**Fun Facts**

- **Fin whales are asymmetrical in colouring.** Their right lower jaw is white but the left side is dark.
- **Fin whales are built for speed and can reach speeds of up to 37 km/hr.**
- **Fin whales have a variety of low frequency vocalizations, with some calls detectable over 100s of kilometres.**
- **Fin whales are known to breed with blue whales, creating hybrids that appear not to be able to produce their own offspring.**

---

**Fin whale (Balaenoptera physalus)**

**Distribution:** Almost worldwide (see map below). For the full list of locations, visit: [https://wwhandbook.iwc.int/en/species/fin-whale](https://wwhandbook.iwc.int/en/species/fin-whale)

**Adult length:** Up to 27m (female)
**Adult weight:** Up to 80,000 kg (female)
**Newborn:** 6-6.5m / 1000-1500kg

**Threats:** ship strikes, entanglement, climate change
**Habitat:** continental shelf, offshore
**Diet:** small schooling fish, krill
**IUCN Conservation status:** Endangered

**Individual fin whales can be recognised the nicks and scars on their dorsal fins and the blaze or saddle on their flanks, through a process called photo-identification.**

(Photos courtesy of P. Olson and SWFSC/NOAA).

---

**Fin whales in the Northern Hemisphere tend to be smaller than those in the Southern Hemisphere, attaining maximum lengths of only 24 m and weights of 40-50,000 kg.**

---