

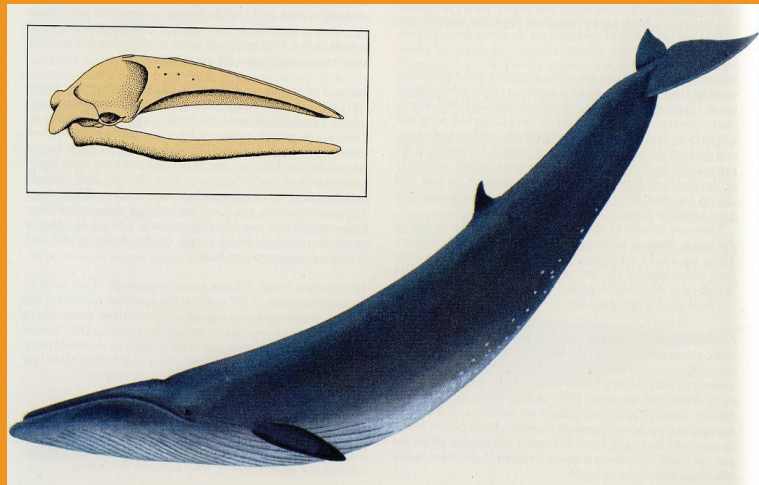
Sei Whale *Balaenoptera borealis*

A sleek and one of the fastest whales . It can reach up to 25 knots for short distances.

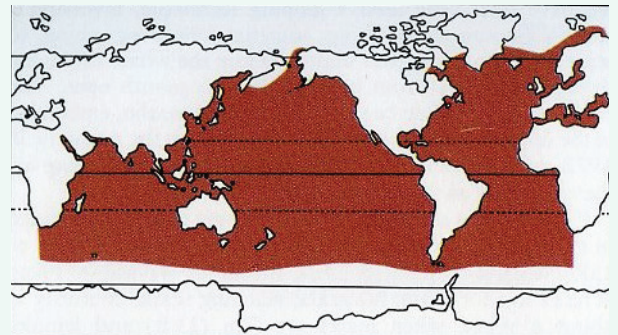
Sei is pronounced "say" or "sigh". And comes from the Norwegian seival.

Its length is approx. 15-18.5 m for males and 16-20 metres for females . It can weigh up to 15,000 kg with a calf coming in at 900kg.

It is the third largest whale after the Blue and Fin whales.



It closely resembles the Bryde's whale and the Blue Whale but the latter is much larger and the Sei's taller fin should distinguish them.

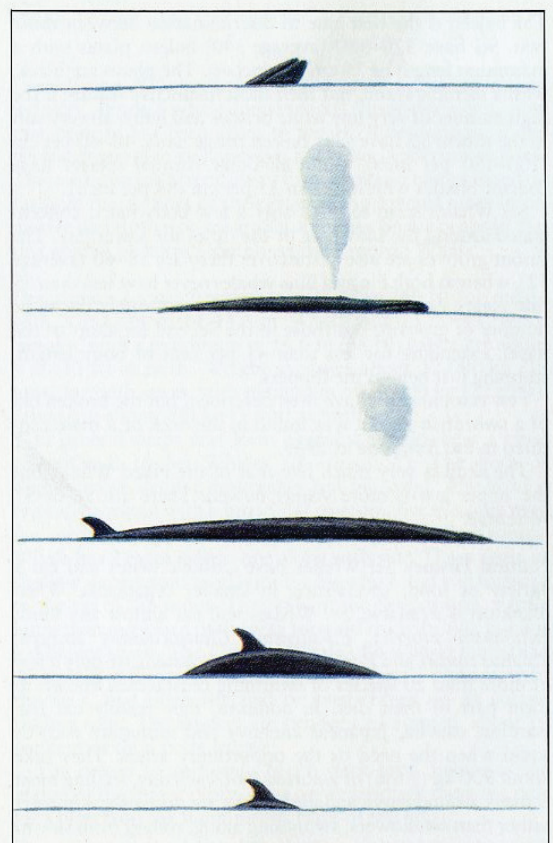


They feed close to the surface and eat a variety of food including plankton, sardines, anchovies and small cod.

Their total worldwide is probably less than 80,000 and they occur in the open ocean and coastal waters but seldom venture into shallow bays unless in the process of stranding. Some strandings have been reported in New Zealand waters including one in Lyall Bay, Wellington in 1948.

They travel alone or in small groups.

During the 1960s they formed the major part of the Antarctic whale catch, when some 200,000 were killed, in place of the protected Blue Whale and the depleted Fin Whale population.



Dive sequence

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