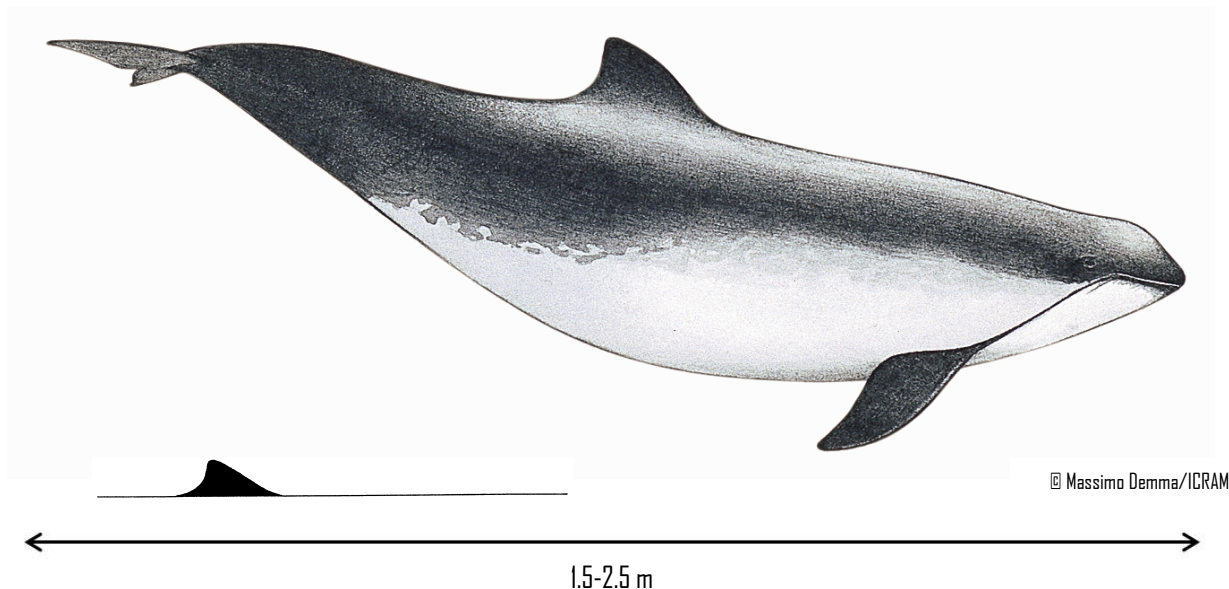


Class: <b>Mammalia</b> Order: <b>Cetacea</b> Sub-order: <b>Odontoceti</b> Family: <b>Phocoenidae</b> Genus: <b><i>Phocoena</i></b>	IUCN global conservation status: <b>Minor preoccupation</b> ACCOBAMS/IUCN global conservation status: <b>Threatened</b> (Mediterranean Sea) and <b>Threatened</b> (Black Sea)	
	Mediterranean: <b>Regular to rare</b>	Black Sea: <b>Regular</b>
<b>HARBOUR PORPOISE</b> <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)		

English: Harbour porpoise



**Name:** ♦ Scientific: From Greek *phōkaina* = porpoise

#### DESCRIPTION

<b>Size:</b>	Male:	1.4-2.4 m - 55-65 kg, max. 90 kg (30 kg in the Black Sea)
	Female:	1.5-2.8 m - 55-65 kg, max. 90 kg (30 kg in the Black Sea)
	Newborn:	70-80 cm - 4-5 kg.
	Size and weight vary considerably among populations; smallest in the Black Sea.	
<b>Head:</b>	Small, no beak. Corners of mouth point up towards the eye. 19-28 spatulate teeth on either side of jaws.	
<b>Body:</b>	Robust. Colouration: little contrast; the dorsal side is brownish-black, very dark grey (northern populations) or grey (Atlantic African coasts) and the flanks and belly are light-coloured with a spotted area in between. A more or less evident black line extends from the corner of mouth to the insertion of flipper.	
<b>Dorsal fin:</b>	Typical, triangular, placed at mid-body.	
<b>Pectoral fins:</b>	Small, wide and sickle-shaped, slightly rounded, dark in colour. Occasionally small tubercles on the leading edge.	
<b>Tail:</b>	Marked median notch.	
<b>Blow:</b>	Inconspicuous but clearly audible.	

## DISTRIBUTION

Frequents the cold temperate and sub-polar waters of the Northern Hemisphere, notably in the North Sea and around Denmark. The sub-species, *P. p. relicta* (Rosel et al. 1995, 2003, Fontaine et al. 2007, 2010, Viaud-Martinez et al. 2007), is endemic in the Black Sea and neighbouring waters.

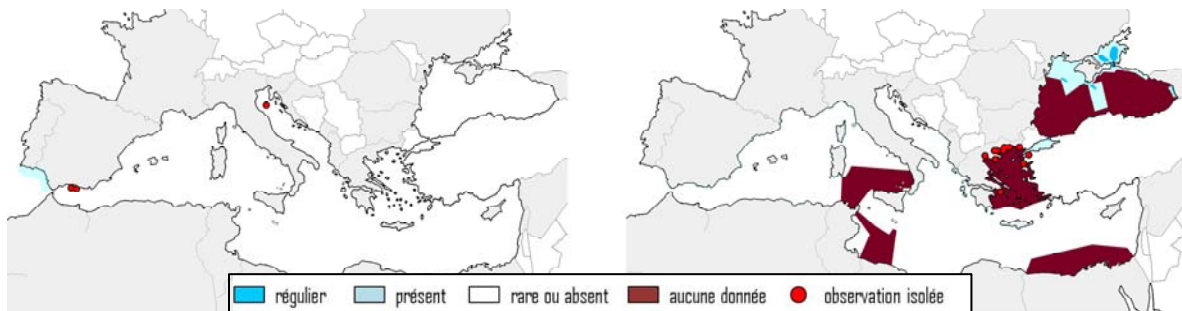
## MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS

### Subspecies of the North Atlantic

Regular species, although rare in the adjacent Atlantic area. Individuals are known to sometimes go astray in the Mediterranean. Most of the available evidence showing the absence of the species in the Mediterranean.

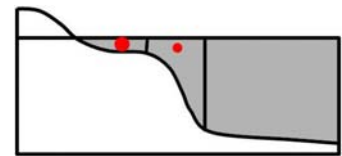
### Subspecies of the Black Sea

Subspecies present in the North Sea (*P. p. ssp relicta* - Abel, 1905). The occurrence in the Dardanelles and the Aegean Sea in Turkey (Saroz Bay) was confirmed by two stranded porpoises (Tonay et al. 2009).



## HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

They are usually found in the waters of the continental shelf, although sometimes they move into deeper offshore waters (Hammond et al. 2008).



## BEHAVIOUR

Discrete, often observed alone or in small groups of 2 to 3 individuals, but occasionally more. Nevertheless, it is relatively social. Apparently, mature females form separate groups.

Inconspicuous at the surface, it rarely jumps and is rather shy, trying to stay clear of vessels; thus, observation of this species is difficult.

**Longevity:** 15-20 years.

**Swimming speed:** 2-3 kts (3-5 km/h), up to 12 kts (20 km/h) during bursts of speed.

**Dives:** 2-3 min, up to 12 min, down to depths greater than 150 m.

## REPRODUCTION

**Sexual maturity:** Depending on populations: 3-4 years in the North-Western Atlantic, 5-6 years in the North-Eastern Atlantic.

**Breeding season:** Summer.

**Gestation:** 10-11 months.

**Nursing:** 8 months.

## FOOD

Demersal and pelagic fish and cephalopods.

## THREATS

Accidental captures in fishing gear, overexploitation of marine resources, pollution, acoustic disturbances, ice entrapment, direct hunting (Greenland).