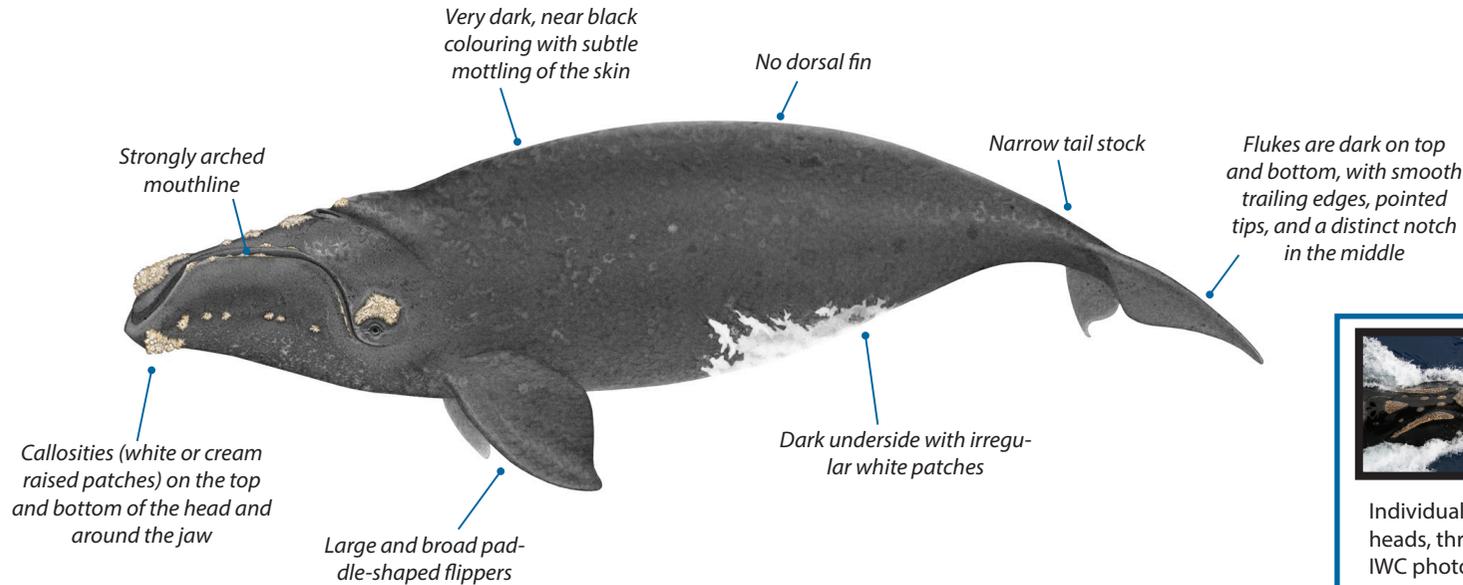




Right whale (*Eubalena* sp.)

Distribution: (see map below and full list of countries in the detailed species account online at: <https://www.handbook.iwc.int/en/species/right-whale>)

Southern right whale
Adult length: 13-16m
Adult weight: up to 90,000kg
Newborn: 4.5-6m /900-1000kg



Threats: ship strikes, entanglement, climate change
Habitat: nearshore, continental shelf
Diet: plankton (copepods)

IUCN Conservation status:
Southern right whale: **Least Concern**
North Atlantic: **Endangered**
North Pacific: **Endangered**



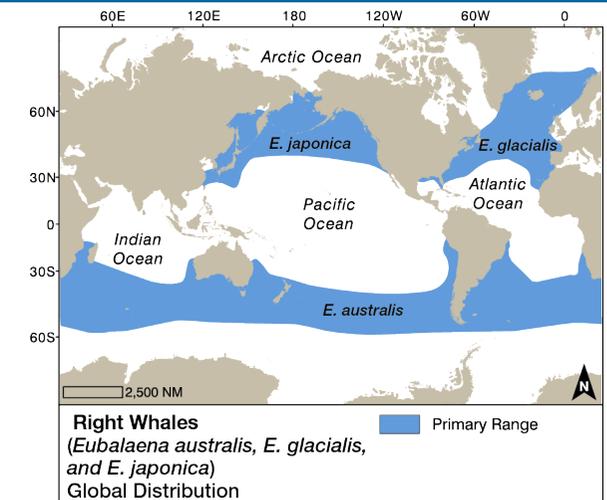
Individual right whales can be recognised by the pattern of callosities on their heads, through a process called photo-identification. (photos courtesy of the IWC photo archives).

Fun Facts

Whalers considered right whales the "right" whale to hunt, because they were found close to shore, swam slowly, and floated when they were dead, making them easy to catch and process.

The callosities on a right whale's head (or 'bonnet') are white or cream in colour due to their infestation by tiny crustaceans called whale lice.

Right whales feed in dense patches of plankton, usually on small crustaceans called copepods, which are the size of a grain of rice, or larger shrimp-like krill. This whale is filter feeding in Argentina: Photo courtesy of Chris Johnson



Right Whales
(*Eubalena australis*, *E. glacialis*, and *E. japonica*)
Global Distribution

XXXXX distribution. Adapted by Nina Lisowski from Würsig, B., Thewissen, J.G.M. and Kovacs, K.M. Editors (2018) "Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals", 3rd ed. Academic Press, Elsevier: San Diego, CA. Copyright Elsevier: <http://www.elsevier.com>

There are three recognized species of right whales that occur in different parts of the world, as illustrated below. These are Southern right whales (*Eubalena australis*), North Atlantic Right whales (*Eubalena glacialis*) and North Pacific Right Whales (*Eubalena japonica*). While they differ genetically, and in conservation status, they do not differ significantly in their external appearance.



Right whale surfacing and diving profile. Notice the low bushy blow – often with two visible columns.

