

Welcome to Cape Roger Curtis

Can you spot any of these marine mammals?

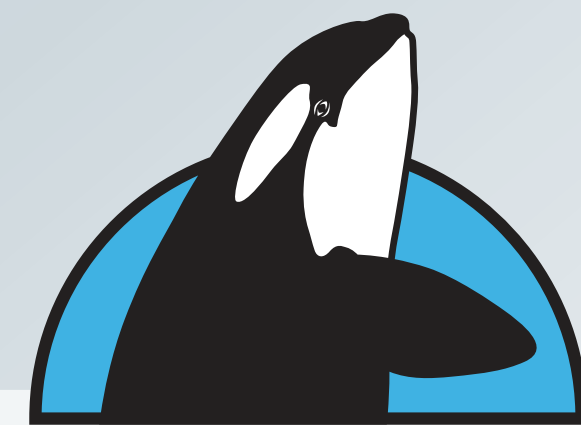
You might, so look for their heads, fins or blows, and report any that you find (see below to find out how).

Historically the outer waters of Howe Sound around Bowen Island were teaming with fish and marine mammals. However, pollution from industry, overfishing and shoreline development greatly reduced the populations of many species. Fortunately, clean-up of industrial pollution and conservation projects over the past three decades have brought about a great recovery of life in Howe

Sound. To learn more about the ecology, conservation and history of Howe Sound visit www.oceanwatch.ca.

Reporting your whale, dolphin and porpoise sightings to the B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network helps researchers understand when and where they spend time, and this information can help protect them.

The waters off Bowen Island are important to these marine animals. Help keep these fragile marine waters healthy.



the **whaletrail**

Follow The Whale Trail to watch whales and other marine mammals from shore. From Victoria to Prince Rupert, what will you discover?

You are here



Pacific White-Sided Dolphin

(Lagenorhynchus obliquidens)

LENGTH Up to 2.5 m/8 ft
DORSAL FIN Sharply curved, bi-coloured
APPEARANCE Dark back, white underside, grey side streaks
BEHAVIOUR Only small, local cetacean that leaps completely clear of the water, usually in groups of 50 or more
STATUS Not at Risk
SIGHTINGS Occasional



Harbour Porpoise

(Phocoena phocoena)

LENGTH Less than 2 m/6.5 ft
DORSAL FIN Dark, triangular
APPEARANCE Dark-grey back with lighter underside
BEHAVIOUR Inconspicuous; travels slowly, generally alone or in small groups of 2-3
STATUS Special Concern
SIGHTINGS Common



Northern River Otter

(Lontra canadensis)

LENGTH 1-1.5m/3-5 ft
APPEARANCE Long, thick body with relatively short legs; long tail that tapers to a sharp point
BEHAVIOUR Swim belly down; regularly haul out on beaches, rafts and docks; run quickly on land
STATUS Not at Risk
SIGHTINGS Common

**The commonly observed Northern River Otter is often mistaken for the Sea Otter (Enhydra lutris), which does not inhabit the Salish Sea or Howe Sound.*



Humpback Whale

(Megaptera novaeangliae)

LENGTH 11-15 m/37-50 ft
DORSAL FIN Small, nubby fin with broad base
APPEARANCE Black body, bumps or knobs on head, long pectoral fins with white underside
BEHAVIOUR Medium-sized, bushy blow; usually surfaces 2-5 times between deep dives; often raises tail flukes on final dive
STATUS Threatened
SIGHTINGS Occasional



California Sea Lion

(Zalophus californianus)

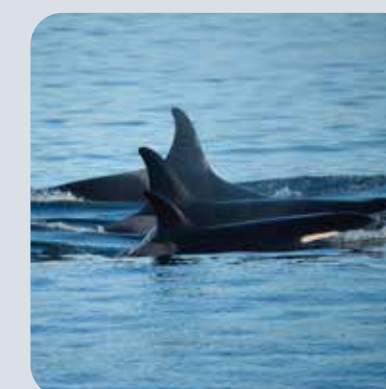
LENGTH 1.5-2.5m /5-8ft
APPEARANCE Dark brown colouration; mature males have a light-coloured sagittal crest on the head
BEHAVIOUR Spends time on land and in water; often seen in large groups on rocky haul outs. Vocalizations sound like a bark.
STATUS Not at Risk
SIGHTINGS Occasional



Harbour Seal

(Phoca vitulina)

LENGTH 1-1.5m (3-5ft)
APPEARANCE Varies from blonde to brown and black; short body, large head and short limbs
BEHAVIOUR Spend time on land, and in the water; form loosely gregarious groups when hauled out
STATUS Not at Risk
SIGHTINGS Common



Killer Whale

(Orcinus orca)

LENGTH 6-9 m/18-28 ft
DORSAL FIN Black; triangular in females and calves; tall, distinctive in adult males
APPEARANCE Black body with white underside, grey saddle patch behind dorsal fin, white eye patch
BEHAVIOUR Usually in groups of 3-25, bushy blows visible in cold weather
STATUS Southern residents Endangered; northern residents, Bigg's (transients) and offshores Threatened
SIGHTINGS Occasional



Human
1.8 m/6 ft
For scale reference



patagonia

BOWEN ISLAND Municipality

Bowen Nature Club



Scan, scroll and listen to these incredible animals vocalizing (sound clips kindly provided by JASCO Applied Sciences, www.jasco.com)



Be a Citizen Scientist - Report your Sightings!

Many populations of marine mammals and sea turtles are at risk in B.C. Report your sightings of whales, dolphins, porpoises and sea turtles to help us better understand the distribution and abundance of these species. **Report your sightings to:**



wild whales
b.c. cetacean sightings network

www.wildwhales.org
1.866.I.SAW.ONE
sightings@vanaqua.org



Download the WhaleReport app for iOS or android



Please report sick, injured, distressed or dead marine mammals and sea turtles to **1.800.465.4336**

