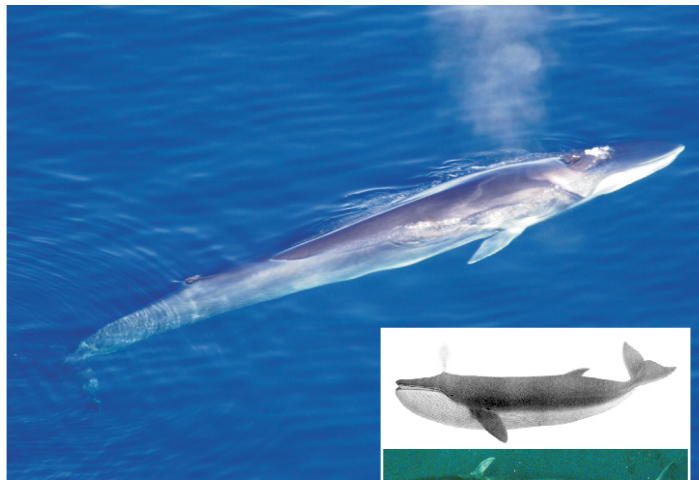


# Fin Whale

*Balaenoptera physalus*



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## Species Description

The Fin Whale is a long, streamlined dark whale that can reach lengths up to 24 meters. It is brownish-grey on the top and sides, with a lighter belly. It has a narrow, pointed head with a ridge down the middle. The left side of its jaw is dark and the right side is light. The lower jaw is long and extends slightly beyond the rostrum. Its baleen plates are white and dark blue-grey. It has a pointed dorsal fin and rarely observed notched tail flukes.

**Key ID Features:** \* narrow, pointed head \* dark (left) and light (right) jaw

## STATUS



Special Concern COSEWIC

Special Concern SARA

The Fin Whale is found in all major oceans. They are observed year-round in the waters off Nova Scotia, but are more commonly observed in the summer, with concentrations in the Bay of Fundy and along the Scotian Shelf

Population Range

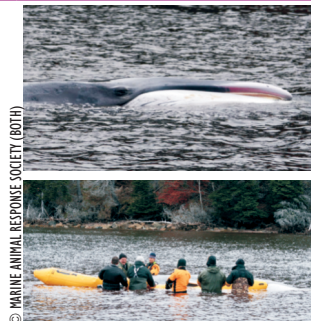


## Interesting Points

- Second largest animal on earth; can weigh as much as ten elephants.
- May live at least 80-90 years.
- The "greyhound of the sea" because of its streamlined body and fast speed.

## Threats

- Impacts of historical whaling.
- Entanglement in fishing gear.
- Vessel collisions.
- Reduced prey availability (commercial fisheries, climate change).
- Acoustic disturbance from shipping and industrial activities.
- Chemical pollution.
- Whaling (in regions where it persists).



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Coming to the aid of a stranded Fin Whale off Cape Breton.

Learn how you can help on page 136.

## Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

**Contact:** DFO Species at Risk 1-866-891-0771 or [xmarsara@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:xmarsara@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**Info:** [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes), [www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca)

**Sighting Reports:** [xmarwhalesightings@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:xmarwhalesightings@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**Stewardship:** Report distressed or dead marine mammals to MARS: 1-866-567-6277