

# Sei whale *Balaenoptera borealis*



Seihvalur Tikaagulliusaarnaq Sandreyður Seihval Sáidefális Sejhval



Sei whale and calf © Christin Khan / NOAA, NEFSC

Although the sei whale is the third longest whale, there is surprisingly little known about the **species**, neither from old whaling records nor modern scientific accounts. This is because the sei whale is easily mistaken for a fin whale, and because they are mainly found offshore. Sei whales use a range of different feeding techniques, making them flexible in their **prey** choice. They are believed to be the fastest of the large whales, reaching speeds up to 50 km/h!

**Adult length** 15 metres  
**Adult weight** 20,000 kg  
**Maximum age** 70 years  
**Eats** krill, crustaceans, fish  
**Group size** 1-5

**Predators** killer whales  
**IUCN status** least concern (2022)  
**NA abundance** >10,000  
The sei whale is **protected globally**

## Main threats:



Climate change



Ship strike



Entanglement



Noise disturbance

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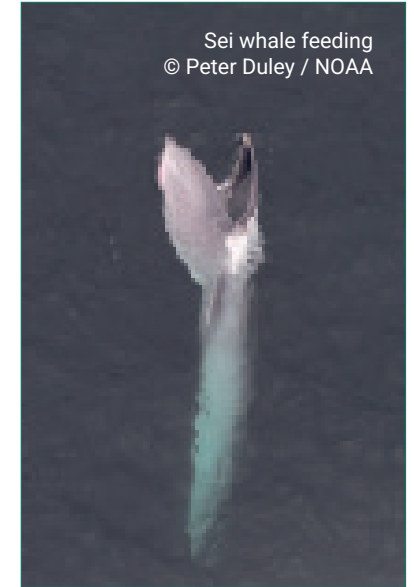


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The blue whale is the largest animal ever, even bigger than the largest dinosaurs. Its **spout** can reach up to 10-12 m high, and its tongue alone weighs as much as a whole elephant, about 2,700 kg. Their hearts are the size of a small car, with arteries big enough for a human baby to crawl through.

There are five subspecies of blue whales, with the ones in Antarctica being the largest, growing up to 33.5 m long. As for most **baleen whales**, female blue whales are usually larger than males.

They need to eat a lot, up to 3,600 kg of **krill** every day. Baby blue whales are born huge, already 6-7 m long and weighing 2,500 kg. They drink 200 l of milk and gain over 100 kg in weight each day.



Sei whale feeding  
© Peter Duley / NOAA



A fluke print © Lassi Kurkijärvi

Sei whales dive a bit differently than most other whales. Instead of arching their backs or lifting their tails out of the water before diving, they simply sink below the surface. But just as other whales, when they dive, they often leave behind “**fluke prints**”. These are smooth circles on the water’s surface made by the movement of their tails underwater. These prints are like gentle ripples that show where the whale has been.



**Research:** Sei whales are often confused with fin whales. What are some of the main differences? Think of the way they look, where you can find them, and how they behave.