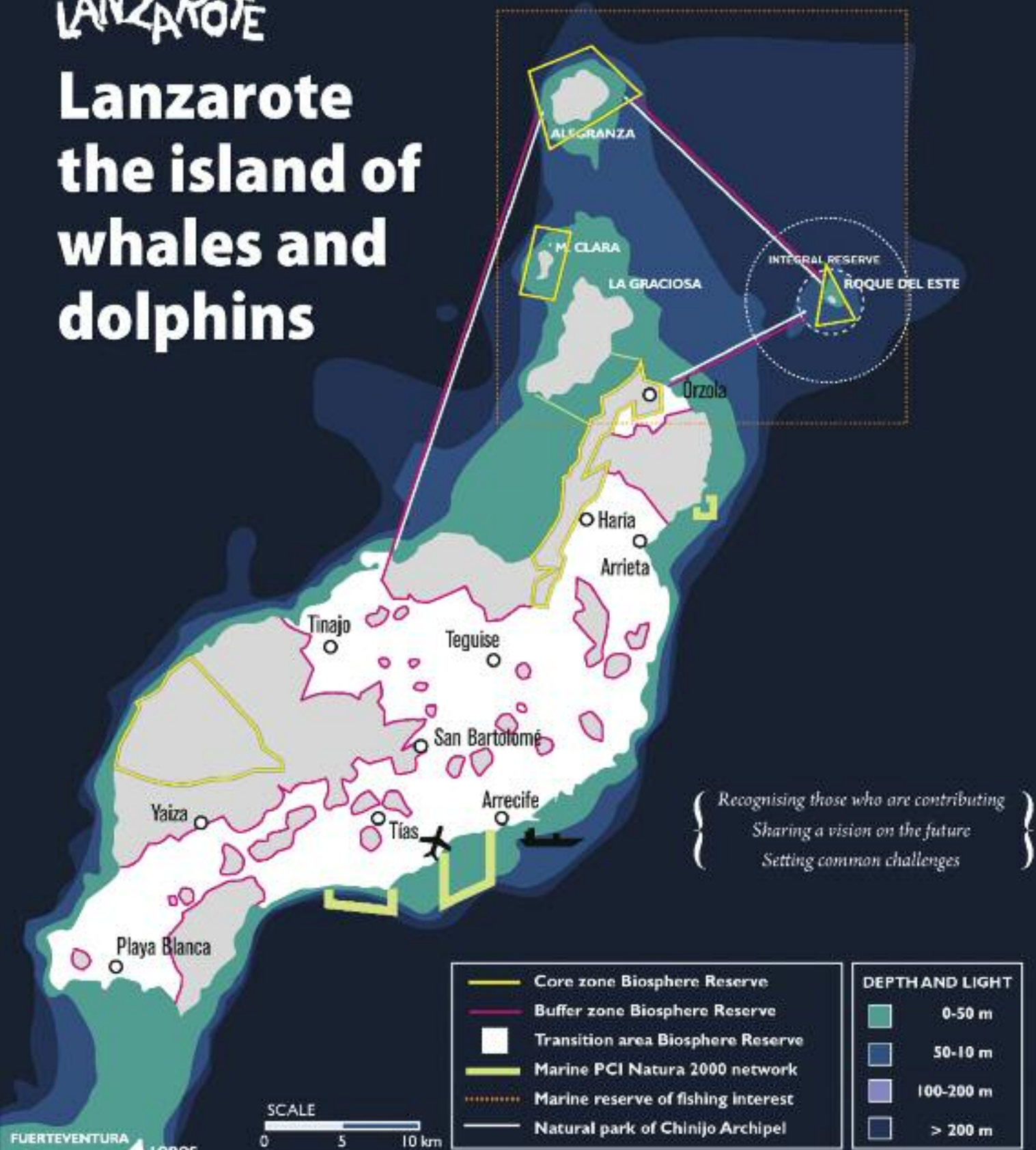




LANZAROTE

Lanzarote the island of whales and dolphins



These are the most admirable and complex neighbours of us and this is the way they live:

Cetaceans

Altruistic and social marine mammals, capable of creating lasting partnerships

Cooperative wild animal and competitive animal in captivity

Intelligent and sensitive animals

Investigation and dissemination about the way they are, will allow us to appreciate better their many qualities; their attitude towards a mutual cooperation and with people, among others... They're a good example for our species, so much predatory and disregard for nature.

Did you know that cetaceans are capable of recognising themselves in front of the mirror and have their own personality?

As a Biosphere Reserve we are committed to respect and protect our biodiversity; Lanzarote has a unique biodiversity...

...extraordinary and fascinating



SECAC

Sociedad para el Estudio de los Cetáceos en el Archipiélago Canario

What does SECAC means?
It's a scientific and a conservationist NGO founded in 1993 which the aim is promoting the elaboration of research projects, conservation and dissemination of the cetaceans in the Canary Islands. The SECAC has one of the best national collections of cetaceans. It's promoter and responsible of the scientific and cultural management of the Cetaceans Museum in the Canary Islands (MCC), opened in 2005 until 2011 in Puerto Calero, which embodies more than 28 years of research.investigación

Contact

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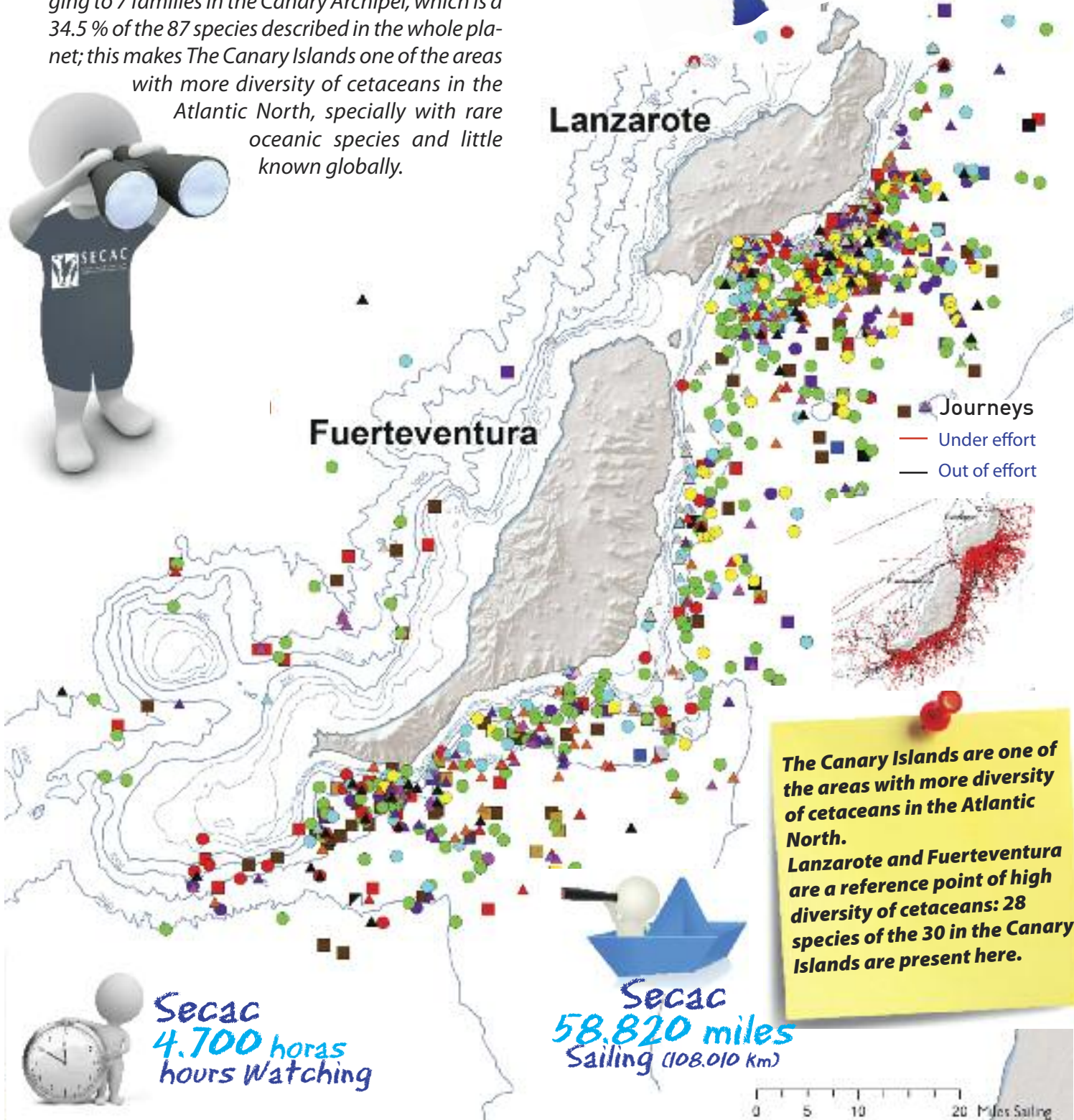


Sightings!

There's evidence of 30 species of cetaceans belonging to 7 families in the Canary Archipel, which is a 34.5 % of the 87 species described in the whole planet; this makes The Canary Islands one of the areas with more diversity of cetaceans in the Atlantic North, specially with rare oceanic species and little known globally.



Secac
3.900 sightings



The Canary Islands are one of the areas with more diversity of cetaceans in the Atlantic North. Lanzarote and Fuerteventura are a reference point of high diversity of cetaceans: 28 species of the 30 in the Canary Islands are present here.



Secac
4.700 horas
hours Watching



Secac
58.820 miles
Sailing (108.010 Km)

Species

- ▲ *Circinus orca*
- ▲ *Feresa attenuata*
- ▲ *Grampus griseus*
- ▲ *Globicephala macrohynchus*

- ▲ Cetáceo unidentified
- ▲ *Mesoplodon densirostris*
- ▲ *Mesoplodon europaeus*
- ▲ *Ziphius cavirostris*
- ▲ *Ziphiidae* unidentified

- *Steno bredalensis*
- *Tursiops truncatus*
- *Stenella coeruleoalba*
- *Dolphinus delphis*
- *Stenella frontalis*

- *Dolphinidae* unidentified
- *Kogia sima*
- *Kogia breviceps*
- *Kogiidae* unidentified
- *Physeter macrocephalus*

- *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*
- *Balaenoptera borealis*
- *Balaenoptera physalus*
- *Balaenoptera byroni*
- *Balaenopteridae* unidentified



Did you know that...

Marine Mammals

Marine Mammals

There's evidence of 87 cetaceans species in the planet. As all the mammals, they're warm-blooded animals, they do breath atmospheric air, they give birth and feed the young with the milk from their mammary glands. There's a huge variety of shapes and sizes, from 1,5m exceeding rarely the 50 kg (as for example the Vaquita) , to 28 m and more with 100.000kg (as the Blue rorqual).

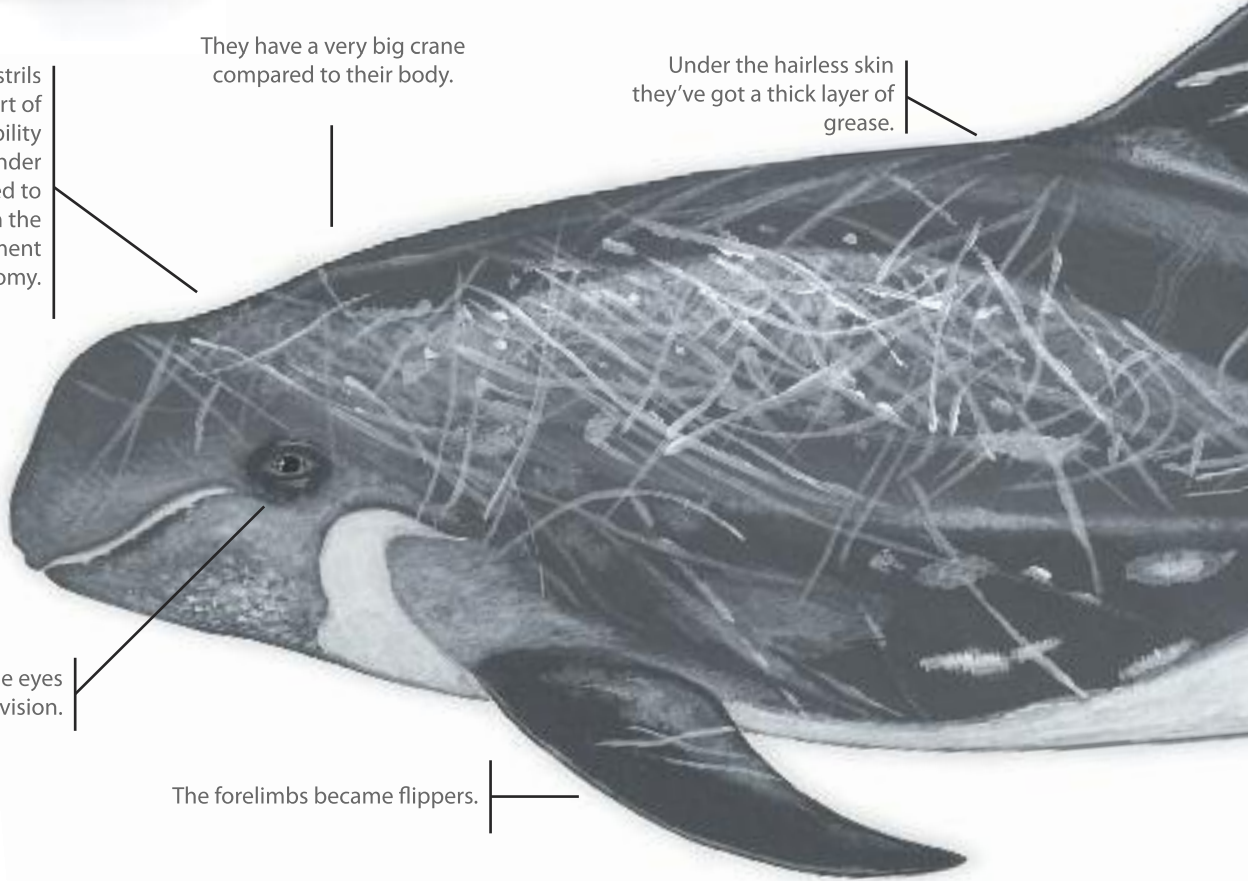
The location of the nostrils towards to the upper part of the head, and the possibility to close the orifices under the water, has led to important changes in the skull bones development and in head anatomy.

They have a very big crane compared to their body.

Under the hairless skin they've got a thick layer of grease.

They have a very little eyes with a great vision.

The forelimbs became flippers.



More than 70 million years of evolution

65 million years



Mesonchids



Pakicetus



Ambulocetus



The incursion into the water was gradual and took place probably in the rivers , lakes and estuaries.

As a result of a progressive adaptation to this environment, cetaceans show an extreme anatomic and physiologic specialization, considering that they've lost the majority of the morphological characteristics which identify the rest of the mammals.

Adaptation to the marine environment

These animals have colonized a wide range of aquatic ecosystems, as the freshwater species located in the watercourses of some rivers (Amazon, Indo, Ganges and the Yellow River); and many other marine species distributed in the estuaries, shallow-water coves, continental coasts and the open sea. These ones show a cosmopolitan distribution in the seas and oceans, and the other ones are located only in certain areas.

Social behaviour

- Strong association. They do prefer to associate with other cetacean species.
- They can recognise each other after a long-term separation.
- Long-lasting bonds are present between the mother and the young.
- They help each other in case of sickness or blessures.
- They are capable of recognising themselves in front of the mirror.
- Sex is important either to solve conflicts among them, either to experience pleasure.
- They are able to learn the language of symbols.
- They have different personalities.



Their body finishes in a unique horizontal caudal fin.

Feeding

Odontocetes cetaceans, the toothed whales (*odontoceti*), such as white whales Belugas (*Delphinapterus leucas*), sperm whales, dolphins, beaked whales (*Ziphiidae*) and porpoises, usually have many teeth for hunting fish, squid

and other marine mammals; they don't chew but they swallow whole.

The baleen whales (*mysticeti*), are characterized by having baleen plates for filtering food from water, rather than having teeth.

30 million years



Rodocetus



Basilosaurus



Humpback whales or yubarta



Killer whale

Their eyes and kidneys had to face a high-concentration of salt; their hair stopped being and insulating thermal medium, to develop an adaptive mechanism as for example a layer of grease avoiding the heat-loss, or the increase of size, among others.

There were some changes in their anatomy and physiology in order to dive into deeper waters.



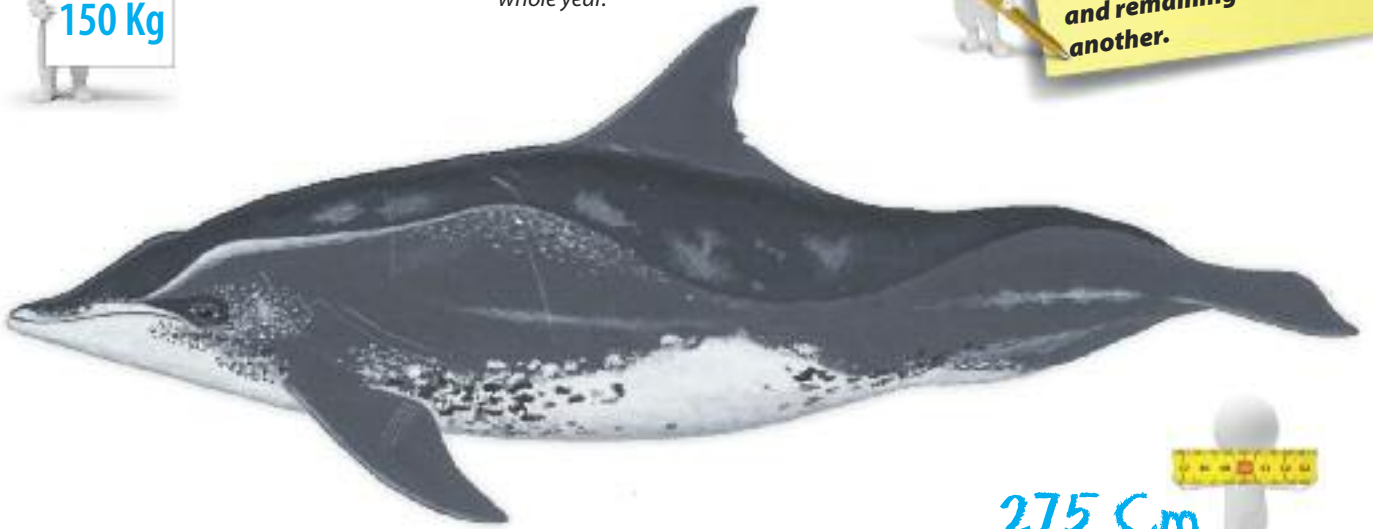
Rough-toothed dolphin

Steno bredanensis

The rough-toothed dolphin is a relatively large species, with adults ranging from 175 and 275 cm in length, and weighing between 100 and 150 kilograms. Most of the research activity concerning the dolphin has been directed to the tropical and subtropical oceanic waters and this specie is present in The Canary Archipel during the whole year.



Important!
The distribution and population of the Rough-toothed Dolphin is poorly understood and unknown. Groups are thought to be temporary assemblages, closely related individuals and remaining with one another.



275 Cm



Common bottlenose dolphin

Tursiops truncatus

The maximum length for adults animals is 381 cm for the males and 367 cm for the females, weighing between 150 and 650 kg; this specie is present in The Canary Archipel during the whole year; common bottlenose dolphins live in little groups called pods that typically number about 15 individuals; some bottlenose populations live closer to the shore which depth does not exceed 600 m.



Important!
Females are generally longest-living than males, the average age of living is 50. The EU has described some areas of the Canary Island as protected areas of special conservation due to the presence of this species.



381 Cm



Short-beaked common dolphin

Delphinus delphis



Important!

They have a complex system of coloration in both sides of the body which reminds of a sand clock into horizontal position, what is very positive to blur their silhouette and mislead preys and predators.



Adults vary in length depending of the geographical zone with a maximum of 260 cm; though the majority of this species does not exceed the 230; males are generally longer and heavier, and range in mass from 80 to 130 kg. This species is present in The Canary Islands from december to April.



260 Cm

Striped dolphin

Stenella coeruleoalba



Important!

One or two black bands circle the eyes, and then run across the back, to the flipper. These bands widen to the width of the flipper which are the same size. Two further black stripes run from behind the ear; one is short and ends just above the flipper. The other is longer and thickens along the flanks until it curves down under the belly just prior to the tail stock. This is a shy species before the presence of ships.



Adults length vary from 180 and 250 cm and weighing between 80 and 165 kg. The striped dolphin inhabits temperate or tropical and subtropical, off-shore waters. This species is present in the Canary Islands the whole year.



250 Cm



Sperm whale

Physeter macrocephalus

18 m

57,000 Kg

Males are 18 m long and weight 57.000 kg and females doesn't exceed the 13 m long and weight 20.000 kg. They are frequently in the waters of the Canary Archipel during the whole year. Sperm whales are usually found in groups of females travelling together with the young.

Risso's dolphin

Grampus griseus

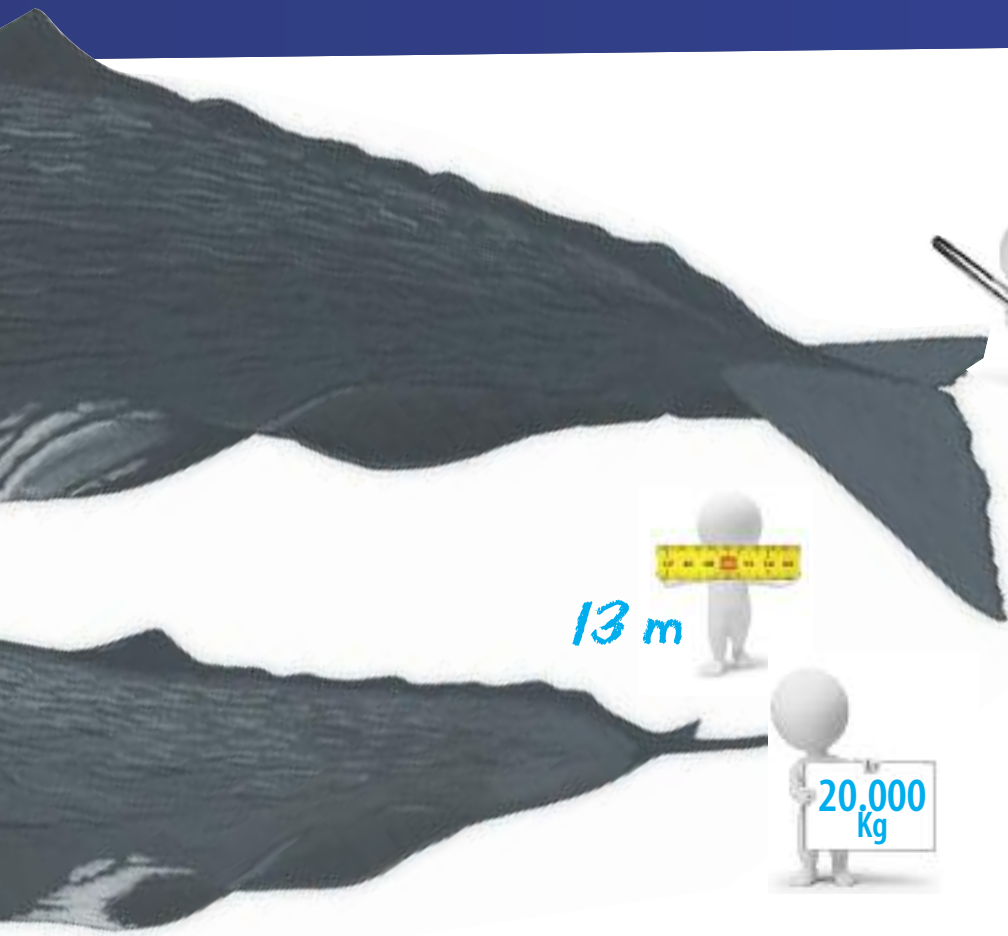
Adults length vary between 330 y 410 cm being the males usually longer than females, weighing between 250 and 500 kg, though they don't use to exceed the 400 kg. Population is all around the world. The presence in the Canary Islands is evident during the whole year, with resident population in the North of Gran Canaria and in the eastern part of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura.

Important!

The specific epithet *griseus* refers to the mottled almost scarred grey colour of the skin which will gradually turn whitish. Even older individuals appear mostly white.

500 Kg

410 Cm



Important!

They feed on several species, notably the giant squid, but also the larger colossal squid, octopuses, and diverse fish, being this the main diet of the males in northern waters.

13 m

20,000
Kg

There's been evidence of giants squids type *Architheus* in their stomachs. They consume a 3 to 3.5 % of their body weight which represents 400 to 1.000 kg in adults.

Cuvier's beaked whale *Ziphius cavirostris*



Important!

The long dive of the Cuvier makes it the deepest-diving mammal which depth reached is 3.000 m (two hours diving). This species (together with other *Ziphius* species) has suffered many mass strandings in the Canary Islands and in other parts of the world due to the use of antisubmarine noises during naval exercises.



The length and weight of adults can reach up to 650 cm and 2.000 kg respectively. It is widely distributed in the waters which depth reached is more than 1.000 m. Cuvier's has a cosmopolitan distribution in deep, offshore waters from the tropics to the cool temperate seas. The presence in the Canary Islands is evident during the whole year with little population in some of the islands especially in the eastern part of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura.

2,000
Kg



650 Cm





Atlantic spotted dolphin

Stenella frontalis

The length and weight of this adult species vary depending on the geographical area. The maximum length and weight in the Canary Islands is 190 cm and 80 kg respectively. This specie is endemic to temperate- warm and tropical waters of the Atlantic. It is present in the Canary Islands during the whole year.

Important!

Herding population is composed of 200 individuals, and there's evidence of at least two geographical varieties: one coastal variety located in the continental platform and the other oceanic, and surrounding the oceanic islands, as it is the case of the Canary Islands.



80 Kg



190 Cm



Killer whale

Orcinus orca

Males adults are much bigger than females. The males maximum length is 980 cm and maximum weight is 9.000 kg; the females maximum length is 700 which weight is 4.000kg. This cosmopolitan species with neritic-oceanic habits is distributed in oceans all around the world, especially in cold and temperate waters. It is strange the presence of this species in the Canary Islands.

Important!

The type of killer whale seen in the Canary Islands feeds on tuna.



980 Cm



9.000 Kg



Pygmy sperm whale

Kogia breviceps



Important!

Both Pygmy Sperm whale and Dwarf sperm whale show a big similarity with the shark. There is a whitish marking, often described as a "false gill", behind each eye.



The adult length goes from 270 and 340 cm weighing 315 to 408 kg. Strictly oceanic, Pygmy sperm whales are found throughout the tropical, subtropical and temperate waters of the Oceans. It is present in the Canary Islands during the whole year.



340 Cm



Dwarf sperm whale

Kogia sima



Important!

Both type of sperm whales have a tendency to back away from rather than approach boats. Like the pygmy, the dwarf is able to expel 12 litres of a dark reddish substance when frightened or attacked—possibly to put off any predators.



The adult length goes from 210 and 270 cm weighing 135 to 272 kg. Strictly oceanic, Dwarf sperm whales are found throughout the tropical, subtropical and temperate waters of the Oceans; and show more tropical character than the pygmy sperm whale. It is present in the Canary Islands during the whole year.



270 Cm



Regulations

There's a wide-ranging legislation in favour of cetaceans' conservation (Berne Convention in 1979 and The Royal Decree 1727/2007).

Strandings

Important Issue!
Call us to **112** or directly to **626649984** in case of sighting of a whale in the beach or floating calmly.

Conservation and Threats

Cetaceans have an economic interest, besides the ecological, educational and scientific importance in the Canary Islands due to the development of tourism dedicated to the whales and dolphins watching. This kind of tourism, regulated in the Canary Islands by the Decree 178/2000, was the result of the increased tourism in 2008, welcoming a half million visitors and producing a direct income of 19.8 million euros.

Although the cetaceans in the islands are healthy, they're more vulnerable to human activities such as fishing, habitat degradation, pollution, sea traffic and fishing industry; these are the main activities threatening the species survival.

Code of behaviour

During the whole year we can observe the presence of cetaceans in their natural habitat. It is necessary to respect the code of conduct of these animals in order to avoid a negative impact. Any type of boat approaching less than 500 meters the cetaceans must:

- To Slow down speed during navigation; don't ever navigate faster than the animals and avoid sudden maneuvers.
- To navigate as parallel as possible to the cetaceans keeping a reasonable distance.

- To avoid the simultaneous traffic of boats (to avoid more than three) around the same group of cetaceans.
- Do not dumping overboard objects or food, and do not try to feed them.
- Do not touch them, swimming or diving without previous authorization around the animals.
- To avoid sudden noises and high tones near these animals (especially sudden changes of speed and direction).
- To move away at a minimum speed.

List of species in the Canary Islands

Short-beaked common dolphin, *Delphinus delphis* (Linnaeus, 1758).
Common bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus* (Montagu, 1821).
Striped dolphin, *Stenella coeruleoalba* (Meyen, 1833).
Atlantic spotted dolphin, *Stenella frontalis* (G. Cuvier, 1829).
Spinner dolphin, *Stenella longirostris* (Gray, 1828).
Fraser's dolphin, *Lagenodelphis hosei* (Fraser, 1956).
Risso's dolphin, *Grampus griseus* (G. Cuvier, 1812).
Rough-toothed dolphin, *Steno bredanensis* (G. Cuvier en Lesson, 1828).
Short-finned pilot whale, *Globicephala macrorhynchus* (Gray, 1846).
Long-finned pilot whale, *Globicephala melas* (Traill 1809).
Killer whale, *Orcinus orca* (Linnaeus, 1758).
False killer whale, *Pseudorca crassidens* (Owen, 1846).
Pygmy killer whale, *Feresa attenuata* (Gray, 1874).
Harbour porpoise, *Phocoena phocoena* (Linnaeus, 1758).
Pygmy sperm whale, *Kogia breviceps* (Blainville, 1838).

Dwarf sperm whale, *Kogia sima* (Owen, 1866).
Sperm whale, *Physeter macrocephalus* (Linnaeus, 1758).
Cuvier's beaked whale, *Ziphius cavirostris* (G. Cuvier, 1823).
Blainville's beaked whale, *Mesoplodon densirostris* (Blainville, 1817).
Gervais' beaked whale, *Mesoplodon europaeus* (Gervais, 1855).
Sowerby's beaked whale, *Mesoplodon bidens* (Sowerby, 1804).
True's beaked whale, *Mesoplodon mirus*, (True, 1913).
Northern bottlenose whale, *Hyperoodon ampullatus* (Forster, 1770).
Blue whale, Blue whale, *Balaenoptera musculus* (Linnaeus, 1758).
Fin whale, *Balaenoptera physalus* (Linnaeus, 1758).
Sei whale, *Balaenoptera borealis* (Lesson, 1828).
Pygmy Bryde's whale, *Balaenoptera edeni*, (Anderson, 1879).
Common minke whale, *Balaenoptera acutorostrata* (Lacépède, 1804).
Humpback whale, *Megaptera novaeangliae* (Borowski, 1781).
North atlantic right whale, *Balaena glacialis* (Müller, 1776).