

TOHORĀ - SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALES

These slow-moving marine giants often chill out close to shore and have a curious, playful nature. Individuals can be identified by the unique pattern of callosities on their head.



Callosities on head



No dorsal fin, smooth back



Triangular, all-black tail

PAIKEA - HUMPBAC WHALES

Paikea are well known for their spectacular breaching. Their tails are broad and have a unique black and white pattern, which allow individuals to be identified.



Grooves and knobs on head



Dorsal fin, hump with knuckles



Scalloped edge on tail

PARĀOA - SPERM WHALES

Parāoa have wrinkly skin and a large square head that makes up around one third of their body length. They are purplish-brown or dark grey in colour.



Hump instead of dorsal fin



Arching back



Large triangular tail

BLUE WHALES

The blue whale is the largest animal in the world and is usually seen alone or in pairs. The head is blue, but the back and sides usually appear a mottled bluish grey.



Mottled bluish grey back



Small dorsal fin



Wide triangular tail