



Scientific name : *Mesoplodon europaeus*
Family : Odontocetes
Length : 4 to 7 meters
Weight : 600 to 800 kilograms
Dive duration : 40 minutes
Average diving depth : 1500 meters
Life span : about 50 years



Diet

Although they eat fish and crustaceans, Gervais' Beaked Whale feed essentially on squids they can find in deep water.

Behaviour

They live off the coast in groups of maximum 5 individuals. The water can be warm, temperate or tropical. We know very little about this species.



Distinctive characteristics

They are usually brown coloured and their eyes are circled in black.



In the French West Indies

They are not common but you can find them in deep water.

Reproduction

We have little information about it. They can give birth every 3 years. As we observed quite a lot of scars on males' body it is deduced that they fight with one another for a female.

The calf

It is about 2 meters long.



Did you know ?

Beaked whale males have two teeth on both sides of their lower jaw. This species belongs therefore to the Odontoceti family.

Threats and protection

They are not targeted by whalers but they get accidentally caught in fishing nets and they are also major victims of sonars causing their death. They are considered as protected species within the Agoa Sanctuary.

