

Pilot Whales

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Pilot Whales Latest News

Recently, more than two dozen pilot whales have died after becoming stranded on a remote beach in New Zealand.

About Pilot Whales

- Pilot whales are one of the largest members of the **Delphinidae family**.
- There are two species of pilot whales: **Short-finned pilot whales** (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*) and **Long-finned pilot whales** (*G. melas*),
- **Habitat:** Short-finned pilot whales found in **tropical and warm-temperate waters**, while long-finned species inhabit **cold-temperate and sub-polar oceans**.
- **Distribution:** They are distributed in the Pacific **Ocean, Atlantic Ocean** and seas near Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and India.

Features of Pilot Whales

- They are characterized by a **round bulging forehead**, a short beaklike snout, and slender pointed flippers.

- Both long-finned and short-finned pilot whales are about 4–6 metres (13–20 feet) long.
- Males of both species are larger than females.
- These whales live in groups numbering from dozens to hundreds or even thousands of individuals **and feed mainly on squid.**
- These groups are based **on matrilineal lines** – meaning that calves stay with their mothers through adulthood.
- **Conservation Status:** IUCN: Least concern

Source: DD News

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-are-pilot-whales/>

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