Cetaceans

Mysticeti: bearded

• Baleen
• 2 blowholes
• Largest of the whales: 100 ft, 160 tons!

Baleen

Feeding

• Gulp feeding
• Bubble nets: Humpbacks

Straining/Skimming

Balaenidae: right whales

• No ventral grooves
• No dorsal fin
• Polar waters
• Moderate migrations
• Heavily exploited

Blue Whale: Krill

Bowhead: copepods (fine baleen)

Bowhead
Right whales
Pygmy right whale
**Balaenopteridae**
- Numerous ventral grooves
- Fast swimmers
- Small dorsal fin, far back on the back
- Extensive migrations

**Balaenopteridae: rorquals**
- Blue whales

**Balaenopteridae: Humpbacks**

**Eschrichtiidae: gray whales**
- Few ventral grooves
- Dorsal knuckles
- Bottom feeders
- Extensive migrations

**Odontoceti**
- Teeth
- Smaller (Sperm whale large)
- Highly social
- Sophisticated sonar
- Deep divers
- One blowhole
- Predators
- Short or no migrations
- Temperate/tropical

**Odontocetes: the human factor**
Physeteridae: sperm whales

- Deep divers
- Large spermaceti organ in head
- Matriarchial (female) societies
- Largest of the odontocetes
- Temperate waters

Monodontidae: Narwhals and white whales (beluga)

- Flexible head
- Cold arctic waters

Ziphiidae: beaked whales

- Least known group
- Very deep divers
- In some only the males have teeth
- Some known only from strandings

Dolphins and porpoises

**Dolphins:**
- Conical teeth
- Falcate dorsal fin
- Usually have a more prominent ‘beak’

**Porpoises:**
- Spade shaped teeth
- Triangular dorsal fin
- Blunt head
- Less social

Risso’s dolphin

Delphinidae: dolphins

- Highly social
- Sophisticated sonar
- Includes killer whales and dolphins

Delphinidae
Phocoenidae: Porpoises

• Less social than delphinidae
• Travel in smaller groups
• Tend to be small in size

Platanistidae: river dolphins

• Highly endangered
• Poor eyesight
• Long rostrum (beak)
• Good sonar
• Small groups