

Short Finned Pilot Whale



Globicephala macrorhynchus



Average Weight



Giant Squid



Octopus



Fish



Worldwide Population ≈ 700,000



Lifespan



IUCN Red List Status



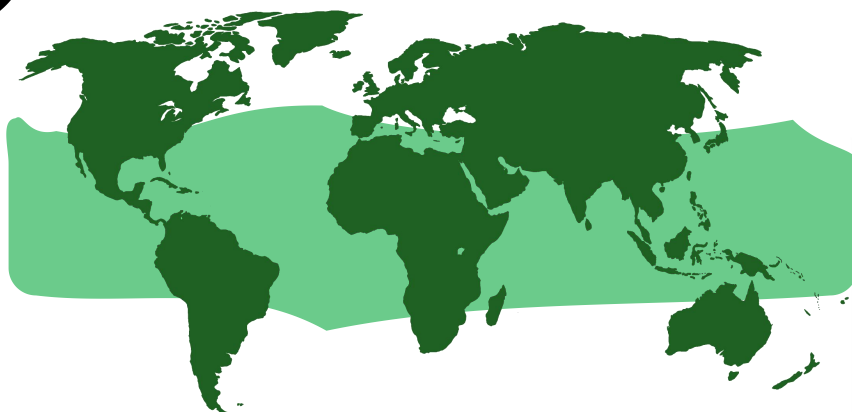
Biology:

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.

Global Distribution:

Tropical and warm-temperate waters, 41°S and 45°N. Extend into cold-temperate waters in the North Pacific.



Kingdom → **Phylum** → **Class** → **Order** → **Family** → **Genus** → **Species**
 Animalia → Chordata → Mammalia → Cetacea → Delphinidae → Globicephala → Macrorhynchus

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.whalnation.org/>
- NOAA fisheries, setting laws and information, based in the USA.
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/>
- WDC, collaborating with charities, based in the UK.
<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.

