



Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*)

Rare, although annually recorded off the UK particularly off the west coast of Scotland in summer. Prefers deep Atlantic waters from Iceland and Norway south to the Iberian Peninsula, and east into the Mediterranean (particularly the Ligurian Sea). A rarer visitor to Orkney waters where it is recorded less than annually. Occasionally recorded dead or as live strandings with sightings often, but not always indicate that the animal may be compromised in some way.

IUCN STATUS

Globally listed as VULNERABLE (2018), but in Europe is considered NEAR THREATENED (2007) with the current population trend or size of population UNKNOWN.

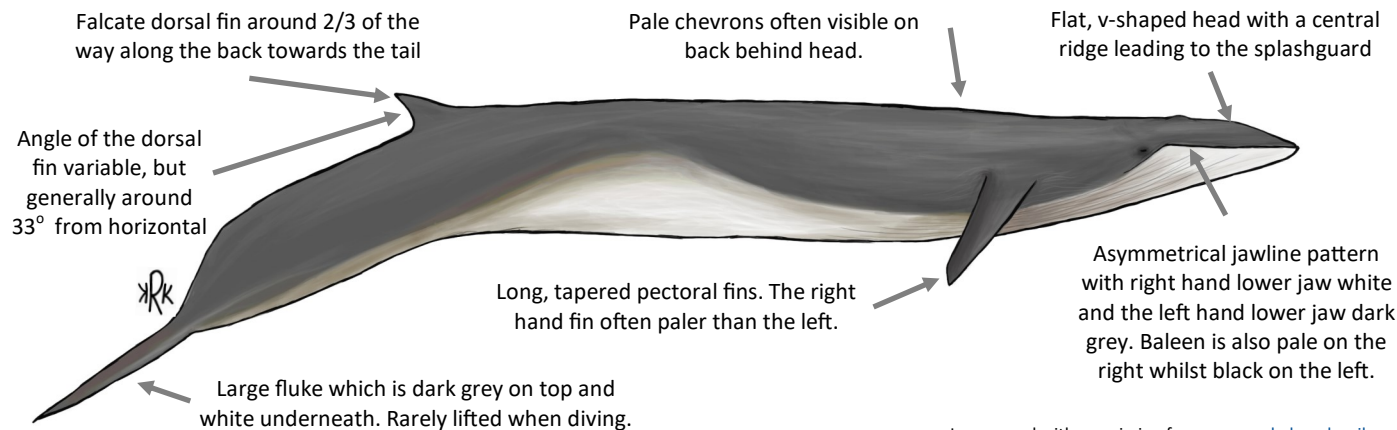
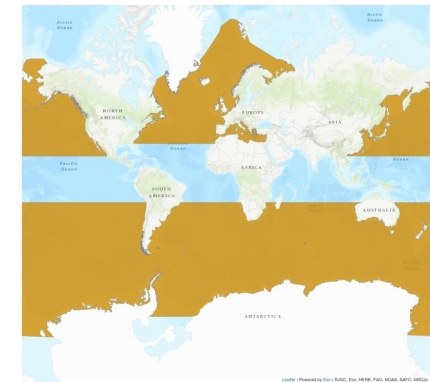


Image used with permission from: www.whaleandnail.com

DISTRIBUTION MAP



Legend: EXANT (RESIDENT)
Compiled by: IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) 2014

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Fin whale is the fastest of the great whales and is able to maintain speeds of over 23 mph!
- The oldest recorded Fin whale reached 114 years old!
- A Fin whale produces a whopping 257 gallons (974 litres) of urine in one day! That's the equivalent to just over 4 whisky barrels a day!



Blow & Dive Sequence



- ◆ Tall, columnar blow
- ◆ Top of head emerges as it blows
- ◆ Body remains low in water
- ◆ Dorsal fin usually appears after blow has dissipated (CAUTION: with young animals can be almost simultaneous).
- ◆ Deeply arches back and rarely flukes when sounding.

KEY FACTS

Length: ADULT: 18 - 24 m
CALF: 6 - 6.5 m
Weight: ADULT: max. 90 t
Life span: Up to 80 - 90 years
Prey: Cephalopods

Sexual Maturity: Female: 7-8 yrs; male 5-7 yrs
Gestation: 11-11.5 months; 1 calf every 2 to 3 years
Dive time: Max. 25 minutes

PLEASE REPORT ANY MARINE MAMMAL SIGHTINGS TO OMMRI

sightings@ommri.org

www.ommri.org/sightings

MAIN THREATS

- ◆ **Hunting** - population still recovering from commercial whaling years, but is still hunted in some countries
- ◆ **Pollution** - noise, plastic, etc
- ◆ **Ship strike** - most frequently reported great whale to be hit.