

Vaquita Porpoise

August 7, 2023 • vajiramandravi.com



About Vaquita Porpoise

- It is the world's **smallest cetacean**.
- It is unique among the porpoises as it is the only species of **that family found in warm waters**, and the size of the dorsal fin is believed to be an adaptation to that, allowing for extra body heat to dissipate.
- The name vaquita means **"little cow" in Spanish**.
- **Habitat**
 - It has the smallest range of any whale, dolphin or porpoise, and only lives in a small 1,500 square-mile **area in Mexico's upper Gulf of California**, near the town of San Felipe.
- **Appearance**
 - It has a large **dark ring around its eyes and dark patches** on its lips that form a thin line from the mouth to the pectoral fins.
 - It only measures up to five feet in size.
- **Threat**
 - The vaquita population has been declining precipitously for decades due to **bycatch in gillnet set to catch shrimp and fish, including totoaba**.

- **Conservation status**
 - **IUCN:** Critically Endangered
 - **CITES:** Appendix I

Key facts about International Whaling Commission

- It was set up under the **International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling** (ICRW) which was signed in Washington DC in 1946.
- **Objective:** To provide for the **proper conservation of whale stocks** and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry.
- **Headquarter:** Impington, near Cambridge, England.

Q1) What are Cetaceans?

Cetaceans are a group of marine mammals that include whales, dolphins, and porpoises. They are well-adapted to life in aquatic environments and have a variety of unique features that enable them to thrive in the ocean.

Source: [Plight of the vaquita forces International Whaling Commission to issue first extinction alert](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/vaquita-porpoise/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.