

## List of Marine Mammal Species and Subspecies

Written by the Committee on Taxonomy

The Ad-Hoc [Committee on Taxonomy](#), chaired by Bill Perrin, has produced the first official SMM list of marine mammal species and subspecies. Consensus on some issues was not possible; this is reflected in the footnotes.

*This list will be revisited and possibly revised every few months reflecting the continuing flux in marine mammal taxonomy.*

This list can be cited as follows: “Committee on Taxonomy. 2009. List of marine mammal species and subspecies. Society for Marine Mammalogy, [www.marinemammalscience.org](http://www.marinemammalscience.org), consulted on [date].”

This list includes living and recently extinct species and subspecies. It is meant to reflect prevailing usage and recent revisions published in the peer-reviewed literature. Author(s) and year of description of the species follow the Latin species name; when these are enclosed in parentheses, the species was originally described in a different genus. Classification and scientific names follow Rice (1998), with adjustments reflecting more recent literature. Common names are arbitrary and change with time and place; one or two currently frequently used in English and/or a range language are given here. Additional English common names and common names in French, Spanish, Russian and other languages are available at [www.marinespecies.org/cetacea/](http://www.marinespecies.org/cetacea/).

The cetaceans genetically and morphologically fall firmly within the artiodactyl clade (Geisler and Uhen, 2005), and therefore we include them in the order Cetartiodactyla, with Cetacea, Mysticeti and Odontoceti as unranked taxa (recognizing that the classification within Cetartiodactyla remains partially unresolved -- e.g., see Spaulding *et al.*, 2009)<sup>1</sup>. Below the rank of order, we list only families, species and subspecies, omitting superfamilies, subfamilies and taxa of other ranks.

In the Carnivora, Brunner (2004) reduced *Arctocephalus forsteri* and *A. galapagoensis* to subspecies of *A. australis* and *A. townsendi* to a subspecies of *A. philippii*. In addition, *A. philippii* is split from the genus *Arctocephalus* and placed in the newly resurrected genus *Arctophoca* Peters, 1866<sup>2</sup>. Two independent lines of evidence now support full species status for the Galapagos sea lion, as *Zalophus wollebaeki* Sivertsen, 1953 (Dasmahapatra *et al.*, 2009). Brunner (2004) advised use of *Otaria byronia* (Blainville, 1820) over *O. flavescens* (Shaw, 1800). Phillips *et al.* (2009) recognized Loughlin's northern sea lion. The Laptev walrus is no longer recognized as a subspecies (Lindqvist *et al.*, 2008). The use of *Lontra* rather than *Lutra* for the marine otter follows Larivière (1998) in recognizing the otters of North and South America as a monophyletic taxon distinct from the otters of Eurasia.

In the mysticete cetaceans, recent genetic evidence strongly supports the recognition of three separate phylogenetic species of right whales (Rosenbaum *et al.*, 2000). In addition, the genus *Eubalaena* (rather than *Balaena* as in Rice, 1998) is retained for the right whales as recommended by the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling

Commission (IWC, 2002)<sup>3</sup>. All Bryde's whales are provisionally considered to comprise a single species, *Balaenoptera edeni*, following the usage of the IWC (IWC 2002, 2008) and Kato and Perrin (2009). *Balaenoptera omurai* is a newly described species (Wada *et al.*, 2003). It was previously confounded with the Bryde's whale and has been confirmed as having a separate and ancient lineage (Sasaki *et al.* 2006). Clarke (2004) proposed recognition of a pygmy form of the fin whale as a subspecies, based on distribution, size and coloration. He resurrected the synonym *patachonica* Burmeister, 1865 to apply to the subspecies: *B. physalus patachonica*.

In the odontocetes, *Mesoplodon traversii* (spade-toothed whale) has been recognized as the senior synonym for *M. bahamondi* (Bahamonde's beaked whale) (van Helden *et al.*, 2002). *Mesoplodon perrini* is a newly described species (Dalebout *et al.*, 2002). Robineau *et al.* (2007) described the subspecies *Cephalorhynchus commersonii kerguelenensis*, and A. Baker *et al.* described *C. hectori maui*. We follow the IWC in listing only two species of *Sousa*; the taxonomy of this group is in flux (Parra and Ross, 2009). The tucuxi has been split into the freshwater *Sotalia fluviatilis* (retaining the common name tucuxi) and the marine Guiana dolphin *S. guianensis* (Caballero *et al.* 2007). Recognition of the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin is now well-supported by genetic data (Viaud-Martinez *et al.*, 2008), as is the Black Sea common dolphin (Natoli *et al.*, 2008). *Delphinus tropicalis* is now considered a subspecies of *D. capensis* (Jefferson, 2002). Perrin *et al.* (1999) established the subspecies *Stenella longirostris roseiventris*. The Irrawaddy dolphin was recently split into *O. brevirostris* and *O. heinsohni*, the Australian snubfin dolphin (Beasley *et al.*, 2005). Wang *et al.* (2008) established *Neophocaena asiaorientalis* as a full species, with two subspecies. Viaud-Martinez *et al.* (2007) concluded based on morphological and genetic evidence that *Phocoena phocoena relicta* is a valid subspecies.

In the Sirenia, subspecies of the dugong are not currently recognized (Domning, 1996).

For review of species concepts, see Reeves *et al.* (2004), Orr and Coyne (2004), de Queiroz (2007) and Perrin (2009). Perrin *et al.* (2009) reviewed the cetacean subspecies, but that review has not yet appeared in the peer-reviewed literature and is therefore not considered here; the subspecies (including for the Carnivora and Sirenia) are as recognized by Rice (1998), with the above-noted changes.

Corrections and comments should be directed to the Ad Hoc Committee on Taxonomy ([william.perrin@noaa.gov](mailto:william.perrin@noaa.gov)). Divergent opinions by members of the Committee on particular taxonomic questions are given in the footnotes.

## Order Carnivora

### Family Otariidae (eared seals and sea lions; 13 species, of which 1 extinct)

*Arctocephalus pusillus* (Schreber, 1775) Cape fur seal

*A. p. pusillus* (Schreber, 1775). Cape fur seal

*A. p. doriferus* Wood Jones, 1925. Australian fur seal

*Arctocephalus gazella* (Peters, 1875). Antarctic fur seal

*Arctocephalus tropicalis* (Gray, 1872). Subantarctic fur seal

*Arctocephalus australis* (Zimmerman, 1783)

*A. a. australis* (Zimmermann, 1783). Falkland Islands fur seal

[\*A. a. forsteri\*](#) (Lesson, 1828). New Zealand fur seal

*A. a. galapagoensis* Heller, 1904. Galapagos fur seal

*A. a. gracilis* Nehring, 1887. South American fur seal

*Arctophoca philippii* (Peters, 1866)

*A. p. philippi* Peters, 1866. Juan Fernandez fur seal

*A. p. townsendi* (Merriam, 1897). Guadalupe fur seal

*Callorhinus ursinus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Northern fur seal

*Zalophus japonicus* (Peters, 1866). Japanese sea lion (extinct)

*Zalophus californianus* (Lesson, 1828). California sea lion

*Zalophus wollebaeki* Sivertsen, 1953. Galapagos sea lion

*Eumetopias jubatus* (Schreber, 1776). Steller sea lion, northern sea lion

*E. j. jubatus* (Schreber, 1776). Western Steller sea lion

*E. j. monteriensis* (Gray, 1859). Loughlin's northern sea lion

[\*Neophoca cinerea\*](#) (Peron, 1816). Australian sea lion

[\*Phocarctos hookeri\*](#) (Gray, 1844). New Zealand sea lion

*Otaria byronia* (Blainville, 1820). South American sea lion

## **Family Odobenidae**

*Odobenus rosmarus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Walrus

*O. r. rosmarus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Atlantic walrus

*O. r. divergens* (Illiger, 1815). Pacific walrus

**Family Phocidae (earless seals; 19 species, of which 1 extinct)**

*Erignathus barbatus* (Erxleben, 1777). Bearded seal

*E. b. barbatus* (Erxleben, 1777). Atlantic bearded seal

*E. b. nauticus* (Pallas, 1881). Pacific bearded seal

*Phoca vitulina* (Linnaeus, 1758). Harbor seal, common seal

*P. v. vitulina* (Linnaeus, 1758). Eastern Atlantic harbor seal

*P. v. concolor* DeKay, 1842. Western Atlantic harbor seal

*P. v. mellonae* Doult, 1942. Hudson Bay harbor seal

*P. v. stejnegeri* Allen, 1902. Western Pacific harbor seal

*P. v. richardii* (Gray, 1864). Pacific harbor seal

*Phoca largha* (Pallas, 1811). Spotted seal, largha seal

*Pusa hispida* (Schreber, 1775). Ringed seal

*P. h. hispida* (Schreber, 1775). Arctic Ringed seal

*P. h. botnica* (Gmelin, 1788). Baltic ringed seal

*P. h. ochotensis* (Nordquist, 1889) Okhotsk ringed seal

*P. h. ladogensis* (Nordquist, 1889). Lake Ladoga seal

*P. h. saimensis* (Nordquist, 1889). Saima seal

*Pusa caspica* (Gmelin, 1788). Caspian seal

*Pusa sibirica* (Gmelin, 1788). Baikal seal

*Halichoerus grypus* (Fabricius, 1791). Gray seal

*H. g. grypus* (Fabricius, 1791). Western Atlantic gray seal

*H. g. macrorhynchus* Hornschuh and Schilling, 1851. Eastern Atlantic gray seal

*Histriophoca fasciata* (Zimmerman, 1783). Ribbon seal

*Pagophilus groenlandicus* (Erxleben, 1777). Harp seal

*Cystophora cristata* (Erxleben, 1777). Hooded seal

[\*Monachus tropicalis\*](#) (Gray, 1850). Caribbean monk seal (extinct)

*Monachus monachus* (Hermann, 1779). Mediterranean monk seal

[\*Monachus schauinslandi\*](#) Matschie, 1905. Hawaiian monk seal

[\*Mirounga leonina\*](#) (Linnaeus, 1758). Southern elephant seal

[\*Mirounga angustirostris\*](#) (Gill, 1866). Northern elephant seal

*Leptonychotes weddellii* (Lesson, 1826). Weddell seal

*Ommatophoca rossii* Gray, 1844. Ross seal

*Lobodon carcinophaga* (Hombron and Jacquinot, 1842). Crabeater seal

[\*Hydrurga leptonyx\*](#) (Blainville, 1820). Leopard seal

## **Family Ursidae**

*Ursus maritimus* Phipps, 1774. Polar bear

*U. m. maritimus* Phipps, 1774. Atlantic polar bear

*U. m. marinus* Pallas, 1776. Pacific polar bear

## **Family Mustelidae**

*Enhydra lutris* (Linnaeus, 1758). Sea otter

*E. l. lutris* (Linnaeus, 1758). Western sea otter

*E. l. kenyonii* Wilson, 1991. Eastern sea otter

*E. l. nereis* (Merriam, 1904). Southern sea otter

*Lontra felina* (Molina, 1782). Marine otter

## **Order Cetartiodactyla (artiodactyls and cetaceans)**

**CETACEA (cetaceans; 87 species, of which 1 extinct)**

**MYSTICETI (baleen whales, 14 species)**

**Family Balaenidae (right whales, 4 species)**

*Eubalaena glacialis* (Müller, 1776). North Atlantic right whale

*Eubalaena japonica* (Lacépède, 1818). North Pacific right whale

*Eubalaena australis* (Desmoulins, 1822). Southern right whale

*Balaena mysticetus* Linnaeus, 1758. Bowhead whale, Greenland whale

**Family Neobalaenidae**

*Caperea marginata* (Gray, 1846). Pygmy right whale

**Family Eschrichtiidae**

[\*Eschrichtius robustus\*](#) (Lilljeborg, 1861). Gray whale

**Family Balaenopteridae (rorquals, 8 species)**

[\*Megaptera novaeangliae\*](#) (Borowski, 1781). Humpback whale

*Balaenoptera acutorostrata* Lacépède, 1804. Common minke whale

*B. a. acutorostrata* Lacépède, 1804. North Atlantic minke whale

*B. a. scammoni* Deméré, 1986. North Pacific minke whale

*B. a.* un-named subsp. Dwarf minke whale

[\*Balaenoptera bonaerensis\*](#) Burmeister, 1867. Antarctic minke whale

*Balaenoptera edeni* Anderson, 1879. Bryde's whale

*Balaenoptera omurai* Wada, Oishi and Yamada, 2003. Omura's whale

*Balaenoptera borealis* Lesson, 1828. Sei whale

*B. b. borealis* Lesson, 1828. Northern sei whale

*B. b. schlegellii* Flower, 1865. Southern sei whale

*Balaenoptera physalus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Fin whale

*B. p. physalus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Northern fin whale

*B. p. quoyi* Fischer, 1829). Southern fin whale

*B. p. patachonica* Burmeister, 1865. Pygmy fin whale

*Balaenoptera musculus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Blue whale

*B. m. musculus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Northern blue whale

*B. m. intermedia* Burmeister, 1871. Southern blue whale

*B. m. indica* Blyth, 1859. Indian Ocean blue whale

*B. m. breviceauda* Ichihara, 1966. Pygmy blue whale

## **ODONTOCETI (toothed whales, dolphins and porpoises; 73 species, of which 1 extinct)**

### **Family Physeteridae**

*Physeter macrocephalus* Linnaeus, 1758. Sperm whale, cachalot

### **Family Kogiidae**

*Kogia breviceps* (Blainville, 1838). Pygmy sperm whale

*Kogia sima* (Owen, 1866). Dwarf sperm whale

### **Family Ziphiidae (beaked whales, 21 species)**

*Ziphius cavirostris* G. Cuvier, 1823. Cuvier's beaked whale, goose-beaked whale

*Berardius arnuxii* Duvernoy, 1851. Arnoux' beaked whale

*Berardius bairdii* Stejneger, 1883. Baird's beaked whale

*Tasmacetus shepherdi* Oliver, 1937. Shepherd's beaked whale, Tasman beaked whale

*Indopacetus pacificus* (Longman, 1926). Longman's beaked whale, tropical bottlenose whale,

[\*Hyperoodon ampullatus\*](#) (Forster, 1770). Northern bottlenose whale

*Hyperoodon planifrons* Flower, 1882. Southern bottlenose whale

*Mesoplodon hectori* (Gray, 1871). Hector's beaked whale

*Mesoplodon mirus* True, 1913. True's beaked whale

*Mesoplodon europaeus* (Gervais, 1855). Gervais' beaked whale

*Mesoplodon bidens* (Sowerby, 1804). Sowerby's beaked whale

*Mesoplodon grayi* von Haast, 1876. Gray's beaked whale

*Mesoplodon perrini* Dalebout, Mead, Baker, Baker and van Helden, 2002. Perrin's beaked whale

*Mesoplodon peruvianus* Reyes, Mead and Van Waerebeek, 1991. Pygmy beaked whale

*Mesoplodon bowdoini* Andrews, 1908. Andrew's beaked whale

*Mesoplodon traversii* (Gray, 1874). Spade-toothed whale

*Mesoplodon carlhubbsi* Moore, 1963. Hubbs' beaked whale

*Mesoplodon ginkgodens* Nishiwaki and Kamiya, 1958. Ginkgo-toothed beaked whale

*Mesoplodon stejnegeri* True, 1885. Stejneger's beaked whale

*Mesoplodon layardii* (Gray, 1865). Strap-toothed beaked whale

[\*Mesoplodon densirostris\*](#) (Blainville, 1817. Blainville's beaked whale

## **Family Platanistidae**

*Platanista gangetica* (Lebeck, 1801). South Asian river dolphin, Indian River dolphin



*P. g. gangetica* (Lebeck, 1801). Susu, Ganges river dolphin

*P. g. minor* Owen, 1853. Bhulan, Indus river dolphin

### **Family Iniidae**

*Inia geoffrensis* (Blainville, 1817). Amazon river dolphin

*I. g. geoffrensis*(Blainville, 1817). Boto

*I. g. humboldtiana* Pilleri and Gihl, 1977. Orinoco bufeo

*I. g. boliviensis* d'Orbigny, 1834. Bolivian bufeo

### **Family Lipotidae**

*Lipotes vexillifer* (Miller, 1918). Baiji, Yangtze river dolphin - extinct

### **Family Pontoporiidae**

*Pontoporia blainvillei* (Gervais and d'Orbigny, 1821). Franciscana, La Plata dolphin

### **Family Monodontidae**

[\*Monodon monoceros\*](#) Linnaeus, 1758. Narwhal

*Delphinapterus leucas* (Pallas, 1776). Beluga, white whale

### **Family Delphinidae (36 species)**

*Cephalorhynchus commersonii* (Lacépède, 1804). Commerson's dolphin

*C. c. commersonii* (Lacépède, 1804). Commerson's dolphin

*C. c. kerguelenensis* Robineau, Goodall, Pichler and C. S. Baker, 2007. Kerguelen Islands Commerson's dolphin

*Cephalorhynchus eutropia* (Gray, 1846). Chilean dolphin

*Cephalorhynchus heavisidii* (Gray, 1828). Heaviside's dolphin, Haviside's dolphin

[\*Cephalorhynchus hectori\*](#) (Van Beneden, 1881). Hector's dolphin

*C. h. hectori* (Van Beneden, 1881). Hector's dolphin

*C. h. maui* A. Baker, Smith and Pichler, 2002. Maui's dolphin

*Steno bredanensis* (G. Cuvier in Lesson, 1828). Rough-toothed dolphin

*Sousa teuszii* (Kükenthal, 1892). Atlantic humpback dolphin

*Sousa chinensis* (Osbeck, 1765). Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin

*Sotalia fluviatilis* (Gervais and Deville, 1853). Tucuxi, marine tucuxi

*Sotalia guianensis* (Van Bénéden, 1864). Guiana dolphin, costero

*Tursiops truncatus* (Montagu, 1821). Common bottlenose dolphin

*T. t. truncatus* (Montagu, 1821). Common bottlenose dolphin

*T. t. ponticus* Barabash-Nikiforov, 1940. Black Sea bottlenose dolphin

[\*Tursiops aduncus\*](#) (Ehrenberg, 1833). Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin

*Stenella attenuata* (Gray, 1846). Pantropical spotted dolphin

*S. a. attenuata* (Gray, 1846). Offshore pantropical spotted dolphin

*S. a. graffmani* (Lönnberg, 1934). Coastal pantropical spotted dolphin

[\*Stenella frontalis\*](#) (G. Cuvier, 1829). Atlantic spotted dolphin

*Stenella longirostris* (Gray, 1828). Spinner dolphin

*S. l. longirostris* (Gray, 1828). Gray's spinner dolphin

*S. l. orientalis* Perrin, 1990. Eastern spinner dolphin

*S. l. centroamericana* Perrin, 1990. Central American spinner dolphin

*S. l. roseiventris* (Wagner, 1846). Dwarf spinner dolphin

*Stenella clymene* (Gray, 1850). Clymene dolphin

*Stenella coeruleoalba* (Meyen, 1853). Striped dolphin

[\*Delphinus delphis\*](#) Linnaeus, 1758. Short-beaked common dolphin, saddleback dolphin

*D. d. delphis* Linnaeus, 1758. Short-beaked common dolphin

*D. d. ponticus* Barabash, 1935. Black Sea common dolphin

[\*Delphinus capensis\*](#) Gray, 1828. Long-beaked common dolphin

*D. c. capensis* Gray, 1828. Long-beaked common dolphin

*D. c. tropicalis* van Bree, 1971. Indo-Pacific common dolphin

*Lagenodelphis hosei* Fraser, 1956. Fraser's dolphin

*Lagenorhynchus albirostris* (Gray, 1846). White-beaked dolphin

*Lagenorhynchus acutus* (Gray, 1828). Atlantic white-sided dolphin

*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens* Gill, 1865. Pacific white-sided dolphin

[\*Lagenorhynchus obscurus\*](#) (Gray, 1828). Dusky dolphin

*L. o. obscurus* (Gray, 1828). African dusky dolphin

*L. o. fitzroyi* (Waterhouse, 1838). South American dusky dolphin

*L. o.* un-named subsp. New Zealand dusky dolphin

*Lagenorhynchus australis* (Peale, 1848). Peale's dolphin

*Lagenorhynchus cruciger* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824). Hourglass dolphin

*Lissodelphis borealis* Peale, 1848. Northern right-whale dolphin

*Lissodelphis peronii* (Lacépède, 1804). Southern right-whale dolphin

*Grampus griseus* (G. Cuvier, 1812). Risso's dolphin, gray grampus

*Peponocephala electra* (Gray, 1846). Melon-headed whale, Electra dolphin

*Feresa attenuata* Gray, 1874. Pygmy killer whale

[\*Pseudorca crassidens\*](#) (Owen, 1846). False killer whale

*Orcinus orca* (Linnaeus, 1758). Killer whale, orca

[\*Globicephala melas\*](#) (Traill, 1809). Long-finned pilot whale

*G. m. melas* (Traill, 1809). North Atlantic long-finned pilot whale

*G. m. edwardii* (A. Smith, 1834). Southern long-finned pilot whale

*G. m.* un-named subsp. North Pacific long-finned pilot whale

[\*Globicephala macrorhynchus\*](#) Gray, 1846. Short-finned pilot whale

*Orcaella brevirostris* (Owen in Gray, 1866). Irrawaddy dolphin, pesut

*Orcaella heinsohni* Beasley, Robertson and Arnold, 2005. Australian snubfin dolphin

### **Family Phocoenidae (porpoises, 7 species)**

*Neophocaena phocaenoides* (G. Cuvier, 1829). Indo-Pacific finless porpoise

*Neophocaena asiaeorientalis* Pilleri and Gühr, 1972. Narrow-ridged finless porpoise

*N. a. asiaeorientalis* Pilleri and Gühr, 1972. Yangtze finless porpoise

*N. a. sunameri* Pilleri and Gühr, 1975. East Asian finless porpoise, sunameri

[\*Phocoena phocoena\*](#) (Linnaeus, 1758). Harbor porpoise, common porpoise

*P. p. phocoena* (Linnaeus, 1758). Atlantic harbor porpoise

*P. p. vomerina* (Gill, 1865). Eastern Pacific harbor porpoise

*P. p. relictata* Abel, 1905. Black Sea harbor porpoise

*P. p.* un-named subsp. Western Pacific harbor porpoise

[\*Phocoena sinus\*](#) Norris and McFarland, 1958. Vaquita, Gulf of California harbor porpoise

*Phocoena spinipinnis* Burmeister, 1865. Burmeister's porpoise

*Phocoena dioptrica* Lahille, 1912. Spectacled porpoise

*Phocoenoides dalli* (True, 1885). Dall's porpoise, Dall porpoise

*P. d. dalli* (True, 1885). *Dalli*-type Dall's porpoise

*P. d. truei* Andrews, 1911. *Truei*-type Dall's porpoise

## **ORDER SIRENIA (sirenians, 6 species – 1 extinct)**

### **Family Trichechidae**

[\*Trichechus manatus\*](#) Linnaeus, 1758. West Indian manatee

*T. m. manatus* Linnaeus, 1758. Antillean manatee

*T. m. latirostris* (Harlan, 1824). Florida manatee

*Trichechus senegalensis* Link, 1795. West African manatee

*Trichechus inunguis* (Natterer, 1883). Amazonian manatee

### **Family Dugongidae**

[\*Dugong dugon\*](#) (Müller, 1776). Dugong

*Hydrodamalis gigas* (Zimmerman, 1780). Steller's sea cow - extinct

### **Footnotes**

<sup>1</sup>Use of Order Cetartiodactyla is favored by most evolutionary mammalogists working with molecular data. Some others, including many marine mammalogists and paleontologists, favor retention of Order Cetacea in the interest of taxonomic stability.

<sup>2</sup>(from A. Berta) There are as yet no genetic data to support *Arctophoca* as a genus distinct from *Arctocephalus*, and relevant phylogenetic studies of *Actocephalus* species related to *A. phillippii* have not been carried out.

<sup>3</sup>(from D. Rice) Baker *et al.* (2003) hold that there is no evidence that would support the classification of the right whales as more than a single biological species. [The three species are here recognized as phylogenetic species.]

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