

# List of Marine Mammal Species and Subspecies

## Introduction

The [Committee on Taxonomy](#), chaired by Patricia Rosel, produced the first official Society for Marine Mammalogy list of marine mammal species and subspecies in 2010. Consensus on some issues has not been possible; this is reflected in the footnotes. The Terms of Reference provide information on the Committee's process. The list is updated at least annually.

The current version was updated in June 2021. This list can be cited as follows: "Committee on Taxonomy. 2021. List of marine mammal species and subspecies. Society for Marine Mammalogy, [www.marinemammalscience.org](http://www.marinemammalscience.org), consulted on [date]."

This [list](#) includes living and recently extinct (within historical times) species and subspecies. It is meant to reflect prevailing usage and recent revisions published in the peer-reviewed literature. Classification and scientific names follow Rice (1998), with adjustments reflecting more recent literature. Author(s) and year of description of each taxon follow the Latin (scientific) species name; when these are enclosed in parentheses, the taxon was originally described in a different genus.

The Committee considers and evaluates new, peer-reviewed literature that proposes taxonomic changes. The Committee's focus is on alpha taxonomy (describing and naming taxa) and beta taxonomy primarily at lower levels of the hierarchy (subspecies, species and genera), although it may evaluate issues at higher levels if deemed necessary. Proposals for new, taxonomically distinct taxa require a formal, peer-reviewed study and should provide robust evidence that some subspecies or species criterion was met. For review of species concepts, see Reeves et al. (2004), Orr and Coyne (2004), de Queiroz (2007), Perrin (2009) and Taylor et al. (2017 a,b). Nomenclatural papers that propose new names are to be registered with ZooBank and publications should include required information including designation of holotype or syntype specimen(s), identification of the repository of the specimen(s), and explicit identification of the taxon as new by inclusion of a term such as "ssp. nov.", "new species", etc. The Committee recommends authors acquaint themselves with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999) and supply the information required under the Code when proposing new species or subspecies.

The Committee omits some described species and subspecies because of concern about their biological distinctness; reservations are given in the [narrative](#) below. In addition, published proposals for taxonomically distinct units that do not provide names and instead refer simply to 'un-named subspecies' or 'un-named species' are not included in the official list but are provided [here](#). Authors are encouraged to provide formal descriptions following ICZN rules based on robust data showing an appropriate subspecies or species criterion is met.

Common names are arbitrary and change with time and place; one or two frequently used names 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/](http://www.marinespecies.org/cetacea/). Species are listed in alphabetical order within families.

Corrections and comments should be directed to the Committee on Taxonomy ([patricia.rosel@noaa.gov](mailto:patricia.rosel@noaa.gov)). Divergent opinions by members of the Committee on particular taxonomic questions are given in the footnotes.

## **List of Marine Mammal Species and Subspecies**

### **Order Carnivora**

#### **Family Ursidae**

*Ursus maritimus* Phipps, 1774. Polar bear

#### **Family Mustelidae**

*Enhydra lutris* (Linnaeus, 1758). Sea otter

*E. l. kenyoni* Wilson, 1991. Eastern sea otter

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

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

*Lontra felina* (Molina, 1782). Chungungo, marine otter

*Neovison macrodon* (Prentis, 1903). Sea mink (extinct)

### **PINNIPEDIA (eared seals, sea lions, walrus, earless seals; 35 species, of which 2 extinct)**

#### **Family Otariidae (eared seals and sea lions; 15 species, of which 1 extinct)**

*Arctocephalus australis* (Zimmermann, 1783). South American fur seal

*Arctocephalus forsteri* (Lesson, 1828). Long-nosed fur seal, New Zealand fur seal

*Arctocephalus galapagoensis* Heller, 1904. Galapagos fur seal

*Arctocephalus gazella* (Peters, 1876). Antarctic fur seal

*Arctocephalus philippii* (Peters, 1866). Juan Fernandez fur seal

*A. p. philippii* (Peters, 1866). Juan Fernandez fur seal  
*A. p. townsendi* (Merriam, 1897). Guadalupe fur seal  
*Arctocephalus pusillus* (Schreber, 1775). Cape fur seal  
*A. p. pusillus* (Schreber, 1775). Cape fur seal  
*A. p. doriferus* Wood Jones, 1925. Australian fur seal  
*Arctocephalus tropicalis* (Gray, 1872). Subantarctic fur seal  
*Callorhinus ursinus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Northern fur seal  
*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 Steller sea lion  
*Neophoca cinerea* (Peron, 1816). Australian sea lion  
*Otaria byronia* (Blainville, 1820). South American sea lion  
*Phocarcos hookeri* (Gray, 1844). New Zealand sea lion, Hooker's sea lion  
*Zalophus californianus* (Lesson, 1828). California sea lion  
*Zalophus japonicus* (Peters, 1866). Japanese sea lion (extinct)  
*Zalophus wollebaeki* Sivertsen, 1953. Galapagos sea lion

### **Family Odobenidae**

*Odobenus rosmarus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Walrus  
*O. r. divergens* (Illiger, 1815). Pacific walrus  
*O. r. rosmarus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Atlantic walrus

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

*Cystophora cristata* (Erxleben, 1777). Hooded seal  
*Erignathus barbatus* (Erxleben, 1777). Bearded seal

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

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

*Halichoerus grypus* (Fabricius, 1791). Gray seal

*H. g. grypus* (Fabricius, 1791). Baltic gray seal

*H. g. atlantica*. Nehring, 1866. Atlantic gray seal

*Histriophoca fasciata* (Zimmerman, 1783). Ribbon seal

*Hydrurga leptonyx* (Blainville, 1820). Leopard seal

*Leptonychotes weddellii* (Lesson, 1826). Weddell seal

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

*Mirounga leonina* (Linnaeus, 1758). Southern elephant seal

*Mirounga angustirostris* (Gill, 1866). Northern elephant seal

*Monachus monachus* (Hermann, 1779). Mediterranean monk seal

*Neomonachus tropicalis* (Gray, 1850). Caribbean monk seal, West Indian monk seal (extinct)

*Neomonachus schauinslandi* (Matschie, 1905). Hawaiian monk seal

*Ommatophoca rossii* Gray, 1844. Ross seal

*Pagophilus groenlandicus* (Erxleben, 1777). Harp seal

*Phoca vitulina* Linnaeus, 1758. Harbor seal, common seal

*P. v. vitulina* Linnaeus, 1758. Atlantic harbor seal

*P. v. mellonae* Doult, 1942. Ungava 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* (Pallas, 1811). 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

## **Order CETARTIODACTYLA (artiodactyls and cetaceans)**

### **CETACEA (cetaceans; 92 species, of which 1 possibly extinct)**

#### **MYSTICETI (baleen whales, 15 species)**

##### **Family Balaenidae (right whales, 4 species)<sup>2</sup>**

*Balaena mysticetus* Linnaeus, 1758. Bowhead whale, Greenland whale

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

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

*Eubalaena australis* (Desmoulins, 1822). Southern right whale

##### **Family Neobalaenidae**

*Caperea marginata* (Gray, 1846). Pygmy right whale

##### **Family Eschrichtiidae**

*Eschrichtius robustus* (Lilljeborg, 1861). Gray whale

##### **Family Balaenopteridae (rorquals, 9 species)**

*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

*Balaenoptera bonaerensis* Burmeister, 1867. Antarctic minke whale

*Balaenoptera borealis* Lesson, 1828. Sei whale

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

*B. b. schlegelii* (Flower, 1865). Southern sei whale

*Balaenoptera edeni* Anderson, 1879. Bryde's whale

*B. e. brydei* Olsen, 1913. Bryde's whale

*B. e. edeni* Anderson, 1879. Eden's whale

*Balaenoptera musculus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Blue whale

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

*B. m. intermedia* Burmeister, 1871. Antarctic blue whale

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

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

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

*Balaenoptera physalus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Fin whale

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

*B. p. physalus* (Linnaeus, 1758). North Atlantic fin whale

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

*B. p. velifera* Cope in Scammon, 1869. North Pacific fin whale

*Balaenoptera ricei* Rosel, Wilcox, Yamada and Mullin, 2021. Rice's whale

*Megaptera novaeangliae* (Borowski, 1781). Humpback whale

*M. n. australis* (Lesson, 1828). Southern humpback whale

*M. n. kuzira* (Gray, 1850). North Pacific humpback whale

*M. n. novaeangliae* (Borowski, 1781). North Atlantic humpback whale

**ODONTOCETI (toothed whales, dolphins and porpoises: 77 species, of which one possibly 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, 23 species)**

*Berardius arnuxii* Duvernoy, 1851. Arnoux's beaked whale

*Berardius bairdii* Stejneger, 1883. Baird's beaked whale

*Berardius minimus* Yamada, Kitamura and Matsuishi, 2019. Sato's beaked whale

*Hyperoodon ampullatus* (Forster, 1770). Northern bottlenose whale

*Hyperoodon planifrons* Flower, 1882. Southern bottlenose whale

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

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

*Mesoplodon bowdoini* Andrews, 1908. Andrews' beaked whale

*Mesoplodon carlhubbsi* Moore, 1963. Hubbs' beaked whale

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

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

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

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

*Mesoplodon hotaula* Deraniyagala, 1963. Deraniyagala's beaked whale

*Mesoplodon layardii* (Gray, 1865). Strap-toothed beaked whale, Layard's beaked whale

*Mesoplodon mirus* True, 1913. True'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 stejnegeri* True, 1885. Stejneger's beaked whale

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

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

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

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

### **Family Platanistidae**

*Platanista gangetica* (Lebeck, 1801). Ganges river dolphin, susu

*Platanista minor* Owen, 1853. Indus river dolphin, bhulan

### **Family Iniidae**

*Inia geoffrensis* (Blainville, 1817). Amazon river dolphin

*I. g. boliviensis* (d'Orbigny, 1834). Bolivian bufeo

*I. g. geoffrensis* (Blainville, 1817). Common boto

### **Family Lipotidae**

*Lipotes vexillifer* Miller, 1918. Baiji, Yangtze river dolphin – possibly extinct

### **Family Pontoporiidae**

*Pontoporia blainvillei* (Gervais and d'Orbigny, 1844). Franciscana, toninha.

### **Family Monodontidae**

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

*Monodon monoceros* Linnaeus, 1758. Narwhal

### **Family Delphinidae (37 species)**

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

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



*C. c. kerguelenensis* 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, Heaviside's dolphin

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

*C. h. hectori* (Van Bénédén, 1881). South Island Hector's dolphin

*C. h. maui* A. Baker, Smith and Pichler, 2002. Māui dolphin, North Island Hector's dolphin

*Delphinus delphis* Linnaeus, 1758. Common dolphin

*D. d. delphis* Linnaeus, 1758. Common dolphin

*D. d. bairdii* Dall, 1873. Eastern North Pacific long-beaked common dolphin

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

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

*Feresa attenuata* Gray, 1874. Pygmy killer whale

*Globicephala macrorhynchus* Gray, 1846. Short-finned pilot whale

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

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

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

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

*Lagenodelphis hosei* Fraser, 1956. Fraser's dolphin

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

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

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

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

*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens* Gill, 1865. Pacific white-sided dolphin

*Lagenorhynchus obscurus* (Gray, 1828). Dusky dolphin

*L. o. fitzroyi* (Waterhouse, 1838). Fitzroy's dolphin

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

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

*Lissodelphis borealis* (Peale, 1848). Northern right-whale dolphin

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

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

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

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

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

*Pseudorca crassidens* (Owen, 1846). False killer whale

*Sousa teuszii* (Kükenthal, 1892). Atlantic humpback dolphin

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

*S. c. chinensis* (Osbeck, 1765). Chinese humpback dolphin

*S. c. taiwanensis* Wang, Yang and Hung, 2015. Taiwanese humpback dolphin

*Sousa plumbea* (G. Cuvier, 1829). Indian Ocean humpback dolphin

*Sousa sahalensis* Jefferson and Rosenbaum, 2014. Australian humpback dolphin

*Sotalia fluviatilis* (Gervais and Deville in Gervais, 1853). Tucuxi

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

*Stenella attenuata* (Gray, 1846). Pantropical spotted dolphin

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

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

*Stenella clymene* (Gray, 1850). Clymene dolphin

*Stenella coeruleoalba* (Meyen, 1833). Striped dolphin

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

*Stenella longirostris* (Gray, 1828). Spinner dolphin

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

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

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

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

*Steno bredanensis* (Lesson, 1828). Rough-toothed dolphin

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

*Tursiops truncatus* (Montagu, 1821). Common bottlenose dolphin

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

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

*T. t. gephyreus* Lahille, 1908. Lahille's bottlenose dolphin

#### **Family Phocoenidae (porpoises, 7 species)**

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

*Neophocaena asiaeorientalis* (Pilleri and Gahr, 1972). Narrow-ridged finless porpoise

*N. a. asiaeorientalis* (Pilleri and Gahr, 1972). Yangtze finless porpoise

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

*Phocoena dioptrica* Lahille, 1912. Spectacled porpoise

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

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

*P. p. vomerina* Gill, 1865. Pacific harbor porpoise

*P. p. relicta* Abel, 1905. Black Sea harbor porpoise

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

*Phocoena spinipinnis* Burmeister, 1865. Burmeister's porpoise

*Phocoenoides dalli* (True, 1885). Dall's 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, of which 1 extinct)**

### **Family Trichechidae**

*Trichechus inunguis* (Natterer, 1883). Amazonian manatee

*Trichechus manatus* Linnaeus, 1758. West Indian manatee

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

*T. m. manatus* Linnaeus, 1758. Antillean manatee

*Trichechus senegalensis* Link, 1795. West African manatee, African manatee

### **Family Dugongidae**

*Dugong dugon* (Müller, 1776). Dugong

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

### **Footnotes (dissenting opinions):**

1 Use of Order Cetartiodactyla (artiodactyls and cetaceans) 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, despite rendering the retained Order Artiodactyla paraphyletic.

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.]

3 (from T. Jefferson) The List should retain the eastern North Pacific (ENP) long-beaked common dolphin as a separate species of *Delphinus*, *D. bairdii* (as in Banks and Brownell 1969). The evidence for species status is published and is considerable, especially the molecular differences. Notwithstanding issues related to poor sampling from areas of potential sympatry further south, the balance of the evidence seems to support a lack of interbreeding throughout a

very large region of overlap, along with clear ecological differences. In this view, the error by Heyning and Perrin (1994) was not in splitting out the ENP long-beaked common dolphins as a distinct species, but in assuming that the name *D. capensis* applied there and that all long-beaked populations of *Delphinus* belonged to *D. capensis*.

## Narrative on Taxonomy

Based on molecular and morphological data, cetaceans fall firmly within the artiodactyl clade (Geisler and Uhen, 2005), and therefore we include them in the order Cetartiodactyla, with Cetacea, Mysticeti and Odontoceti provisionally 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).<sup>1</sup> Below the rank of order, we list only families, genera, species and subspecies, omitting superfamilies, subfamilies and taxa of other ranks. Consistent with the use of Cetacea as an un-ranked unit, we also include the un-ranked taxon Pinnipedia. Morphological (Wyss and Flynn, 1993; Berta and Wyss, 1994) and molecular (Higdon et al. 2007; Fulton and Strobeck, 2010, Nyakatura and Bininda-Emonds 2012) analyses provide strong support for pinniped monophyly and hence inclusion of Pinnipedia as an un-ranked taxonomic unit. However, there is continued debate on this subject as Koretsky et al. (2016) argued the case for a diphyletic origin for pinnipeds.

### Pinnipeds

For pinnipeds, we previously followed Berta and Churchill (2012). To avoid issues of paraphyly, these authors proposed that, based on molecular and morphological data, 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. gazella*, *A. philippii* and *A. tropicalis*) to *Arctophoca* Peters, 1866. However, Nyakatura and Bininda-Emonds (2012) compiled a new supertree of the Carnivora and concluded that this usage of *Arctophoca* may be premature because of remaining uncertainty about phylogenetic relationships, and we return provisionally to use of *Arctocephalus* for all the southern fur seals.

Three subspecies of *A. australis* were proposed by Berta and Churchill (2012) and formerly listed here: *A. a. australis*, *A. a. forsteri* and *A. a. gracilis*. However, Oliveira and Brownell (2014) synonymized *A. a. gracilis* with *A. a. australis*. The super-tree analysis by Nyakatura and Bininda-Emonds (2012) accords with the phylogenetic analysis of Higdon et al. (2007), suggesting that the New Zealand fur seal should be recognized as a full species, *A. forsteri*. Two subspecies of *A. philippii* are thought to be biologically distinct: *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 molecular genetic data, which is also the case for recognition of California, Japanese and Galapagos sea lions as separate species. Following a proposal by Gardner and Robbins (1999), the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) placed the name *O. byronia* on its Official List of Specific Names in Zoology. Brunner (2004) also advised use of *Otaria byronia* (Blainville, 1820) over *O. flavescens* (Shaw, 1800) and Webber (2014) provides a summary of why *O. flavescens* is a *nomen dubium* and should not

be used under the provisions of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999). However, many South American scientists continue to use *O. flavescens*.

Lindqvist et al. (2009) concluded that a purported third subspecies of the walrus *Odobenus rosmarus laptevi* is not warranted.

Recent molecular 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 supportable; *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. Scheel et al. (2014) found the Caribbean and Hawaiian monk seals to be more closely related molecularly and morphologically to each other than either is to the Mediterranean monk seal and created the new genus *Neomonachus* for the two species.

The long-lost holotype skull of the gray seal *Halichoerus grypus* has been rediscovered and shown by DNA analysis to hail from the Baltic rather than from Greenland as previously thought (Olsen et al. 2016). Consequently, the nominate subspecies *H. g. grypus* is the Baltic gray seal, *H. g. macrorhynchus* falls into synonymy, and the authors have resurrected *H. g. atlantica* to apply to the Atlantic subspecies.

#### Polar Bears and Otters

Derocher and Stirling (1998) argued convincingly that patterns of variation in the polar bear do not support recognition of subspecies.

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.

#### Baleen Whales

In the mysticete cetaceans, molecular 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, 2001).

New fossil evidence suggests that *Caperea marginata* may be a member of the family Cetotheriidae (Fordyce and Marx 2012; Marx and Fordyce 2015; Marx and Fordyce 2016). Neobalaenidae is retained here provisionally.

Jackson et al. (2014) have recognized three subspecies of the humpback whale based on mitochondrial and nuclear DNA relationships and distribution: *Megaptera novaeangliae kuzira* (North Pacific), *M. n. novaeangliae* (North Atlantic) and *M. n. australis* (Southern Hemisphere).

The Bryde's-like whales in the Gulf of Mexico have now been described as a new species of medium-sized balaenopterid, *Balaenoptera ricei*, by Rosel et al. (2021), with the common name Rice's whale. The remaining Bryde's whales are provisionally considered to comprise a single species, *Balaenoptera edeni*, following the usage of Kato and Perrin (2009) and Kershaw et al. (2013). However, Luksenburg et al. (2015) and Wada et al. (2003) accepted two species. 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 and larger, more oceanic form (Sasaki et al. 2006). Kato and Perrin (2009) and Kershaw et al. (2013) considered these more likely to be distinct at the subspecific level (although arguably at the species level), and they are included here provisionally as such. *Balaenoptera omurai* was described by 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).

To further resolve the taxonomy and systematics of all the medium-sized baleen whales (*B. ricei*, *B. edeni edeni*, *B. e. brydei*, and including *B. borealis*) it is critical that a neotype be designated for *B. brydei* and that genetic data be obtained from that designated neotype. In addition, genetic data should also be obtained from the holotype of *B. edeni* to validate the identity of museum specimens as well as samples collected from stranded and biopsied individuals. Finally, a comprehensive phylogenetic analysis using nuclear markers of all taxa in this complex with sufficient samples and range-wide geographic coverage is also needed.

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*.

Archer et al. (2019) provided genetic evidence at both mitochondrial and nuclear genetic markers that fin whales in the North Pacific are significantly differentiated from those in the North Atlantic and the Southern Hemisphere. They proposed recognition of the North Pacific fin whale as a separate subspecies, *B. physalus velifera*.

## Toothed Whales

In the odontocetes, *Mesoplodon traversii* (spade-toothed whale) was recognized as the senior synonym for *M. bahamondi* (Bahamonde's beaked whale) (van Helden et al. 2002). The first complete specimen was recently described from a stranding on the North Island of New Zealand (Thompson et al. 2012). *Mesoplodon perrini* was described by Dalebout et al. (2002). Dalebout et al. (2014) resurrected *Mesoplodon hotaula* Deraniyagala, 1963, a species closely similar to *M. ginkgodens*.

Yamada et al. (2019) provided morphological evidence, supported by genetic data (Morin et al. 2018, Kitamura et al. 2013), recognizing a new species of *Berardius* in the North Pacific, Sato's whale, *Berardius minimus*.

The South Asian river dolphins (genus *Platanista*) have a long history of taxonomic revision, oscillating between being recognized as two species, *Platanista gangetica* (Lebeck, 1801) and *P. minor* Owen, 1853, and two subspecies of *Platanista gangetica*. The Taxonomy Committee, when it first created the taxonomy list, followed Rice's (1998) treatment of *Platanista* and recognized a single species with two subspecies, *P. g. gangetica* and *P. g. minor*. Recently, Braulik et al. (2014, 2021) have performed a morphological analysis of the two taxa, coupled with an analysis of mitochondrial DNA and recommended species-level status for the two subspecies. Individually, the support provided from these two lines of evidence was relatively weak: a single, but significant, diagnostic difference in the frontal bones of the skull, and five fixed differences and no shared mtDNA haplotypes, but a level of genetic divergence that does not exceed the species threshold identified by Taylor et al. (2017a). Furthermore, the lack of representative sampling from critical locations between the currently-reduced distributions of the two taxa was concerning. However, the combined evidence of diagnosability for these two lines of evidence, the significant difference in growth curves between the two taxa, and the long isolation of the two river systems (0.55 million years), led the majority of committee members to accept the proposed elevation to species level.

We recognize one species of *Inia* with two subspecies: *I. geoffrensis geoffrensis* (Blainville, 1817) and *I. g. boliviensis* (d'Orbigny, 1834). *I. g. boliviensis* is found in the Bolivian Amazon basin and overlaps with other *Inia* in all morphological characters (da Silva, 1994; Ruiz-García et al. 2006). However, molecular genetic evidence from mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and nuclear introns (Banguera-Hinestroza et al. 2002; Ruiz-García et al. 2008) suggested these two subspecies are on separate evolutionary trajectories and deserve recognition as phylogenetic species. Hollatz et al. (2011) estimated that *I. g. boliviensis* has been reproductively isolated for 3.2 million years. However, these studies used geographically disparate samples, with a significant gap in sampling of *Inia* habitat between the Teotonio Rapids, hypothesized to be the barrier to gene flow for *I. g. boliviensis*, and the samples used to represent *I. g. geoffrensis*. Gravena et al. (2014), with much better sampling of the Madeira River system, including samples from immediately above and below the Teotonio Rapids, found that in fact these rapids did not appear to obstruct gene flow on an evolutionary scale. Thus, the conclusion that the Bolivian *Inia* above the Teotonio Rapids possessed unique mtDNA (a major line of evidence for recognizing species-level distinctness of *I. boliviensis*) was not supported by more extensive sampling (i.e., the initial appearance of separation was an artifact of poor sampling). Therefore, only the subspecies *Inia geoffrensis boliviensis* is retained, although given the newer evidence for a lack of isolation of the dolphins above the Teotonio Rapids (Gravena et al. 2014) and the lack of robust sampling, the strength for subspecies status is weakened. Another new species, *Inia araguaiaensis*, was described by Hrbek et al. (2014) from the Araguaia River, which is not connected to the Amazon and Siciliano et al. (2016) extended the known range of *I. araguaiaensis* further north to Marajó Bay, Brazil through mtDNA analysis of three stranded specimens. Hrbek et al. (2014) only examined samples from two extremes of the distribution of *Inia*, so is it unclear if the molecular differences observed represented real species-level separation or were due to sampling from two locations separated by a large distance. Diagnostic osteological differences were also reported (Hrbek et al. 2014). However, because this study was based on the examination of very few specimens (only 2 for the new species and only 9 for *I. geoffrensis*) and did not account for effects of sexual dimorphism within the species, the authors' conclusions are not convincing. In light of these arguments, the species here remains unlisted



provisionally. Hrbek et al. (2014) did not recognize *I. g. humboldtiana*. Continued research on the taxonomic status of all *Inia* forms is necessary.

Previous editions of this list recognized two globally distributed species of common dolphins: the short-beaked common dolphin *D. delphis* and the long-beaked common dolphin *D. capensis* as proposed by Heyning and Perrin (1994). However, evidence that *D. capensis* thus considered is a polyphyletic taxon has been accumulating for some time. The long-beaked condition is apparently a convergent character state induced by regional ecology. In some regions, long-beaked common dolphins are genetically more closely related to short-beaked common dolphins than to long-beaked common dolphins in other regions (e.g., see Natoli *et al.* 2006). Cunha et al. (2015) summarized the relevant data and analyses, along with additional molecular data and analysis, and recommended that *Delphinus capensis* not be further used as proposed by Heyning and Perrin (1994). That recommendation is followed here. Cunha et al. (2015) noted that because the sympatric/parapatric long-beaked and short-beaked common dolphins off California in the Eastern North Pacific (ENP) appear not to interbreed, perhaps the ENP long-beaked common dolphins might be recognized as a separate species *D. bairdii* Dall, 1873 (as advocated by Banks and Brownell (1969) based on the long-beaked condition). However, the molecular analysis for the ENP (Rosel et al. 1994) did not include common dolphins from the contiguous regions to the south in the eastern tropical and eastern South Pacific. Pending a more complete global review and revision of the common dolphins, the long-beaked ENP form is considered here provisionally as a subspecies *D. delphis bairdii* following the usage of Hershkovitz (1966). *Delphinus capensis* Gray, 1828 from South Africa remains in the synonymy of *Delphinus delphis* Linnaeus, 1758. The long-beaked common dolphin of the Indian Ocean is retained as a subspecies *D. delphis tropicalis*.

Based on a combined analysis of molecular genetic and morphological data, Mendez et al. (2013) proposed recognizing four species of *Sousa* (the humpback dolphins): the previously here-listed *S. teuszii* and *S. chinensis* plus *S. plumbea* and a new un-named species from the waters of northern Australia that was originally proposed by Frère et al. (2008, 2011) based on molecular data. A drawback of the phylogenetic analyses by Mendez et al. (2013) is that there was only one sample from the area of supposed sympatry of *S. plumbea* and *S. chinensis* and very low coverage of the Indo-Malay region (n=5). The two species are listed here provisionally, pending the outcome of further analysis including more samples from those areas. The new species from Australia has been given the name *Sousa sahalensis* (Jefferson and Rosenbaum 2014).

The new subspecies *Sousa chinensis taiwanensis* was described by Wang et al. (2015).

The Burrunan dolphin *Tursiops australis*, described by Charlton-Robb et al. (2011), is not included here; its basis is questionable because of several potential problems: 1) the specimens were compared morphologically only with bottlenose dolphins from Australia; 2) despite the small sample sizes, the series overlapped in all metric characters and separation was possible only with multivariate analysis (which commonly resolves geographical forms within a species, e.g., see Perrin et al. (1999) and Perrin et al. (2011) for *Stenella longirostris* and *Tursiops truncatus*, respectively); 3) comparisons of external morphology and non-metric characters were made only with *T. truncatus*, to the exclusion of *T. aduncus*; and 4) support for important nodes

in molecular trees suggesting phylogenetic separation was low. A rigorous re-evaluation of the relevant data and arguments is needed. Recently, Jedensjö et al. (2020) conducted a broader morphological comparison of *Tursiops* skulls from around Australia, including skulls of both *T. truncatus* and *T. aduncus* and their respective holotypes, and did not find support for the Burrunan bottlenose dolphin, *T. australis*, proposed by Charlton-Robb et al. (2011). Skulls previously classified as *T. australis* all fell well within the *T. truncatus* group. In contrast, Moura et al. (2020) placed *T. australis* within a *T. aduncus* clade based on a nuclear genetic phylogeny.

Costa et al. (2016), Wickert et al. (2016), and Hohl et al. (2020) have examined morphological characteristics of *Tursiops* specimens from the western South Atlantic. Costa et al. (2016) recommended subspecies status for the larger coastal form found between southern Brazil and northern Argentina, while both Wickert et al. (2016) and Hohl et al. (2020) have recommended species status. Costa et al. (2020) paired morphological and genetic data from samples collected from both forms in southern Brazil and found strong congruence between morphological and mitochondrial and nuclear divergence; genetic differentiation was also observed in Oliveira et al. (2019). In both genetic studies, however, evidence for shared mitochondrial haplotypes and possibly shared nuclear ancestry was found. We provisionally recognize the subspecies *T. t. gephyreus* Lahille 1908 (Lahille's bottlenose dolphin) for this larger coastal form. Improved geographic sampling and improved objectivity in hypothesis testing is needed to fully resolve the taxonomy of *Tursiops* in this region. In particular, further work is needed to better identify the distribution of the *gephyreus* form and determine its phylogenetic relationship to coastal and offshore *Tursiops* in the western North Atlantic and throughout Caribbean waters. Wang et al. (2021) showed *gephyreus* to be the correct trivial name for this taxon (as long as it continues to be recognized as a subspecies or species).

Recognition of the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin is now well-supported by molecular genetic data (Viaud-Martinez et al. 2008), as is the Black Sea common dolphin (Natoli et al. 2008).

Kinze (2018) proposed that the scientific name for *Tursiops truncatus* should be *Tursiops tursio* as *tursio* has priority over *truncatus*. The committee noted that resurrecting the name *T. tursio* for the bottlenose dolphin would upset long-standing usage and would cause considerable confusion in national and international treaties, agreements, etc. Therefore, the name *T. truncatus* should continue to be used for the common bottlenose dolphin to maintain stability.

The genus *Lagenorhynchus* is widely considered a polyphyletic taxon containing morphologically convergent species (Cipriano 1997, LeDuc et al. 1999, McGowen 2011, Banguera-Hinestroza et al. 2014, Vollmer et al. 2019). Vollmer et al. (2019) provided a detailed review of the relationships among members of the genus *Lagenorhynchus* and their relationship to *Cephalorhynchus* and *Lissodelphis*. Results continue to support the polyphyletic nature of the genus *Lagenorhynchus* and multiple morphological and genetic analyses indicate that *L. albirostris* and *L. acutus* are evolutionarily distinct from the other members of all three genera. Vollmer et al. (2019) recommended revision of the genus *sensu* LeDuc et al. (1999), placing *L. obscurus*, *L. obliquidens*, *L. australis* and *L. cruciger* into the genus *Sagmatias*, *L. acutus* into the genus *Leucopleurus* and leaving *L. albirostris* in a monotypic genus *Lagenorhynchus*. While a majority of committee members supported the changes proposed by Vollmer et al. (2019), a 2/3 majority of voting members was not reached. Primary objection to the changes focused on

remaining uncertainties in some relationships and the potential confusion that may be created if the proposed changes require further revision in the near future. At issue are 1) the conflicting support among data sets for a sister-taxa relationship between *L. albirostris* and *L. acutus* (which would obviate the need for *Leucopleurus*), and 2) evidence that *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*). Therefore, the taxonomy list retains all species in *Lagenorhynchus*, recognizing that the current taxonomy does not reflect the evolutionary distinctiveness of *L. albirostris* and *L. acutus*. Next steps in unraveling the taxonomy of these dolphins will need to involve robust datasets that include all *Lagenorhynchus* and *Cephalorhynchus* species. Harlin-Cognato (2010) recognized *L. obscurus posidonia* (Peru/Chile).

It has been noted repeatedly, most recently by Perrin et al. (2013), that the delphinine genera *Stenella* and *Tursiops* are paraphyletic and that at present there is no molecular or morphological basis for satisfactory resolution of phylogenetic relationships in the subfamily. A possible solution would be to return all the species in *Tursiops*, *Sousa*, and *Stenella* to *Delphinus*, the genus in which they were first described, and place *Lagenodelphis hosei* there as well. However, considering that this would obscure the clear close relationship of the present *Sousa* and *Tursiops* species, the status quo is maintained here provisionally, pending the outcome of more definitive morphological and molecular studies. Eventually a more natural classification will emerge.

Perrin et al. (1999) established the subspecies *Stenella longirostris roseiventris*.

The Irrawaddy dolphin was split into *O. brevirostris* and *O. heinsohni*, the Australian snubfin dolphin (Beasley et al. 2005).

Wang et al. (2008) and Jefferson and Wang (2011) established *Neophocaena asiaeorientalis* as a full species distinct from the *N. phocaenoides*, with two subspecies. Zhou et al. (2018) examined genomic DNA sequence data and concluded that there was significant genetic differentiation between the two subspecies of *N. asiaeorientalis*, including evidence for genetic adaptation to the freshwater environment of the Yangtze River. The authors proposed the two subspecies of *N. asiaeorientalis* be elevated to species-level, the Yangtze finless porpoise, *N. asiaeorientalis* Pilleri and Gühr 1927, and the East Asian finless porpoise, *N. sunameri* Pilleri and Gühr 1972. However, there were no samples in this study from near the mouth of the Yangtze River where the marine and river subspecies could possibly be sympatric and where genetic interchange could occur. While the results of the study are consistent with recently diverged taxa, the lack of samples in the potential area of sympatry make it difficult to rule out an isolation by distance effect.

Viaud-Martinez et al. (2007) concluded based on morphological and molecular genetic evidence that *Phocoena phocoena relicta* is a distinct subspecies.

We list the baiji *Lipotes vexillifer* as “possibly extinct” in conformance with the IUCN Red List, although extinction seems a certainty.

Manatees and Dugongs

In the Sirenia, subspecies of the dugong are not currently recognized (Domning, 1996; see <http://sirendom.org/biblio> for update to 1996 publication). However, no in-depth study has been undertaken to address the issue of subspecies.

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