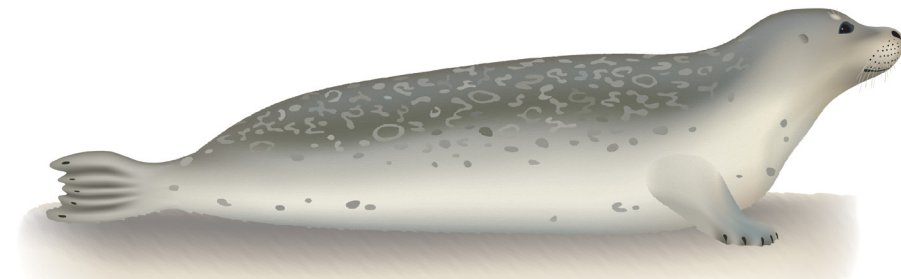


Marine Mammals of the Salish Sea

Pinnipeds: Seals & Sea Lions

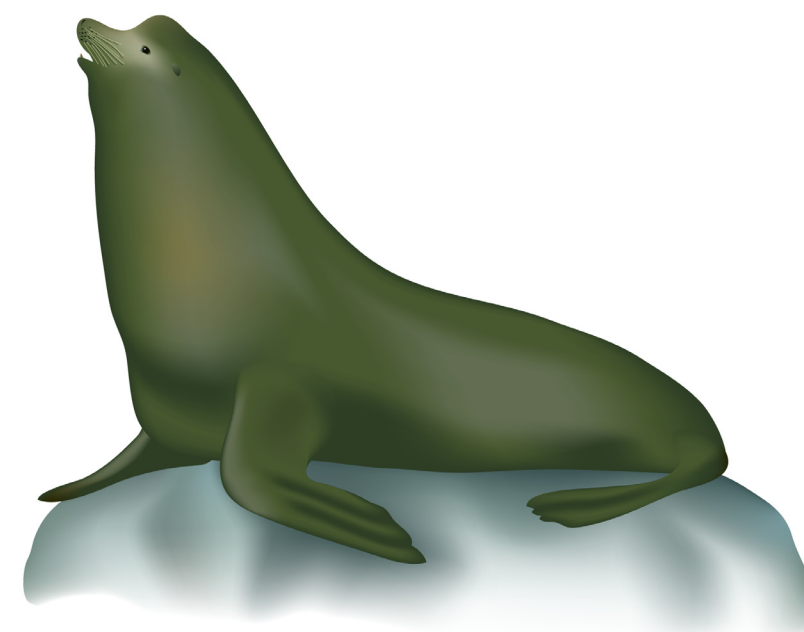
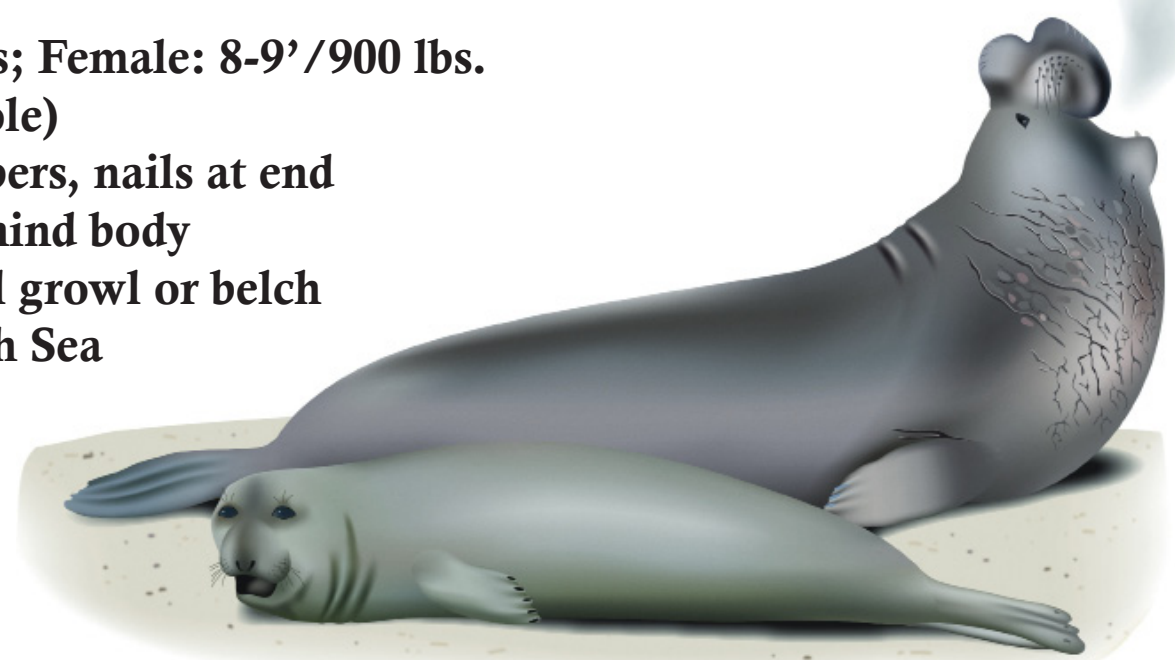


Pacific Harbor Seal
Phoca vitulina

Adults mottled tan or blue-gray with dark spots
Male: 6' / 300 lbs; Female: 5' / 200 pounds
Earless (internal ears, with external hole)
Short fur-covered flippers, nails at end
Drags rear flippers behind body
Vocalization: "maah" (pups only)
Most common marine mammal in Puget Sound
Shy, but curious. Pupping occurs June/July

Northern Elephant Seal
Mirounga angustirostris

Brownish-gray
Male: 10-12' / 5,000 lbs; Female: 8-9' / 900 lbs.
Internal ears (slight hole)
Short fur-covered flippers, nails at end
Drags rear flippers behind body
Vocalization: Guttural growl or belch
Increasing in the Salish Sea



California Sea Lion
Zalophus californianus

Dark brown to black
Male: 8' / 800 lbs; Female: 6' / 250 lbs.
Extended, rolled flap ears
Long leathery flippers, nails mid-flipper
Walks on all four flippers; doglike bark
Mainly male California sea lions seen from fall to spring in the Puget Sound region

Steller Sea Lion
Eumetopias jubatus

Light to golden brown
Male: 9-12' / 1500-2000 lbs.
Female: 6-7' / 600-700 lbs.
Extended, rolled flap ears
Long leathery flippers with nails mid-flipper
Walks on all four flippers; lion-like roar
Listed under the Endangered Species Act



Cetaceans: Whales, Dolphins and Porpoise

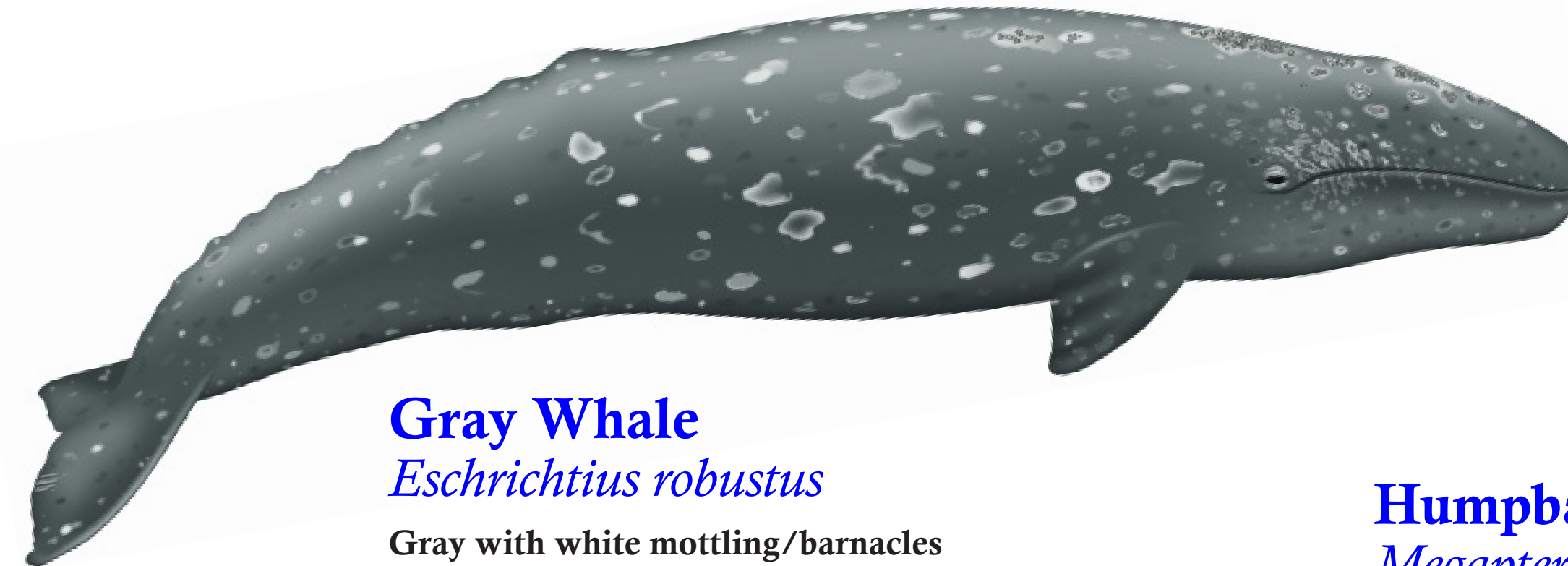
Seal Pups



If you see a seal pup
alone on the beach
DO NOT DISTURB

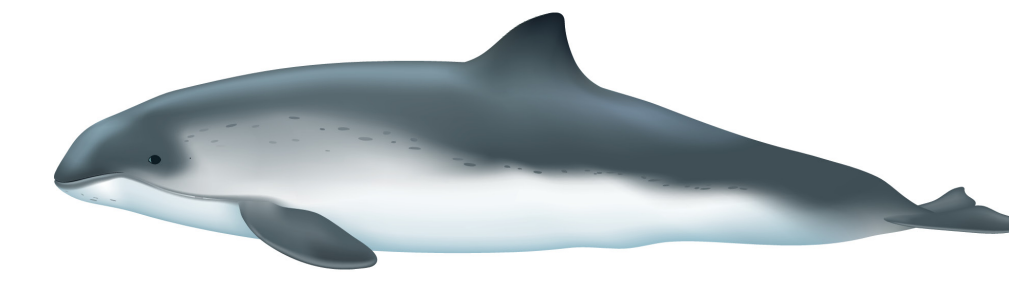
it's the law!

Human approach can stress the pup
and scare the mother away.
For your safety and the health of the pup,
leave the pup alone. Do not touch!



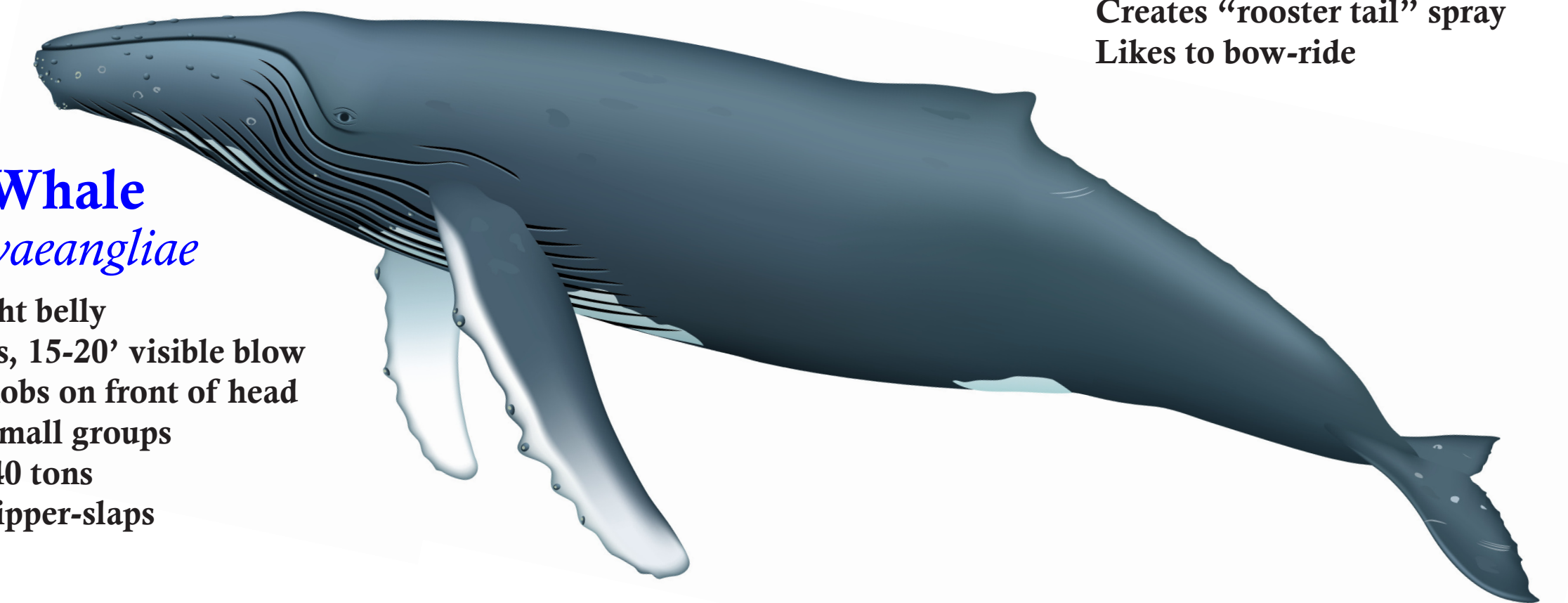
Gray Whale
Eschrichtius robustus

Gray with white mottling/barnacles
No dorsal fin, has "knuckles" or knobs on back
Average 40-45' / 30-35 tons, heart-shaped blow
Small resident population feeds in Saratoga
Passage and Possession Sound March through May,
stragglers seen here year-round



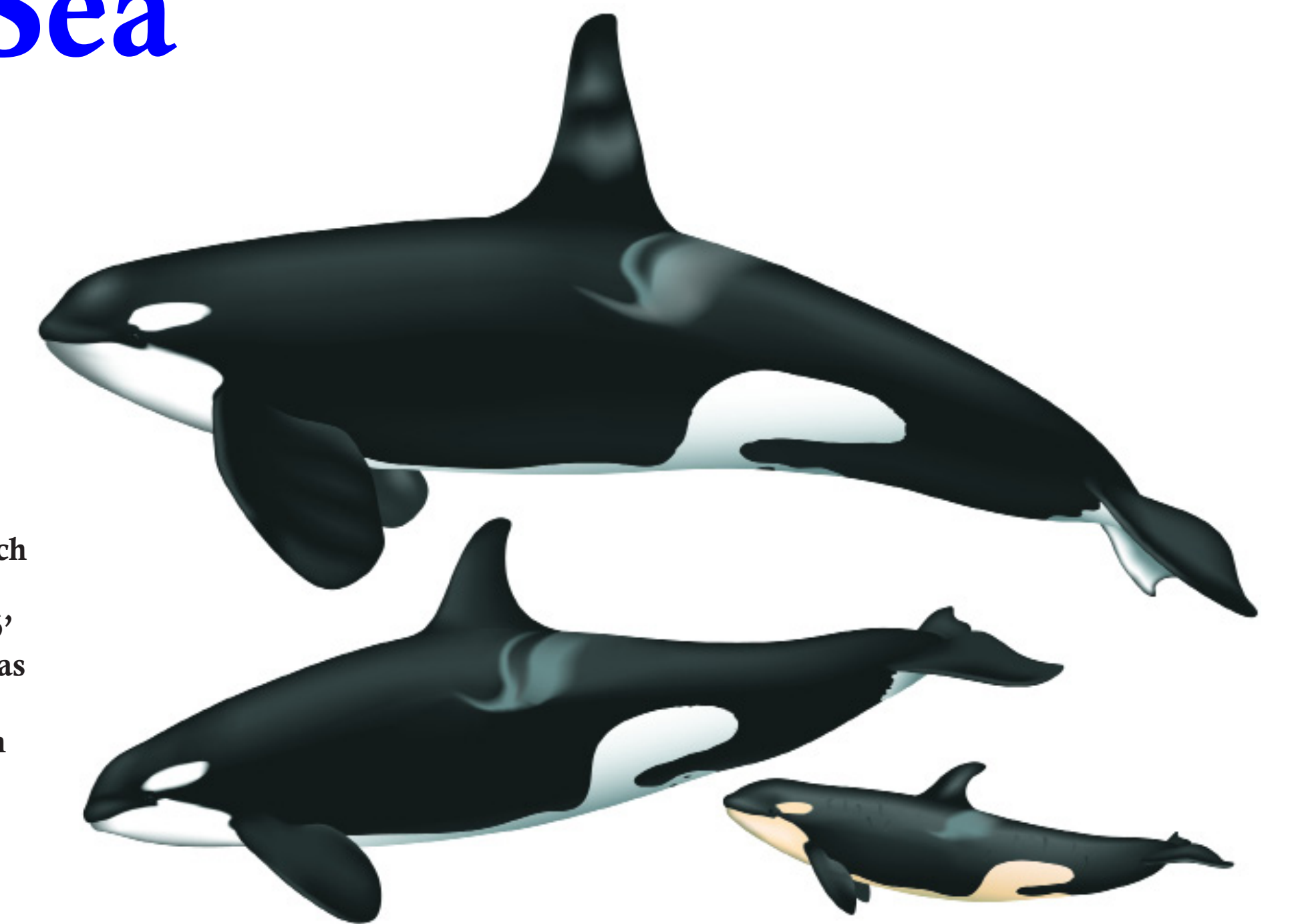
Harbor Porpoise
Phocoena phocoena

Dark gray or black
with lighter sides and belly
Average 5-6' / 120 lbs.
Travels alone or groups of 2-10



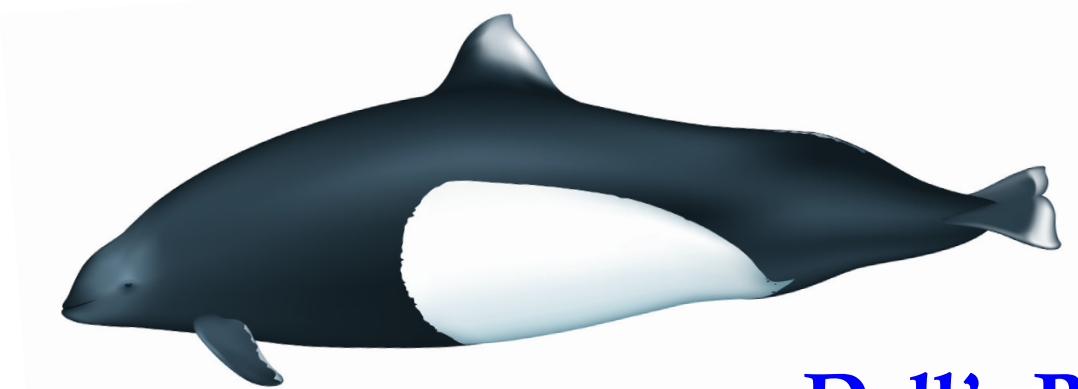
Humpback Whale
Megaptera Novaeangliae

Black/dark gray, light belly
White under flippers, 15-20' visible blow
Small dorsal fin, Knobs on front of head
Travels alone or in small groups
Average 40-45' / 30-40 tons
Often breaches or flipper-slaps



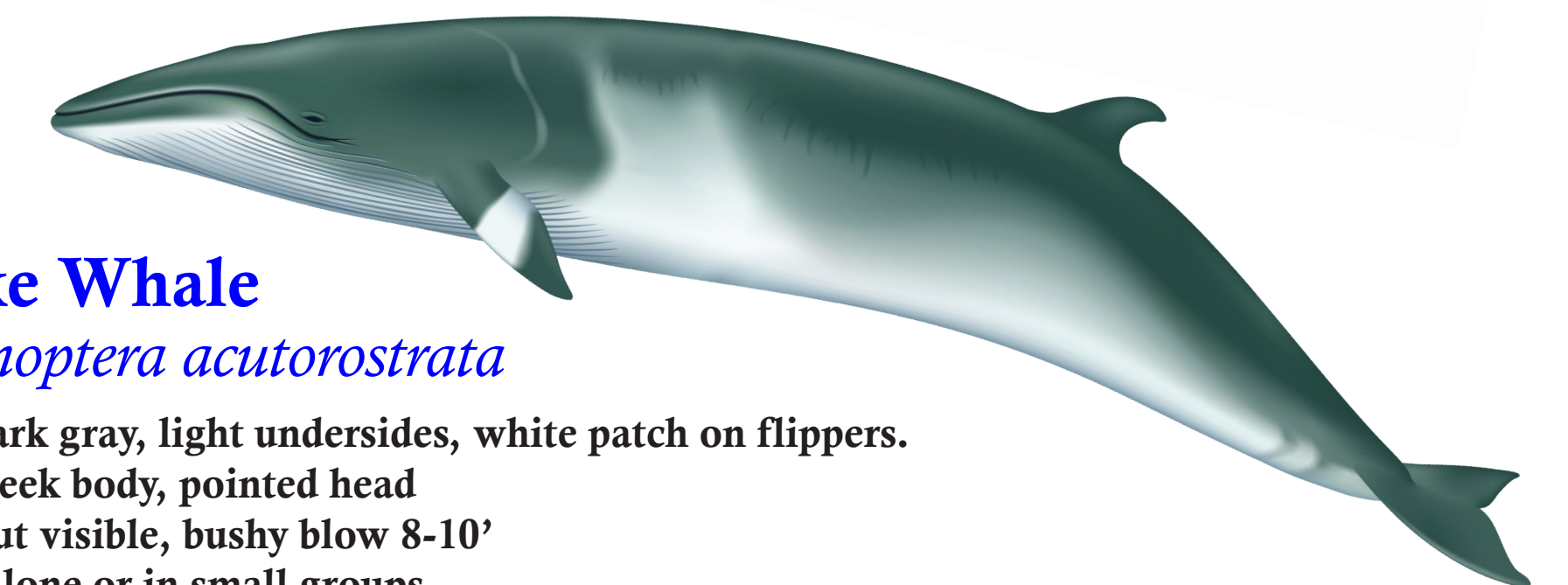
Orca (or Killer Whale)
Orcinus orca

Black body with white chin, belly, and eyepatch
Average 21-24' / 3-6 tons
Visible blow 10-15', adult males dorsal fin 5-6'
Southern Resident orcas (salmon-eating) listed as
Endangered, usually seen in pods of 5-50
Often seen in Puget Sound during fall, off San
Juan Islands/Georgia Strait in summer;
Transient (marine mammal-eating) orcas
usually in pods of 1-5; seen year around



Dall's Porpoise
Phocoenoides dalli

Black body/white belly and sides
White on dorsal fin trailing edge
Average 6-7' / 300 lbs.
Travels alone or in groups of 2-20
Creates "rooster tail" spray
Likes to bow-ride



Minke Whale
Balaenoptera acutorostrata

Black/dark gray, light undersides, white patch on flippers.
Small, sleek body, pointed head
Weak, but visible, bushy blow 8-10'
Travels alone or in small groups
Average 26-28' / 6-8 tons
Short curved dorsal fin

GOT WHALES?

Call 1-866-ORCANET (672-2638)

To Report Whale Sightings

REPORT DEAD OR STRANDED MARINE MAMMALS TO:



1-866-ORCANET (672-2638)
Whidbey and Camano Islands,
Skagit and North Snohomish Counties
(All other areas call 206-526-6733)



www.orcanetwork.org
www.orcanetwork.org/strandings.html

Illustrations by Uko Gorter