

Yangtze Finless Porpoise

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Yangtze Finless Porpoise Latest News

Scientists use classical poems to map the decline of Yangtze finless porpoise from the Tang Period to the People's Republic of China.

Why in the News?

- **Chinese scientists have utilised classical Chinese poetry** to reconstruct the **historical distribution** of the **Yangtze finless porpoise**, the **only known freshwater porpoise species in the world**.
- This study demonstrates the **scientific use of ancient literary records** to track **biodiversity trends over 1,000+ years**, from the **Tang Dynasty (618-907 CE)** to the **modern People's Republic of China**.

About the Yangtze Finless Porpoise

- **Habitat:** Found exclusively in the **Yangtze River, Asia's longest river**.

- **Unique traits:** Known for a **mischievous smile** and **intelligence similar to gorillas**.
- **Ecological role:** Considered a **key indicator species**, reflecting the **overall health** of its freshwater ecosystem.
- **Size & Behaviour:** **Small-bodied**, **slow-moving**, and **non-migratory**.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List:** **Critically Endangered**
- **Estimated population:** **Only 1,000-1,800 individuals**
- **Extinction risk:** High – parallels drawn with the **Baiji dolphin**, declared **functionally extinct in 2006**, marking the **first human-driven extinction of a dolphin species**.

Yangtze Finless Porpoise FAQs

Q1. What is the Yangtze finless porpoise?

Ans. It is a critically endangered freshwater cetacean species found only in the Yangtze River in China.

Q2. What is its IUCN Red List status?

Ans. The Yangtze finless porpoise is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Q3. Is it the only freshwater porpoise species?

Ans. Yes, it is the only known freshwater porpoise species in the world.

Source: [DTE](#)

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

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