

#	Species	Taxonomic Name	Status	Habitats	Notes
1	North Atlantic Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	H/V	S/SC/P	1
2	Bowhead Whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	V	S	2
3	Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	M	C/S/OB	
4	Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	M	S/SC/P	
5	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	M	SC/P	
6	Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	M	C/S/SC/P	
7	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	M	C/S/SC/P	
8	Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	M	SC/A	
9	Pygmy Sperm Whale	<i>Kogia breviceps</i>	?	SC/A	
10	Dwarf Sperm Whale	<i>Kogia sima</i>	?	SC/A	3
11	Beluga Whale	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	V	S	
12	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	R	C/S/OB	
13	White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	R	S	
14	Atlantic White-sided Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>	R	OB/P	
15	Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	R	C/S/SC	
16	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	R	C/S/OB/P	4
17	Striped Dolphin	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	R	P	
18	Common Dolphin	<i>Delphis delphis</i>	R	C/S/OB/P	
19	False Killer Whale	<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>	V	P	
20	Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	R/M	C/S/SC/P	5
21	Long-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>	R	SC/OB/P	
22	Sowerby's Beaked Whale	<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i>	R	SC/A	
23	Gervais' Beaked Whale	<i>Mesoplodon europaeus</i>	V	SC/A	
24	True's Beaked Whale	<i>Mesoplodon mirus</i>	?	SC/A	
25	Cuvier's Beaked Whale	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	R	SC/A	
26	Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	R	SC/A	

NB: A record of a probable Blainville's Beaked whale was reported from the Rockall Plateau, outside Ireland's EEZ but within the declared area in 2016 (Richardson et al., 2018). No photo of the animal was obtained.

Status Type

- R Resident and breeding in Irish waters
- V Vagrant
- M Migratory - forages in Irish waters
- H Historically occurred in Irish waters

Habitat Type

A	Abyssal waters
C	Coastal
S	Shelf Waters (<200m)
OB	Offshore Banks
P	Pelagic
SC	Slopes & Canyons

Notes

1. North Atlantic Right Whales occurred in Irish waters up to the beginning of the 20th Century when Norwegian owned whaling stations in Co. Mayo killed 18 animals, probably representing the last animals of the species in Irish waters. Occasional sightings in waters to the far west of Ireland are thought to have been of animals originating from the Western Atlantic population.
2. A single sighting was recorded and photographed at the mouth of Carlingford Lough, Co. Louth/Down in May of 2016 (IWDG 2022, DeBoer et al, 2017)
3. Identified and confirmed by genetic sequencing of an animal live stranded and subsequently died at Glengarriff, Co. Cork on 1 May 2022. (IWDG)
4. Evidence exists for 3 populations in Irish waters.
 - a. Resident in Shannon Estuary - c 140 animals
 - b. Coastal - c400 animals
 - c. Offshore - unknown but large population numbering thousands of animals that may range from Scotland to the Azores.
5. A resident group known as the 'West Coast Community' ranges around the Irish coast, Scottish West Coast, Irish Sea and Southwest of England, foraging on seals. The Pod is highly inbred and suffers high organochlorine pollutant levels and has not produced a calf in the 30 years it has been studied. Killer whales from waters to the north of Ireland follow the mackerel fishing fleet into Irish waters to the NW of Donegal each year, feeding on fish. Groups of animals have also been noted along the shelf edge.

References

- **Berrow, S.D., O'Brien, J., Meade, R., Delarue, J., Kowarski, K., Martin, B., Moloney, J., Wall, D., Gillespie, D., Leaper, R., Gordon, J., Lee, A. and Porter, L. (2018).** Acoustic Surveys of Cetaceans in the Irish Atlantic Margin in 2015-2016: Occurrence, distribution and abundance. *Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland, 348pp.*
- **de Boer, M.N., Jones, D. and Jones, H., 2017.** Ocean wanderers: extralimital encounters with bowhead whales (*Balaena mysticetus*) in temperate European shallow waters. *Aquatic Mammals, 43(3), p.279.*
- **Fairley, J. (1981).** Irish Whales and Whaling. *Blackstaff Press Ltd., Belfast*
- **IWDG (2022)** Irish Whale and Dolphin Group stranding and sightings databases. www.iwdg.ie

- **Richardson, N., Jessopp, M., Hunt, W., & Kavanagh, A. S. (2018).** First at-sea sighting of Blainville's Beaked Whale (*Mesoplodon densirostris* Blainville) in waters over the Irish extended continental shelf. *The Irish Naturalists' Journal*, 36(1), 74-75.
- **Wall D., Murray C., O'Brien J., Kavanagh L., Wilson C., Ryan C., Glanville B., Williams D., Enlander I., O'Connor I., McGrath D., Whooley P. and Berrow S. (2013).** Atlas of the distribution and relative abundance of marine mammals in Irish offshore waters 2005 - 2011. *Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, Merchants Quay, Kilrush, Co Clare. ISBN 0-9540552-7-6.*