
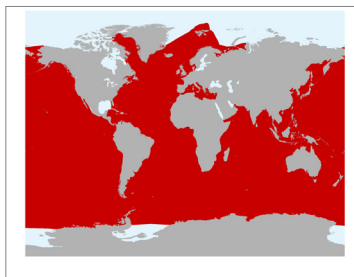




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Geographical range

## Species of the Day: Dwarf Minke Whale

The **Dwarf Minke Whale**, *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, is listed as 'Least Concern' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Until the 1990s, only one species of Minke Whale was recognized, however, today two distinct species – the Antarctic Minke Whale and the Dwarf Minke Whale – have been defined. The species is found throughout most of the world's oceans, but its migration patterns are poorly understood.

Abundance figures for the Dwarf Minke Whale are unknown for much of the globe. Whaling used to be intensive in the Northeast Atlantic during the 20th century and, as a result of reduced whale numbers, catches were phased out by 1987. Whaling was resumed during the 1990s and 2000s by Norway, Iceland and Greenland. Whaling also occurs in the North Pacific by Japan.

In 1986, the International Whaling Commission set catch limits for all commercial whaling at zero, although some countries have rejected this provision. With the exception of the Greenland population, the Dwarf Minke Whale is included in Appendix I of CITES, which prohibits international trade in products derived from the species. This prohibition does not apply to Iceland, Norway or Japan.

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