

13 December 2011

List of Marine Mammal Species and Subspecies

The Ad-Hoc [Committee on Taxonomy](#), chaired by Bill Perrin, has produced the first official SMM list of marine mammal species and subspecies. Consensus on some issues was not possible; this is reflected in the footnotes.

This list is revisited and possibly revised every few months reflecting the continuing flux in marine mammal taxonomy. This version was updated on 13 December 2011.

This list can be cited as follows: "Committee on Taxonomy. 2011. List of marine mammal species and subspecies. Society for Marine Mammalogy, www.marinemammalscience.org, consulted on [date]."

This list includes living and recently extinct species and subspecies. It is meant to reflect prevailing usage and recent revisions published in the peer-reviewed literature. Author(s) and year of description of the species follow the Latin species name; when these are enclosed in parentheses, the species was originally described in a different genus. Classification and scientific names follow Rice (1998), with adjustments reflecting more recent literature. Common names are arbitrary and change with time and place; one or two currently frequently used in English and/or a range language are given here. Additional English common names and common names in French, Spanish, Russian and other languages are available at www.marinespecies.org/cetacea/.

Based on molecular and morphological data, the cetaceans genetically and morphologically fall firmly within the artiodactyl clade (Geisler and Uhen, 2005), and therefore we include them in the order Cetartiodactyla, with Cetacea, Mysticeti and Odontoceti as unranked taxa (recognizing that the classification within Cetartiodactyla remains partially unresolved -- e.g., see Spaulding *et al.*, 2009, Price *et al.*, 2005; Agnarsson and May-Collado, 2008)¹. Below the rank of order, we list only families, species and subspecies, omitting superfamilies, subfamilies and taxa of other ranks.

For pinnipeds we follow Berta and Churchill (in press). To avoid issues of paraphyly, these authors proposed that based on data from genetics and morphology the genus *Arctocephalus* be limited to *Arctocephalus pusillus*, the type species of the genus *Arctocephalus* and transferred the remaining 'Arctocephalus' species (i.e. *A. australis*, *A. galapagoensis*, *A. gazelle*, *A. philippii* and *A. tropicalis*) to *Arctophoca* Peters, 1866. Although as many as four subspecies of *Arctophoca australis* may be valid pending study of larger samples, only three subspecies are recognized at present: *A. a. australis*, *A. a. forsteri* and *A. a. gracilis*. Two subspecies of *Arctophoca philippii* are valid: *A. p. philippii* and *A. p. townsendi*, although small sample sizes and a small number of genes sampled are concerns. Two subspecies of *Eumetopias* are supported largely on genetic data, which is also the case for recognition of California, Japanese and Galapagos sea lions as separate species. Brunner (2004) advised use of *Otaria byronia* (Blainville, 1820) over *O. flavescens* (Shaw, 1800). Lindqvist *et al.* (2009) concluded that a purported third subspecies of walrus *Odobenus rosmarus laptevi* is not valid. Recent genetic analyses indicate that *Phoca vitulina concolor* is paraphyletic and this along with lack of morphological differentiation suggests that the western Atlantic subspecies is not valid; *P. v. vitulina* is considered here to apply to all Atlantic harbor seals. Within the North Pacific, until the subspecies limits of various populations are assessed only a single subspecies is recognized, *Phoca vitulina richardii*. Placement of the ringed seal, Caspian seal and Baikal seal has alternated between the genera *Phoca* and *Pusa*. We accept Rice's (1998) use of *Pusa* as the correct classification." The use of *Lontra* rather than *Lutra* for the marine otter follows Larivière (1998) in recognizing the otters of North and South America as a monophyletic taxon distinct from the otters of Eurasia.

In the mysticete cetaceans, recent genetic evidence strongly supports the recognition of three separate phylogenetic species of right whales (Rosenbaum *et al.*, 2000; Gaines *et al.*, 2005). In addition, the genus *Eubalaena* (rather than *Balaena* as in Rice, 1998) is retained for the right whales as recommended by the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC, 2002)². All Bryde's whales are provisionally considered to comprise a single species, *Balaenoptera edeni*, following the usage of the IWC

(IWC 2002, 2008) and Kato and Perrin (2009). Some workers recognize *B. edeni* as including only the small-form coastal Bryde's whales of the western Pacific and Indian Oceans, using *B. brydei* for the globally distributed larger more oceanic form (Sasaki *et al.*, 2006). Kato and Perrin (2009) consider these more likely to be distinct at the subspecific level, and they are included here as such. *Balaenoptera omurai* is a newly described species (Wada *et al.*, 2003). It was previously confounded with the Bryde's whale and has been confirmed as having a separate and ancient lineage (Sasaki *et al.* 2006). Clarke (2004) proposed recognition of a pygmy form of the fin whale as a subspecies, based on distribution, size and coloration. He resurrected the synonym *patachonica* Burmeister, 1865 to apply to the subspecies: *B. physalus patachonica*.

In the odontocetes, *Mesoplodon traversii* (spade-toothed whale) has been recognized as the senior synonym for *M. bahamondi* (Bahamonde's beaked whale) (van Helden *et al.*, 2002). *Mesoplodon perrini* is a newly described species (Dalebout *et al.*, 2002). Robineau *et al.* (2007) described the subspecies *Cephalorhynchus commersonii kerguelenensis*, and A. Baker *et al.* described *C. hectori maui*. We follow the IWC in listing only two species of *Sousa*; the taxonomy of this group is in flux (Parra and Ross, 2009). The tucuxi has been split into the freshwater *Sotalia fluviatilis* (retaining the common name tucuxi) and the marine Guiana dolphin *S. guianensis* (Caballero *et al.* 2007). Recognition of the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin is now well-supported by genetic data (Viaud-Martinez *et al.*, 2008), as is the Black Sea common dolphin (Natoli *et al.*, 2008). *Delphinus tropicalis* is now considered a subspecies of *D. capensis* (Jefferson and Van Waerebeek, 2002). *Lagenorhynchus* is widely considered an unnatural (polyphyletic) taxon containing morphologically convergent species (Cipriano 1997, LeDuc *et al.* 1999, McGowen 2011), and application of the genera *Sagmatias* (for *L. obscurus*, *obliquidens*, *australis* and *cruciger*) and *Leucopleurus* (for *L. acutus*) have been suggested as appropriate and used by some workers. However, there is continuing disagreement about whether *australis* and *cruciger* should be included in *Cephalorhynchus* (which would necessitate a new genus for *obliquidens* and *obscurus*, as *australis* is the type species for the genus *Sagmatias*) and about whether *albirostris* and *acutus* are sister species (which would obviate the need for *Leucopleurus*). We therefore provisionally retain all the species in *Lagenorhynchus*. Harlin-Cognato (2010) recognized *L. o. posidonia* (Peru/Chile). She also recognized *L. o. superciliosis* (Lesson and Garnot, 1826) for the New Zealand subspecies, but the species identity of the figure in Lesson and Garnot is in question, and we retain use of "un-named New Zealand subspecies." Perrin *et al.* (1999) established the subspecies *Stenella longirostris roseiventris*. The Irrawaddy dolphin was recently split into *O. brevirostris* and *O. heinsohni*, the Australian snubfin dolphin (Beasley *et al.*, 2005). Krahn *et al.* (2004) recognized two un-named species of killer whales, the resident and transient forms. Wang *et al.* (2008) and Jefferson and Wang (2011) established *Neophocaena asiaorientalis* as a full species, with two subspecies. Viaud-Martinez *et al.* (2007) concluded based on morphological and genetic evidence that *Phocoena phocoena relicta* is a valid subspecies.

In the Sirenia, subspecies of the dugong are not currently recognized (Domning, 1996). However, no in-depth study has been undertaken to address the issue of subspecies.

For review of species concepts, see Reeves *et al.* (2004), Orr and Coyne (2004), de Queiroz (2007) and Perrin (2009). Perrin *et al.* (2009) reviewed the cetacean subspecies, but that review has not yet appeared in the peer-reviewed literature and is therefore not considered here; the subspecies (including for the Carnivora and Sirenia) are as recognized by Rice (1998), with the above-noted changes.

Corrections and comments should be directed to the Ad Hoc Committee on Taxonomy (william.perrin@noaa.gov). Divergent opinions by members of the Committee on particular taxonomic questions are given in the footnotes.

Order Carnivora

Family Otariidae (eared seals and sea lions; 14 species, of which 1 extinct)

Arctocephalus pusillus (Schreber, 1775) Cape fur seal
A. p. pusillus (Schreber, 1775). Cape fur seal
A. p. doriferus Wood Jones, 1925. Australian fur seal
Arctophoca gazella Peters, 1875. Antarctic fur seal
Arctophoca tropicalis (Gray, 1872). Subantarctic fur seal
Arctophoca australis (Zimmerman, 1783)
A. a. australis (Zimmermann, 1783). Falkland Islands fur seal
A. a. forsteri (Lesson, 1828). New Zealand fur seal
A. a. gracilis (Nehring, 1887). South American fur seal
Arctophoca galapagoensis Heller, 1904. Galapagos fur seal
Arctophoca philippii (Peters, 1866)
A. p. philippi Peters, 1866. Juan Fernandez fur seal
A. p. townsendi (Merriam, 1897). Guadalupe fur seal
Callorhinus ursinus (Linnaeus, 1758). Northern fur seal
Zalophus japonicus (Peters, 1866). Japanese sea lion (extinct)
Zalophus californianus (Lesson, 1828). California sea lion
Zalophus wollebaeki Sivertsen, 1953. Galapagos sea lion
Eumetopias jubatus (Schreber, 1776). Steller sea lion, northern sea lion
E. j. jubatus (Schreber, 1776). Western Steller sea lion
E. j. monteriensis (Gray, 1859). Loughlin's northern sea lion
Neophoca cinerea (Peron, 1816). Australian sea lion
Phocarctos hookeri (Gray, 1844). New Zealand sea lion
Otaria byronia (Blainville, 1820). South American sea lion

Family Odobenidae

Odobenus rosmarus (Linnaeus, 1758). Walrus

O. r. rosmarus (Linnaeus, 1758). Atlantic walrus

O. r. divergens (Illiger, 1815). Pacific walrus

Family Phocidae (earless seals; 19 species, of which 1 extinct)

Erignathus barbatus (Erxleben, 1777). Bearded seal

E. b. barbatus (Erxleben, 1777). Atlantic bearded seal

E. b. nauticus (Pallas, 1881). Pacific bearded seal

Phoca vitulina (Linnaeus, 1758). Harbor seal, common seal

P. v. vitulina (Linnaeus, 1758). Atlantic harbor seal

P. v. richardii (Gray, 1864). Pacific harbor seal

Phoca largha (Pallas, 1811). Spotted seal, largha seal

Pusa hispida (Schreber, 1775). Ringed seal

P. h. hispida (Schreber, 1775). Arctic Ringed seal

P. h. botnica (Gmelin, 1788). Baltic ringed seal

P. h. ochotensis (Nordquist, 1889) Okhotsk ringed seal

P. h. ladogensis (Nordquist, 1889). Lake Ladoga seal

P. h. saimensis (Nordquist, 1889). Saima seal

Pusa caspica (Gmelin, 1788). Caspian seal

Pusa sibirica (Gmelin, 1788). Baikal seal

Halichoerus grypus (Fabricius, 1791). Gray seal

H. g. grypus (Fabricius, 1791). Western Atlantic gray seal

H. g. macrorhynchus Hornschuh and Schilling, 1851. Eastern Atlantic gray seal

Histriophoca fasciata (Zimmerman, 1783). Ribbon seal

Pagophilus groenlandicus (Erxleben, 1777). Harp seal

Cystophora cristata (Erxleben, 1777). Hooded seal

Monachus tropicalis (Gray, 1850). Caribbean monk seal (extinct)

Monachus monachus (Hermann, 1779). Mediterranean monk seal

Monachus schauinslandi Matschie, 1905. Hawaiian monk seal

Mirounga leonina (Linnaeus, 1758). Southern elephant seal

Mirounga angustirostris (Gill, 1866). Northern elephant seal

Leptonychotes weddellii (Lesson, 1826). Weddell seal

Ommatophoca rossii Gray, 1844. Ross seal

Lobodon carcinophaga (Hombron and Jacquinot, 1842). Crabeater seal

Hydrurga leptonyx (Blainville, 1820). Leopard seal

Family Ursidae

Ursus maritimus Phipps, 1774. Polar bear

U. m. maritimus Phipps, 1774. Atlantic polar bear

U. m. marinus Pallas, 1776. Pacific polar bear

Family Mustelidae

Enhydra lutris (Linnaeus, 1758). Sea otter

E. l. lutris (Linnaeus, 1758). Western sea otter

E. l. kenyon Wilson, 1991. Eastern sea otter

E. l. nereis (Merriam, 1904). Southern sea otter

Lontra felina (Molina, 1782). Marine otter

Neovision macrodon (Prentis, 1903). Sea mink (extinct)

Order Cetartiodactyla (artiodactyls and cetaceans)

CETACEA (cetaceans; 87 species, of which 1 extinct)

MYSTICETI (baleen whales, 14 species)

Family Balaenidae (right whales, 4 species)

Eubalaena glacialis (Müller, 1776). North Atlantic right whale

Eubalaena japonica (Lacépède, 1818). North Pacific right whale

Eubalaena australis (Desmoulins, 1822). Southern right whale

Balaena mysticetus Linnaeus, 1758. Bowhead whale, Greenland whale

Family Neobalaenidae

Caperea marginata (Gray, 1846). Pygmy right whale

Family Eschrichtiidae

Eschrichtius robustus (Lilljeborg, 1861). Gray whale

Family Balaenopteridae (rorquals, 8 species)

Megaptera novaeangliae (Borowski, 1781). Humpback whale

Balaenoptera acutorostrata Lacépède, 1804. Common minke whale

B. a. acutorostrata Lacépède, 1804. North Atlantic minke whale

B. a. scammoni Deméré, 1986. North Pacific minke whale

B. a. un-named subsp. Dwarf minke whale

Balaenoptera bonaerensis Burmeister, 1867. Antarctic minke whale

Balaenoptera edeni Anderson, 1879. Bryde's whale

B. e. edeni Anderson, 1879

B. e. brydei Olsen, 1913

Balaenoptera omurai Wada, Oishi and Yamada, 2003. Omura's whale

Balaenoptera borealis Lesson, 1828. Sei whale

B. b. borealis Lesson, 1828. Northern sei whale

B. b. schlegellii (Flower, 1865). Southern sei whale

Balaenoptera physalus (Linnaeus, 1758). Fin whale

B. p. physalus (Linnaeus, 1758). Northern fin whale

B. p. quoyi Fischer, 1829). Southern fin whale

B. p. patachonica Burmeister, 1865. Pygmy fin whale

Balaenoptera musculus (Linnaeus, 1758). Blue whale

B. m. musculus (Linnaeus, 1758). Northern blue whale

B. m. intermedia Burmeister, 1871. Southern blue whale

B. m. indica Blyth, 1859. Indian Ocean blue whale

B. m. brevicauda Ichihara, 1966. Pygmy blue whale

ODONTOCETI (toothed whales, dolphins and porpoises; 73 species, of which 1 extinct)

Family Physeteridae

Physeter macrocephalus Linnaeus, 1758. Sperm whale, cachalot

Family Kogiidae

Kogia breviceps (Blainville, 1838). Pygmy sperm whale

Kogia sima (Owen, 1866). Dwarf sperm whale

Family Ziphiidae (beaked whales, 21 species)

Ziphius cavirostris G. Cuvier, 1823. Cuvier's beaked whale, goose-beaked whale

Berardius arnuxii Duvernoy, 1851. Arnoux' beaked whale

Berardius bairdii Stejneger, 1883. Baird's beaked whale

Tasmacetus shepherdi Oliver, 1937. Shepherd's beaked whale, Tasman beaked whale

Indopacetus pacificus (Longman, 1926). Longman's beaked whale, tropical bottlenose whale,

Hyperoodon ampullatus (Forster, 1770). Northern bottlenose whale

Hyperoodon planifrons Flower, 1882. Southern bottlenose whale

Mesoplodon hectori (Gray, 1871). Hector's beaked whale

Mesoplodon mirus True, 1913. True's beaked whale

Mesoplodon europaeus (Gervais, 1855). Gervais' beaked whale

Mesoplodon bidens (Sowerby, 1804). Sowerby's beaked whale

Mesoplodon grayi von Haast, 1876. Gray's beaked whale

Mesoplodon perrini Dalebout, Mead, Baker, Baker and van Helden, 2002. Perrin's beaked whale

Mesoplodon peruvianus Reyes, Mead and Van Waerebeek, 1991. Pygmy beaked whale

Mesoplodon bowdoini Andrews, 1908. Andrew's beaked whale

Mesoplodon traversii (Gray, 1874). Spade-toothed whale

Mesoplodon carlhubbsi Moore, 1963. Hubbs' beaked whale

Mesoplodon ginkgodens Nishiwaki and Kamiya, 1958. Ginkgo-toothed beaked whale

Mesoplodon stejnegeri True, 1885. Stejneger's beaked whale

Mesoplodon layardii (Gray, 1865). Strap-toothed beaked whale

Mesoplodon densirostris (Blainville, 1817. Blainville's beaked whale

Family Platanistidae

Platanista gangetica (Lebeck, 1801). South Asian river dolphin, Indian River dolphin

P. g. gangetica (Lebeck, 1801). Susu, Ganges river dolphin

P. g. minor Owen, 1853. Bhulan, Indus river dolphin

Family Iniidae

Inia geoffrensis (Blainville, 1817). Amazon river dolphin

I. g. geoffrensis(Blainville, 1817). Boto

I. g. humboldtiana Pilleri and Gühr, 1977. Orinoco bufeo

I. g. boliviensis d'Orbigny, 1834. Bolivian bufeo

Family Lipotidae

Lipotes vexillifer (Miller, 1918). Baiji, Yangtze river dolphin - extinct

Family Pontoporiidae

Pontoporia blainvillei (Gervais and d'Orbigny, 1821). Franciscana, La Plata dolphin

Family Monodontidae

Monodon monoceros Linnaeus, 1758. Narwhal

Delphinapterus leucas (Pallas, 1776). Beluga, white whale

Family Delphinidae (36 species)

Cephalorhynchus commersonii (Lacépède, 1804). Commerson's dolphin

C. c. commersonii (Lacépède, 1804). Commerson's dolphin

C. c. kerguelensis Robineau, Goodall, Pichler and C. S. Baker, 2007. Kerguelen Islands Commerson's dolphin

Cephalorhynchus eutropia (Gray, 1846). Chilean dolphin

Cephalorhynchus heavisidii (Gray, 1828). Heaviside's dolphin, Haviside's dolphin

Cephalorhynchus hectori (Van Beneden, 1881). Hector's dolphin

C. h. hectori (Van Beneden, 1881). Hector's dolphin

C. h. maui A. Baker, Smith and Pichler, 2002. Maui's dolphin

Steno bredanensis (G. Cuvier in Lesson, 1828). Rough-toothed dolphin

Sousa teuszii (Kükenthal, 1892). Atlantic humpback dolphin

Sousa chinensis (Osbeck, 1765). Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin

Sotalia fluviatilis (Gervais and Deville, 1853). Tucuxi, marine tucuxi

Sotalia guianensis (Van Bénédén, 1864). Guiana dolphin, costero

Tursiops truncatus (Montagu, 1821). Common bottlenose dolphin

T. t. truncatus (Montagu, 1821). Common bottlenose dolphin

T. t. ponticus Barabash-Nikiforov, 1940. Black Sea bottlenose dolphin

Tursiops aduncus (Ehrenberg, 1833). Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin

Stenella attenuata (Gray, 1846). Pantropical spotted dolphin

S. a. attenuata (Gray, 1846). Offshore pantropical spotted dolphin

S. a. graffmani (Lönnerberg, 1934). Coastal pantropical spotted dolphin

Stenella frontalis (G. Cuvier, 1829). Atlantic spotted dolphin

Stenella longirostris (Gray, 1828). Spinner dolphin

S. l. longirostris (Gray, 1828). Gray's spinner dolphin

S. l. orientalis Perrin, 1990. Eastern spinner dolphin

S. l. centroamericana Perrin, 1990. Central American spinner dolphin

S. l. roseiventris (Wagner, 1846). Dwarf spinner dolphin

Stenella clymene (Gray, 1850). Clymene dolphin

Stenella coeruleoalba (Meyen, 1833). Striped dolphin

Delphinus delphis Linnaeus, 1758. Short-beaked common dolphin, saddleback dolphin

D. d. delphis Linnaeus, 1758. Short-beaked common dolphin

D. d. ponticus Barabash, 1935. Black Sea common dolphin

Delphinus capensis Gray, 1828. Long-beaked common dolphin

D. c. capensis Gray, 1828. Long-beaked common dolphin

D. c. tropicalis van Bree, 1971. Indo-Pacific common dolphin

Lagenodelphis hosei Fraser, 1956. Fraser's dolphin

Lagenorhynchus albirostris (Gray, 1846). White-beaked dolphin

Lagenorhynchus acutus (Gray, 1828). Atlantic white-sided dolphin

Lagenorhynchus obliquidens Gill, 1865. Pacific white-sided dolphin

Lagenorhynchus obscurus (Gray, 1828). Dusky dolphin

L. o. obscurus (Gray, 1828). African dusky dolphin

L. o. fitzroyi (Waterhouse, 1838). South American dusky dolphin

L. o. posidonia (Philippi, 1893). Peruvian/Chilean dusky dolphin

L. o. un-named subsp. New Zealand dusky dolphin

Lagenorhynchus australis (Peale, 1848). Peale's dolphin

Lagenorhynchus cruciger (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824). Hourglass dolphin

Lissodelphis borealis Peale, 1848. Northern right-whale dolphin

Lissodelphis peronii (Lacépède, 1804). Southern right-whale dolphin

Grampus griseus (G. Cuvier, 1812). Risso's dolphin, gray grampus

Peponocephala electra (Gray, 1846). Melon-headed whale, Electra dolphin

Feresa attenuata Gray, 1874. Pygmy killer whale

Pseudorca crassidens (Owen, 1846). False killer whale

Orcinus orca (Linnaeus, 1758). Killer whale, orca

O. o. un-named subsp. Resident killer whale

O. o. un-named subsp. Transient killer whale

Globicephala melas (Traill, 1809). Long-finned pilot whale

G. m. melas (Traill, 1809). North Atlantic long-finned pilot whale

G. m. edwardii (A. Smith, 1834). Southern long-finned pilot whale

G. m. un-named subsp. North Pacific long-finned pilot whale

Globicephala macrorhynchus Gray, 1846. Short-finned pilot whale

Orcaella brevirostris (Owen in Gray, 1866). Irrawaddy dolphin, pesut

Orcaella heinsohni Beasley, Robertson and Arnold, 2005. Australian snubfin dolphin

Family Phocoenidae (porpoises, 7 species)

Neophocaena phocaenoides (G. Cuvier, 1829). Indo-Pacific finless porpoise

Neophocaena asiaorientalis Pilleri and Gühr, 1972. Narrow-ridged finless porpoise

N. a. asiaorientalis Pilleri and Gühr, 1972. Yangtze finless porpoise

N. a. sunameri Pilleri and Gühr, 1975. East Asian finless porpoise, sunameri

Phocoena phocoena (Linnaeus, 1758). Harbor porpoise, common porpoise

P. p. phocoena (Linnaeus, 1758). Atlantic harbor porpoise

P. p. vomerina (Gill, 1865). Eastern Pacific harbor porpoise

*P. p. relict*a Abel, 1905. Black Sea harbor porpoise

P. p. un-named subsp. Western Pacific harbor porpoise

Phocoena sinus Norris and McFarland, 1958. Vaquita, Gulf of California harbor porpoise

Phocoena spinipinnis Burmeister, 1865. Burmeister's porpoise

Phocoena dioptrica Lahille, 1912. Spectacled porpoise

Phocoenoides dalli (True, 1885). Dall's porpoise, Dall porpoise

P. d. dalli (True, 1885). *Dalli*-type Dall's porpoise

P. d. truei Andrews, 1911. *Truei*-type Dall's porpoise

ORDER SIRENIA (sirenians, 5 species – 1 extinct)

Family Trichechidae

Trichechus manatus Linnaeus, 1758. West Indian manatee

T. m. manatus Linnaeus, 1758. Antillean manatee

T. m. latirostris (Harlan, 1824). Florida manatee

Trichechus senegalensis Link, 1795. West African manatee

Trichechus inunguis (Natterer, 1883). Amazonian manatee

Family Dugongidae

Dugong dugon (Müller, 1776). Dugong

Hydrodamalis gigas (Zimmerman, 1780). Steller's sea cow - extinct

Footnotes

¹Use of Order Cetartiodactyla is favored by most evolutionary mammalogists working with molecular data. Some others, including many marine mammalogists and paleontologists, favor retention of Order Cetacea in the interest of taxonomic stability.

²(from D. Rice) Baker *et al.* (2003) hold that there is no evidence that would support the classification of

the right whales as more than a single biological species. [The three species are here recognized as phylogenetic species.]

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