



## **STOLEN BOATS CANADA**

Those of us that have the opportunity to work and play on the water and those that love to explore the shorelines of BC's coast, can play a huge roll in assisting the [BC Cetacean Sightings Network](#), [Department of Fisheries and Oceans](#) and the [Vancouver Aquarium](#), gather data to assist in understanding and identifying habitats and [Species At Risk](#). Download the App , call or go online and start reporting sightings.



### **HARBOUR PORPOISE**

*Phocoena phocoena*

**LENGTH** Less than 2 m/ 6 ft.

**DORSAL FIN** Dark, triangular

**APPEARANCE** Dark grey back with lighter underside

**BEHAVIOUR** Inconspicuous, travels slowly; generally alone or in groups of 2-3



### **DALL'S PORPOISE**

*Phocoenoides dalli*

**LENGTH** Up to 2.2m/ 5-7ft.

**DORSAL FIN** Triangular with white trailing edge

**APPEARANCE** Black, with large white flanks; small hump on back before tail flukes

**BEHAVIOUR** Usually in groups of 2-10; creates "rooster-tail" of spray when swimming quickly



### **PACIFIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN**

*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*

**LENGTH** Up to 2.5 m/ 8 ft.

**DORSAL FIN** Sharply curved, bi-coloured

**APPEARANCE** Dark back, white underside, grey side streaks

**BEHAVIOUR** Only small, local cetacean that leaps completely clear of water; usually in groups of 50 or more



### **KILLER WHALE**

*Orcinus orca*

**LENGTH** 6-9 m/ 18-28 ft.

**DORSAL FIN** Black, triangular in females and calves; tall, distinctive in adult males

**APPEARANCE** Black body with white underside; grey saddle patch behind dorsal fin; white eye patch

**BEHAVIOUR** Usually in groups of 3-25; bushy blows visible in cold weather



# Whale, dolphin & porpoise identification guide

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Department of the Environment.



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## MINKE WHALE

*Balaenoptera acronotata*

LENGTH 7–10 m / 23–33 ft.

DORSAL FIN Curved, far back on body

APPEARANCE Dark grey to black colouration; white band on topside of pectoral fins; pointed head with prominent noseridge

BEHAVIOUR Usually solitary; blows rarely visible; surfaces 1–2 times between dives; elusive



## GREY WHALE

*Eschschia robusta*

LENGTH 12–14 m / 39–46 ft.

DORSAL FIN No dorsal fin; knuckle-like bumps on lower back

APPEARANCE Mottled grey colour; patches of barnacles

BEHAVIOUR Low, bushy, heart- or v-shaped blow; occasionally lifts tail flukes when diving; often feeds close to shore



## HUMPBACK WHALE

*Megaptera novaeangliae*

LENGTH 11–15 m / 37–50 ft.

DORSAL FIN Small, nubby fin with broad base

APPEARANCE Black body; bumps or knobs on head; long pectoral fins with white underside

BEHAVIOUR Medium-sized, bushy blow; usually surfaces 2–5 times between deep dives; often raises tail flukes on final dive



## FIN WHALE

*Balaenoptera physalis*

LENGTH 18–22 m / 59–72 ft.

DORSAL FIN Sickle-shaped; relatively large; very far back on body

APPEARANCE Right lower lip is white, white left is dark;

BEHAVIOUR Blowhole and dorsal fin not visible simultaneously; tall, narrow blow; rarely lifts tail flukes when diving



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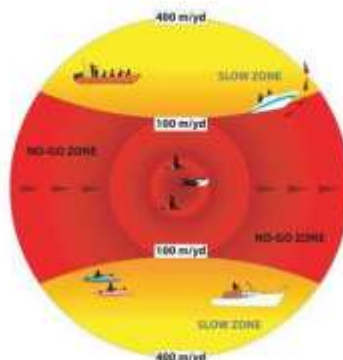
Photos by J. Towers, A. Brinkhorst, K. Johnson, and J. Ford. Illustrations by A. Deneault, not to scale.

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## Marine Mammal Incident Reporting Hotline

British Columbia Marine Mammal Response Network

Please report sick, injured or dead marine mammals and sea turtles.

**1-800-465-4336**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Pêches et Océans Canada