**Pilot whale** (Globicephala sp.)

Distribution: tropical, temperate, and sub-polar regions of the N and S hemispheres (see map below and full list of countries in the detailed species account online at: https://wwhandbook.iwc.int/en/species/pilot-whale. Short-finned and long-finned pilot whales look the same at sea.

**Fun Facts**

- The common name ‘pilot whale’ is drawn from an old theory that schools were steered or piloted by a designated leader.
- Pilot whales eat mostly squid, which they capture through suction. As a result – they have very few teeth!
- Pilot whales live in stable family groups where both male and female calves remain with their maternal group for life.

**Long-finned pilot whale differences:**

- Longer flippers – up to 1/5 of body length with more pronounced bend or ‘elbow’
- Shorter/less pronounced dorsal fin
- Southern Hemisphere long-finned pilot whales often have distinctive white saddle patches behind their dorsal fins

**Threats:** hunting, bycatch, contaminants

**Habitat:** continental shelf, offshore

**Diet:** fish, squid

**IUCN Conservation status:** Least Concern

Short finned pilot whale: Data Deficient
Long finned Pilot whale: Data Deficient

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