

# Northern Bottlenose Whale

*Hyperoodon ampullatus*



(C) Saana Isojunno, Sea Watch Foundation

## Quick facts

**Order** Cetartiodactyla

**Conservation status**

**Global** *Near threatened*

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**Global trend** *Unknown*

**Size** 7 - 9.5 m, males larger

**Weight** 4,900 kg

**Life span** At least 37 years  
(probably much longer).

The northern bottlenose whale is the largest of the beaked whales found around Britain. It is a robust beaked whale with bulbous melons. Two teeth erupt at tip of lower jaw in males, but this is not always easily visible.

### Habitat

Confined to the North Atlantic. Cold-temperate to subarctic deep waters (at least 500 m deep), usually seaward of continental shelf.

### Behaviour

Mostly found in groups of 4 - 20 of mixed sexes and ages. It is a curious and relatively acrobatic species that sometimes approaches boats. Stays alongside wounded companions. Juveniles may be escorted by adults not presumed to be the mother.

### Diet & Feeding

Primarily on *Gonatus* squid. Occasionally fish, sea cucumbers, starfish, prawns. Mostly feeds in very deep (800 - 1,400 m) waters.

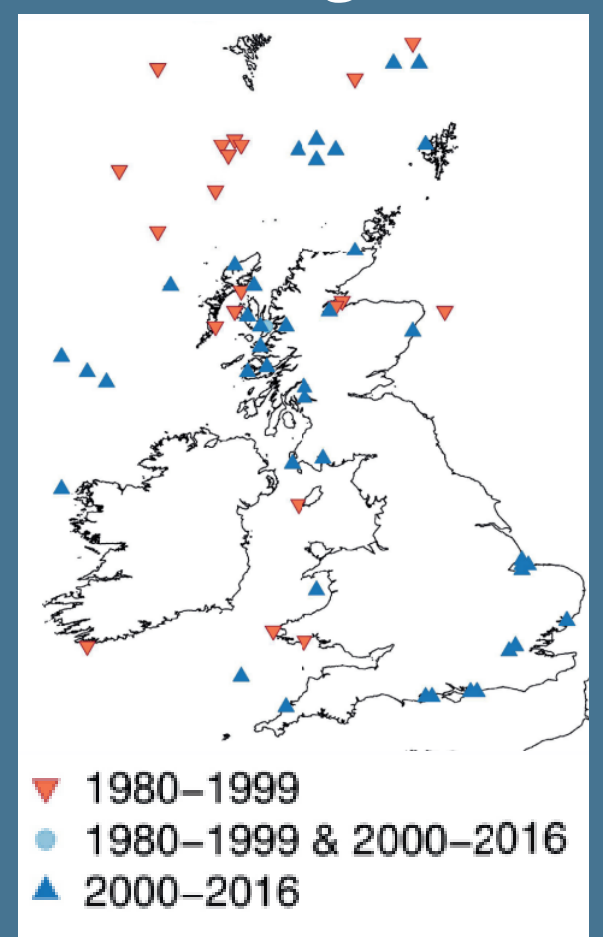
### Reproduction

Males are possibly territorial. Young are born late spring - summer after a 12 month gestation.

### Conservation & Threats

One of only two beaked whale species hunted commercially. Whaling ended in 1973; the extent of recovery since this point is unclear. Entanglement in fishing gear may be a significant threat. Highly sensitive to acoustic disturbance. Pesticides and plastic pollution also present threats. Climate change may lead to habitat loss for this species.

### Range



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