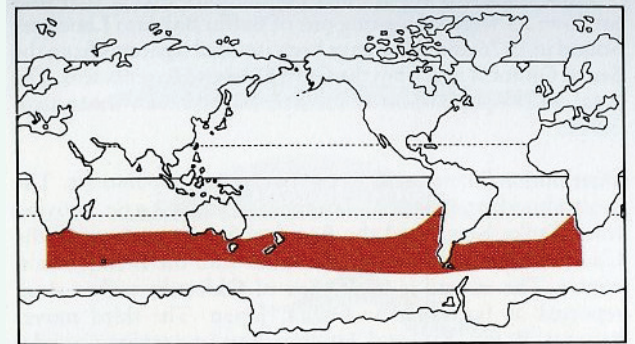


Pygmy Right Whale *Caperea marginata*

The Latin word *caperea* means “wrinkle”, referring to the wrinkled appearance of the earbone while *marginata* meaning “enclosed with a border”, refers to the dark border around the baleen plates of some individuals.



The Pygmy Right Whale is the smallest of the baleen whales and one of the least-known cetaceans. It grows to only 6.4 metres. They are found only in the Southern Hemisphere and seem to occur only in temperate waters.

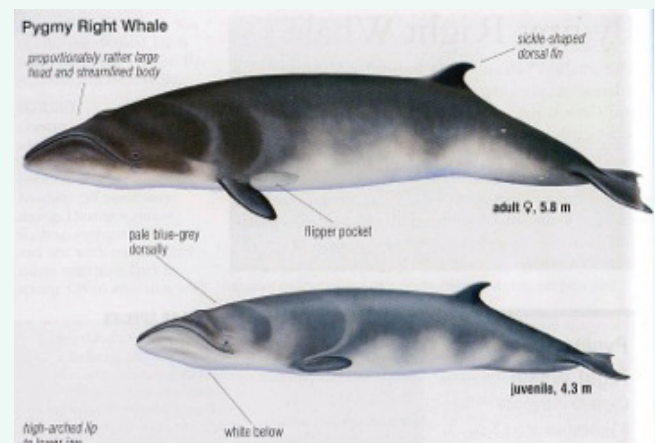


They are mostly known from strandings in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand and are seldom seen at sea, probably because they do not spend long periods exposed on the surface, and when they do emerge, the dorsal fin is often not shown, the blow is small, and the whales do not indulge in the spectacular behaviour that is characteristic of other whales such as that of the Humpback seen in Cook Strait this June.



Pygmy Right whale (*Caperea marginata*), stranded at Port Underwood, N.Z. January, 1966. Photo: N. F. Herron.

There is little or no information on the abundance or status of this species. The Pygmy Right Whale has rarely been hunted, and there is no reason to believe it is endangered.



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

SAVING THE
WHALE
MEANS SAVING
ITS HISTORY