



Scientific name : *Orcinus orca*

Family : Odontocetes

Size : males are 6,7 to 9,8 meters, females are 5,6 to 8,4 meters

Weight : males are 4 to 9,5 tons, females are 2 to 7 tons

Dive duration : 5 to 25 minutes

Average diving depth : 250 meters

Life span : around 60 years for males, around 90 years for females

Distinctive characteristics

They are black and white and have a large dorsal fin.

Diet

They are predators with the most varied diet of cetaceans. Killer whales are at the top of the food chain so they feed on everything they find : fish, squids, seals, turtles, dolphins. Sometimes they even attack the youngest of large cetaceans. They eat from 60 to 80 kg of food a day. The whole group cooperates when hunting.

Behaviour

They are social and can be part of a group of 2 to 50 individuals. Their group consist of at least one mature male, males and females of different ages. The oldest female is often the dominant one.

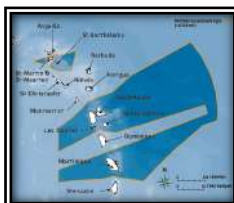


Threats and protection

Humans hunt orcas to eat them or to sell them to dolphinariums. They are victims of the scarcity of their prey due to climate change, human activities and overfishing. They are considered as protected species within the Agoa Sanctuary.

Did you know ?

Males' dorsal fin can reach 1,8 meters high !



Within the French West Indies

They are seen occasionally throughout the year, most often by fishermen being of the coast.



Reproduction

Males reach sexual maturity at the age of 20 and females between 10 and 15 years of age. They breed outside the group in which they were born. Females are menopausal around 45 years.

The calf

It weighs 180 kilograms and measures around 2 metres at birth. It is breastfed for at least a year but gets weaned after more than two years. Females give birth to a calf every 5 years.

