**Biology:**

**Reproduction:** maturity at age 10. Females have calves every 5-8 years. Gestation period of 15 months.

**Behaviour:** Pilot whales occur in groups of 25 to 50 animals. Males have more than one mate—typically a group has one mature male for every eight mature females. Males generally leave their birth school, while females may stay in theirs for their entire lives.

**Threats and issues:**

- **Fishing bycatch** in drift, gillnets and deep-set longline fishery.
- **Ocean pollution**, microplastics to toxic levels of Mercury, PCBs and pesticides found in blubber.
- **Entanglement** in drifted and abandoned nets causes drowning.
- **Harvest / Whaling.** 500+ individuals are hunted annually out of tradition/food. Japan, Caribbean islands, Philippines, Nordic Europe.
- **Vessel strikes** increased boat population traffic.
- Loud anthropogenic sounds from the military and seismic surveys lead to **mass strandings**.
- **Marine debris** leading to plastic ingestion.

**Projects around the world:**

- AWdF conservation and research based in north Atlantic Ocean. [https://www.whalenation.org/](https://www.whalenation.org/)
- NOAA fisheries, setting laws and information, based in the USA. [https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/)
- WDC, collaborating with charities, based in the UK. [https://uk.whales.org/](https://uk.whales.org/)

**How can you help:**

- Volunteer or support a cetacean organisation.
- Stop using single use plastics.
- Eat less fish or sustainably sourced fish.