



# KILLER WHALE (ORCA)

## SOME OF THE THREATS TO KILLER WHALES

There is not enough food to eat. There are many reasons for this including over-fishing.

Areas where they like to live and have their young are being destroyed by humans.

Pollution in our seas and oceans can make Killer Whales sick.

These mammals are captured for marine mammal parks.

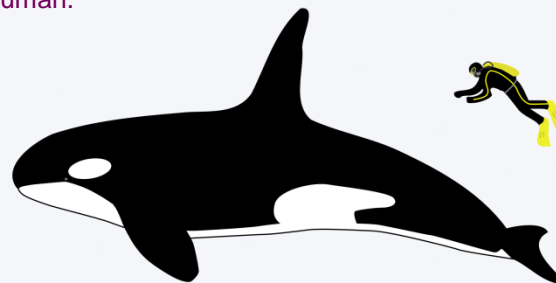
The Killer Whale, also known as Orca Whale or Orca, is found in all oceans from the cold Arctic waters to tropical seas. They are also found in the Straits of Gibraltar, particularly in summer when they feed on migrating tuna.

The areas on the map below in blue show where Killer Whales can be found.



Wild Killer Whales are not considered a threat to humans and are described as intelligent mammals. Male Killer Whales can measure up to 8m in length and weigh more than 6000kgs.

The picture below shows the average size of a Killer Whale compared to that of the average human.



## FACT

Killer whales have the second-heaviest brains among marine mammals.



## FEEDING

Killer whales generally eat a wide variety of prey, but some like to eat only fish or marine mammals, including sea lions, seals and walruses, and even large whales.

Some killer whales *beach* themselves on purpose to catch seals. Adults sometimes pull seals off the shore and release them near young whales, allowing the younger whales to practice the difficult capture technique on the weakened prey.

*"Beaching is when a whale has stranded itself on land, usually on a beach".*

