

WHALES

- Sperm whales
- Baleen whales (Mysticetes)
- Beaked whales

**An identification guide for observers in the
PIRO Observer Programs**

Sperm Whale



Sperm Whales

JAR





Sperm Whale





Sperm Whale

Sperm Whale





Sperm Whale

Sperm Whale



Sperm Whales

JAR



Pygmy Sperm Whale

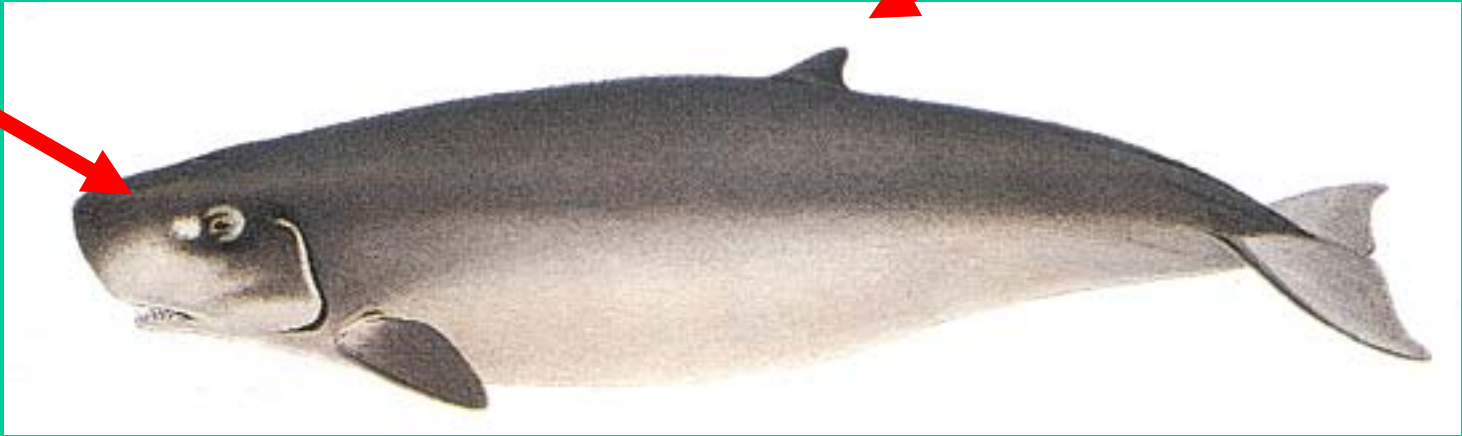


Like both *Kogia spp.*, this species has a noticeable false gill mark and a small underslung lower jaw.

The Pygmy sperm whale has a small dorsal fin and a white-light colored spot in front of each eye.



Dwarf Sperm Whale

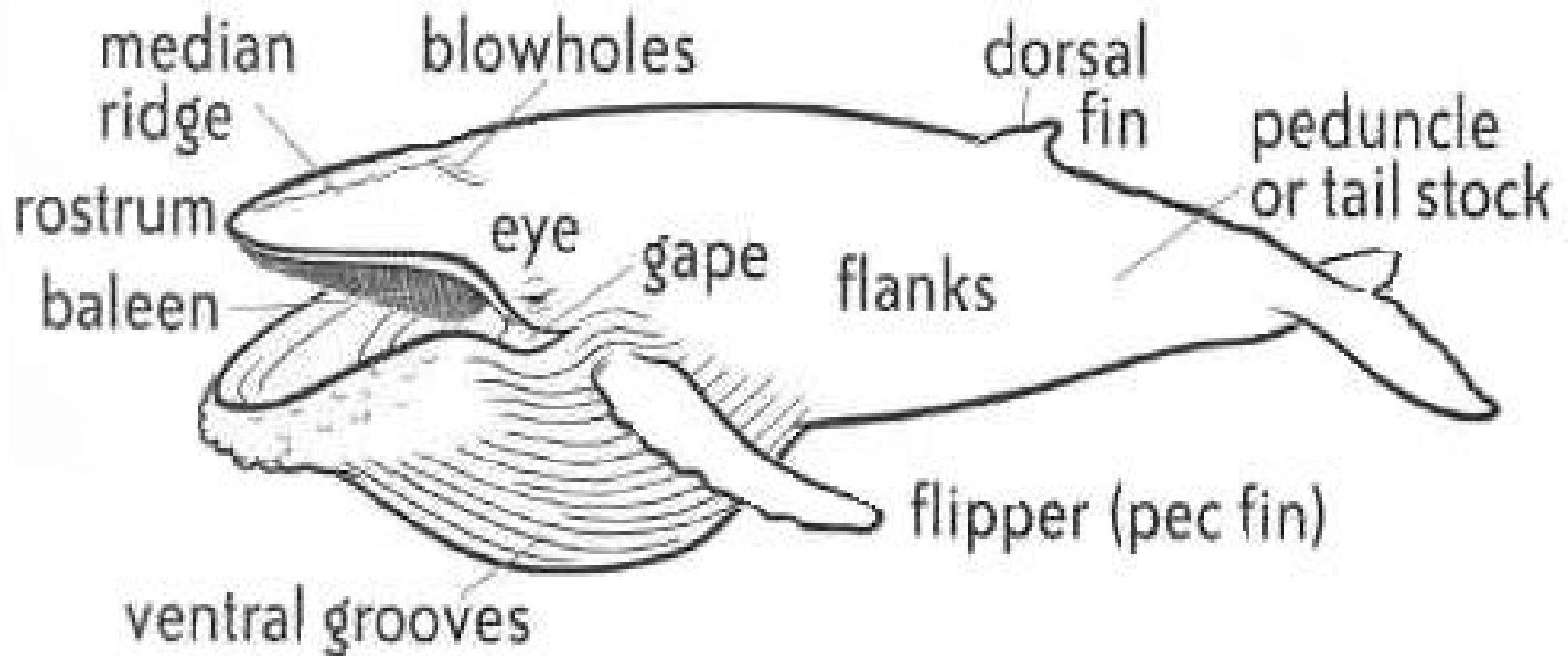


Pygmy sperm whale



Dwarf sperm whale

Mysticete (baleen whale)





Grey Whale

Grey
Whale





Grey Whale

Grey Whale





Grey Whale

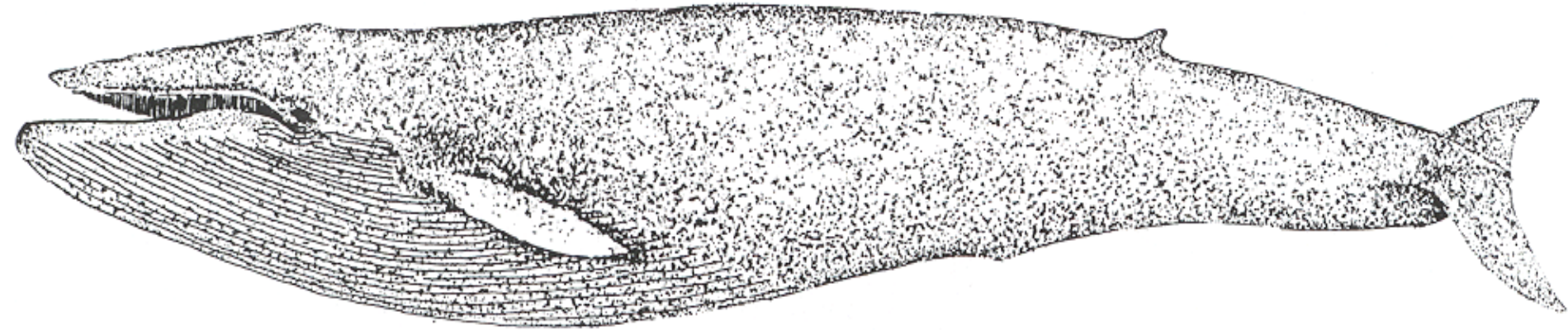
Grey Whale



Grey Whale



Blue Whale



Blue whales are the largest of the baleen whales. Some useful field marks to identify them are:

- the head is 25% of the body length.**
- the dorsal fin is $\frac{3}{4}$ back from the head.**
- the main body color is a mottled blue-gray**

Blue Whale



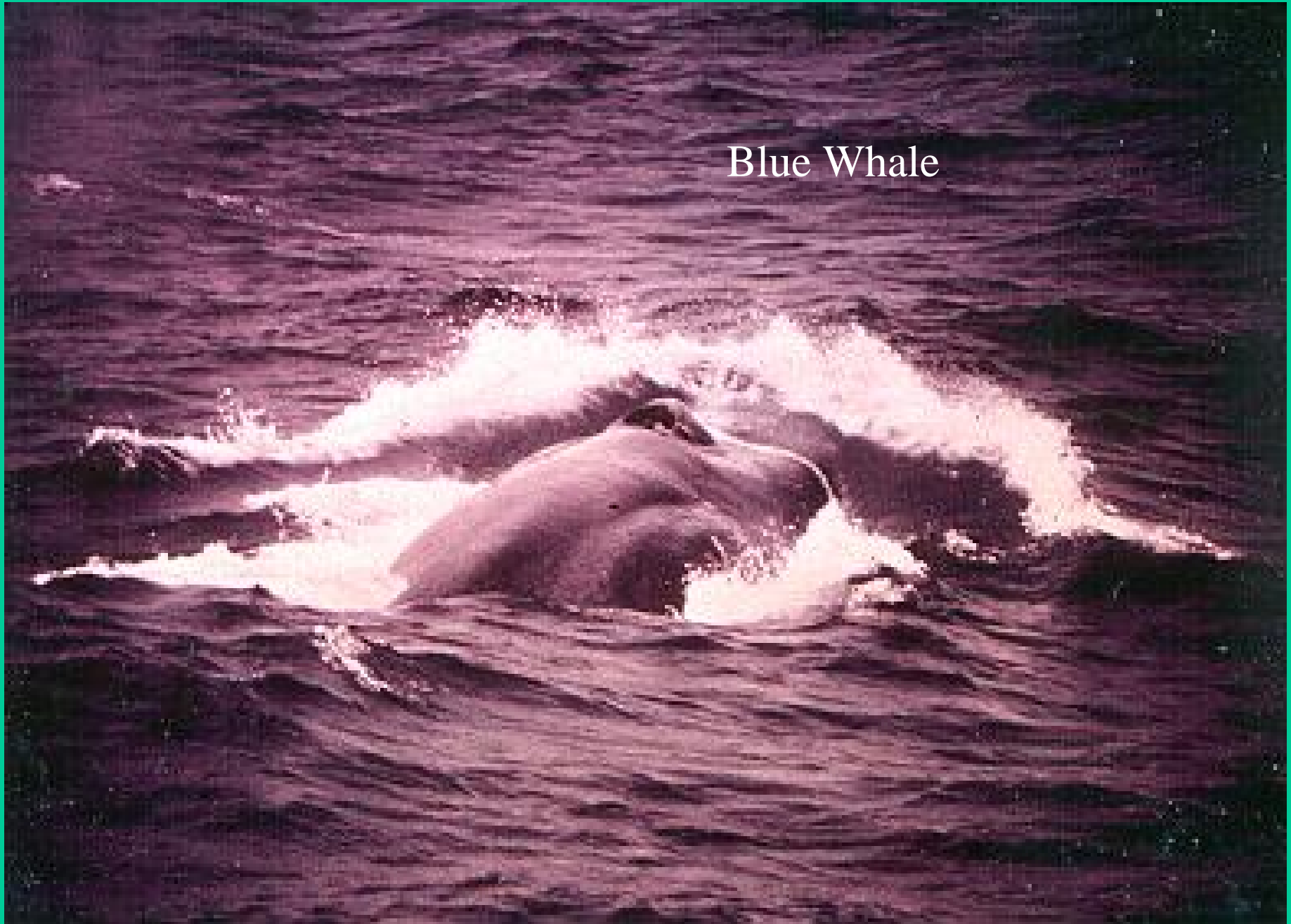


Blue Whale

Blue Whale



Blue Whale



Blue Whale





Blue Whale

Blue Whale





Blue Whale JAR



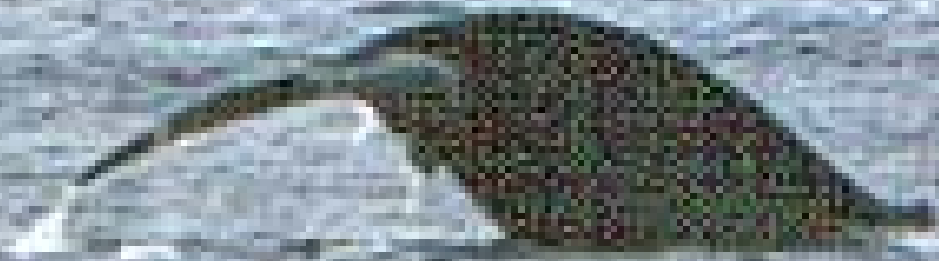
Blue Whale IAR



Blue Whale IAR

A photograph of a blue whale breaching the ocean surface. The whale's dark, massive back is visible above the water, creating a large splash. The water is a deep blue with white foam from the breach. The text "Blue Whale JAR" is overlaid on the lower part of the image.

Blue Whale JAR



Blue Whale JAR

Minke Whale





Minke Whale

(Southern hemisphere species, with white shoulder)



Minke Whale

Minke
Whale



A photograph of a Minke Whale swimming in the ocean. The whale is seen from a side profile, moving from left to right. Its dark, sleek body is partially visible above the water's surface, with a prominent dorsal fin. The water is a deep blue with small, white-capped waves. The text "Minke Whale" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, serif font.

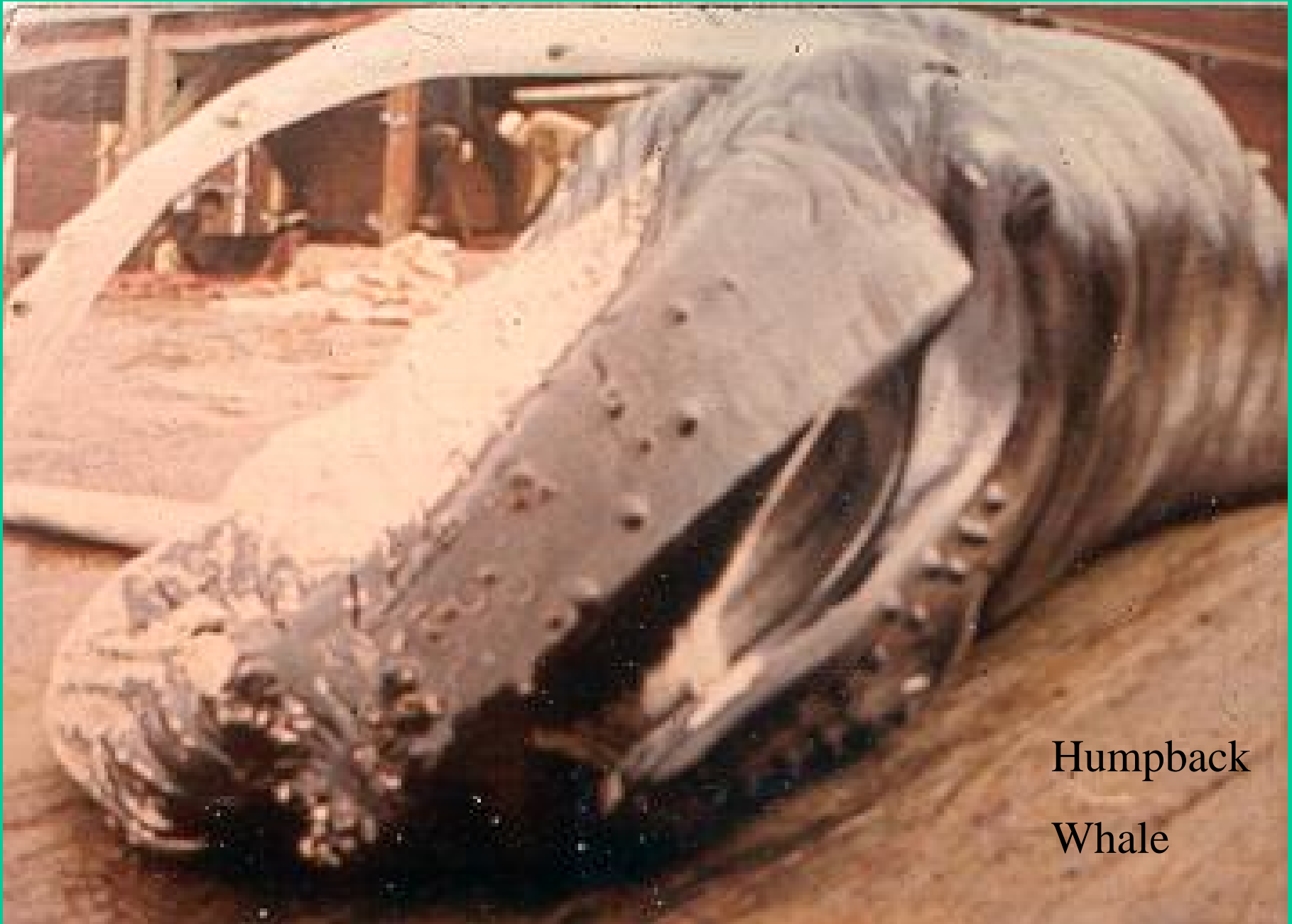
Minke Whale

Minke Whale

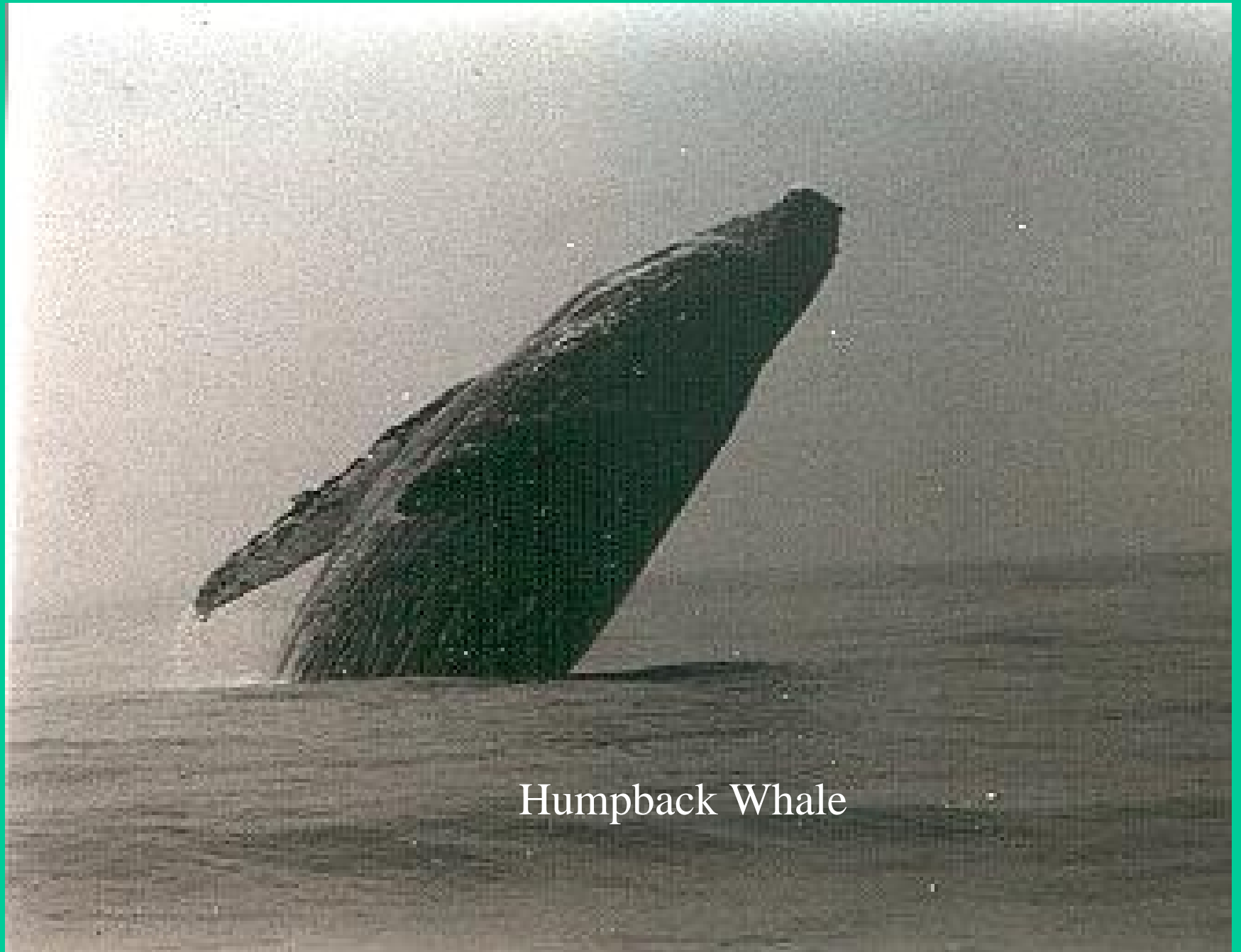


Humpback Whale



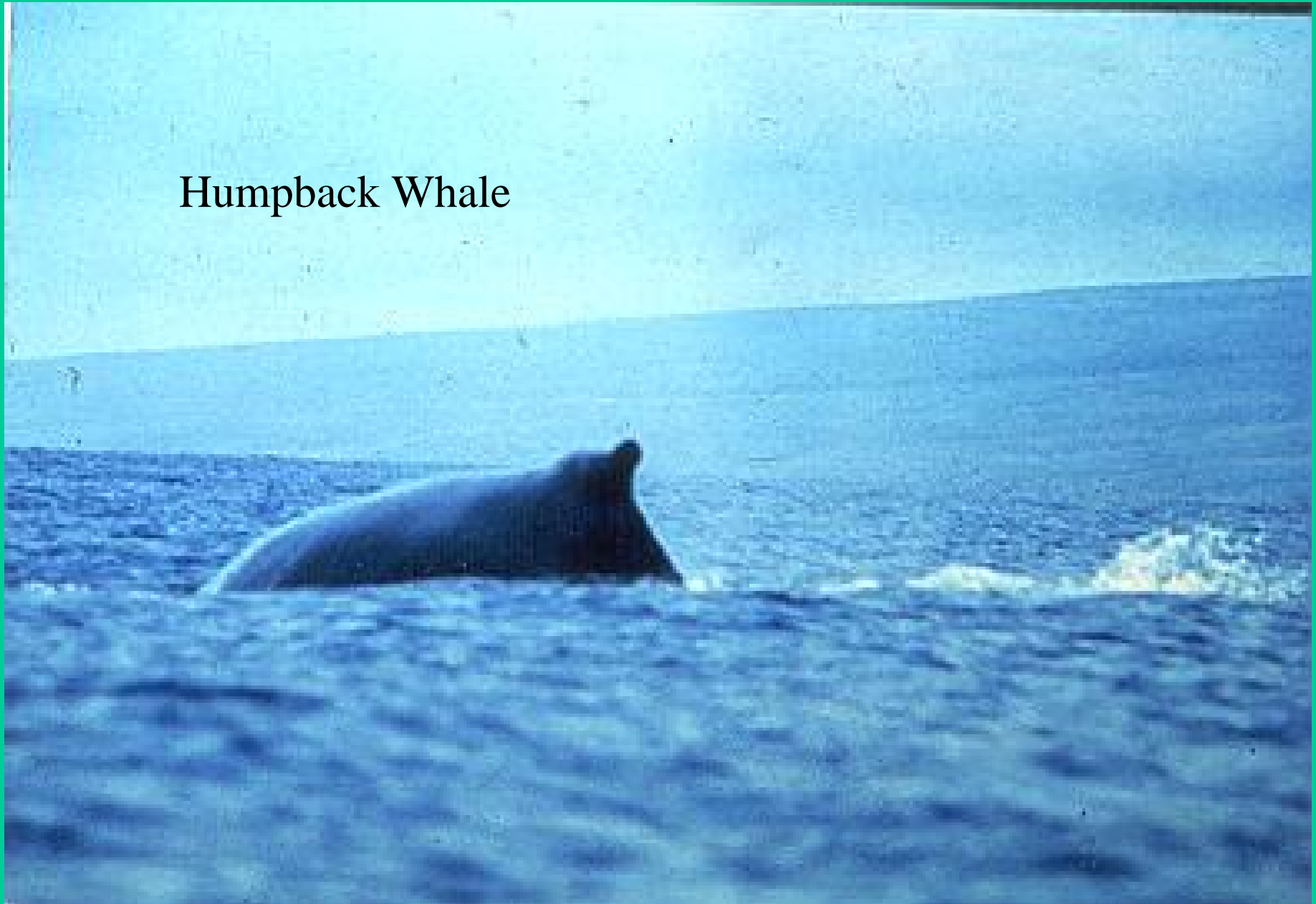


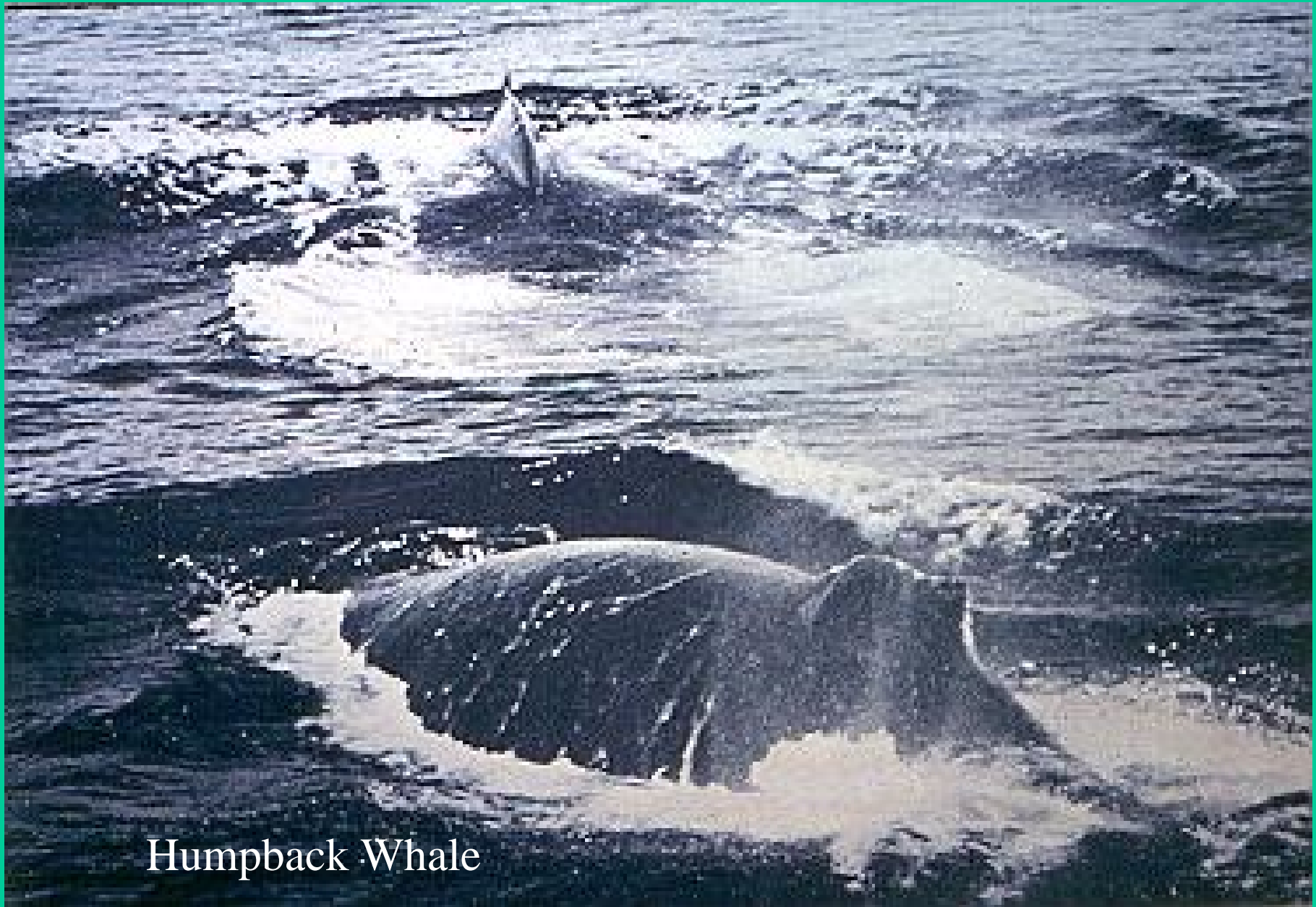
Humpback
Whale



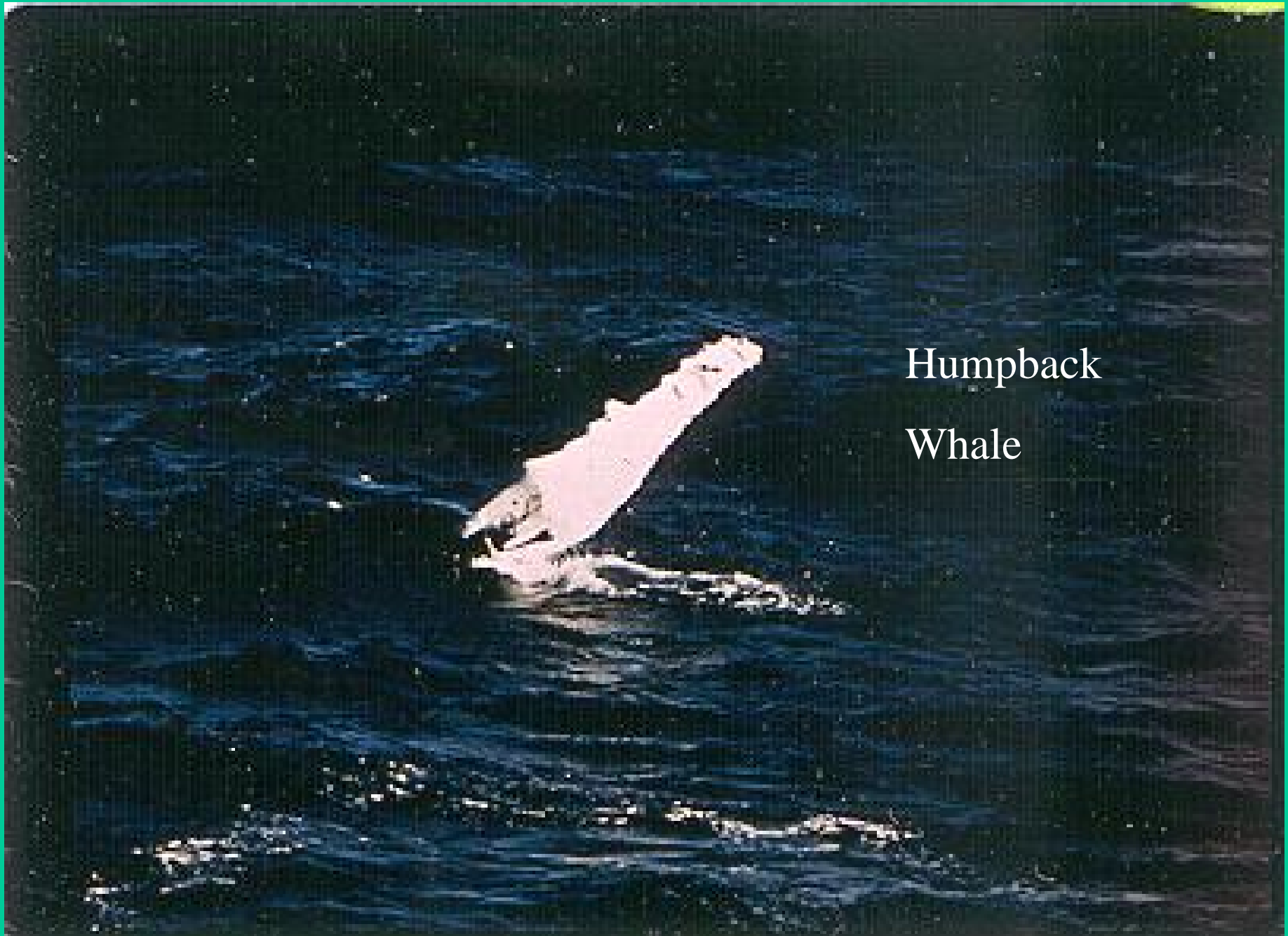
Humpback Whale

Humpback Whale





Humpback Whale



Humpback
Whale

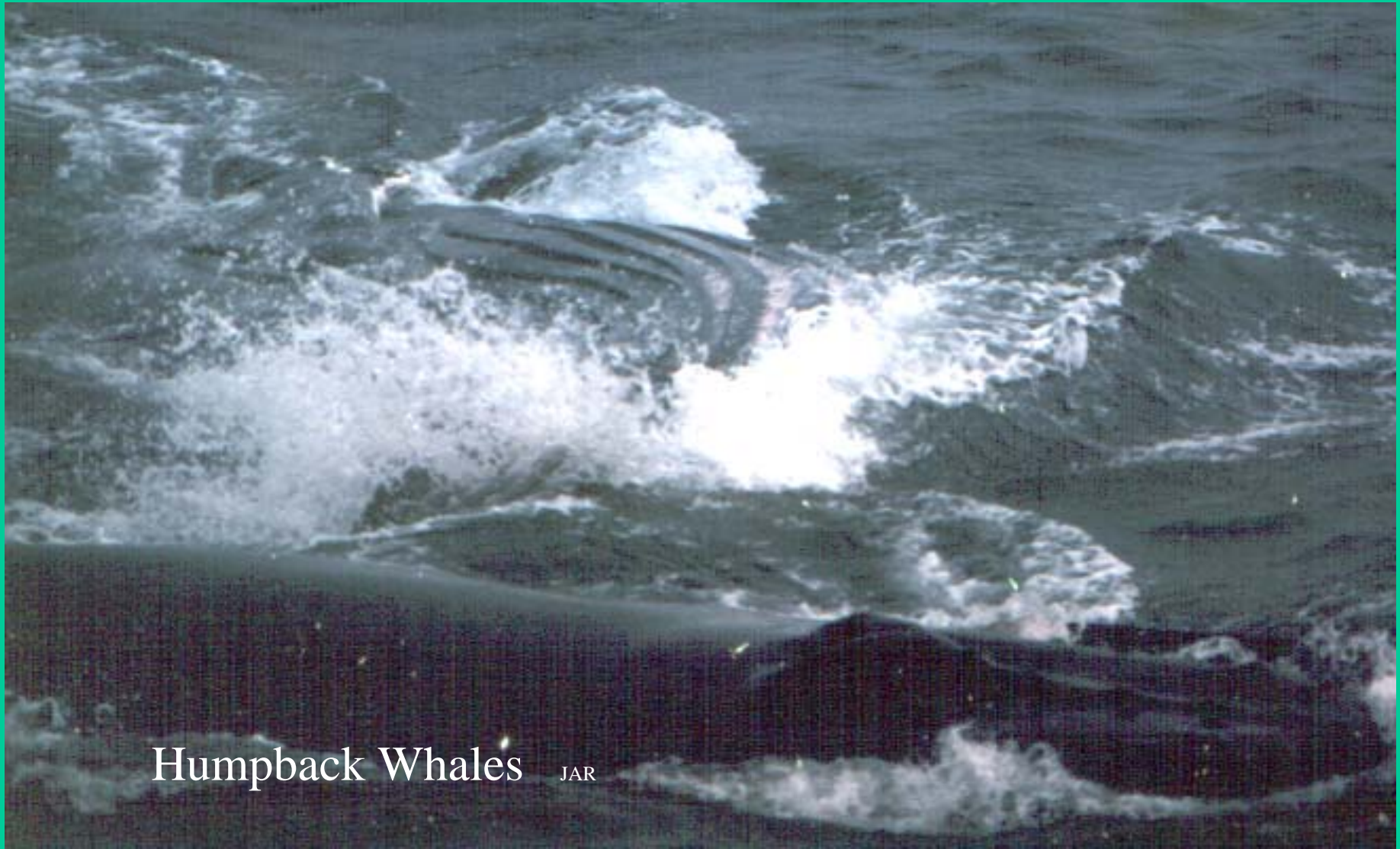


Humpback Whale

Humpback Whale

JAR

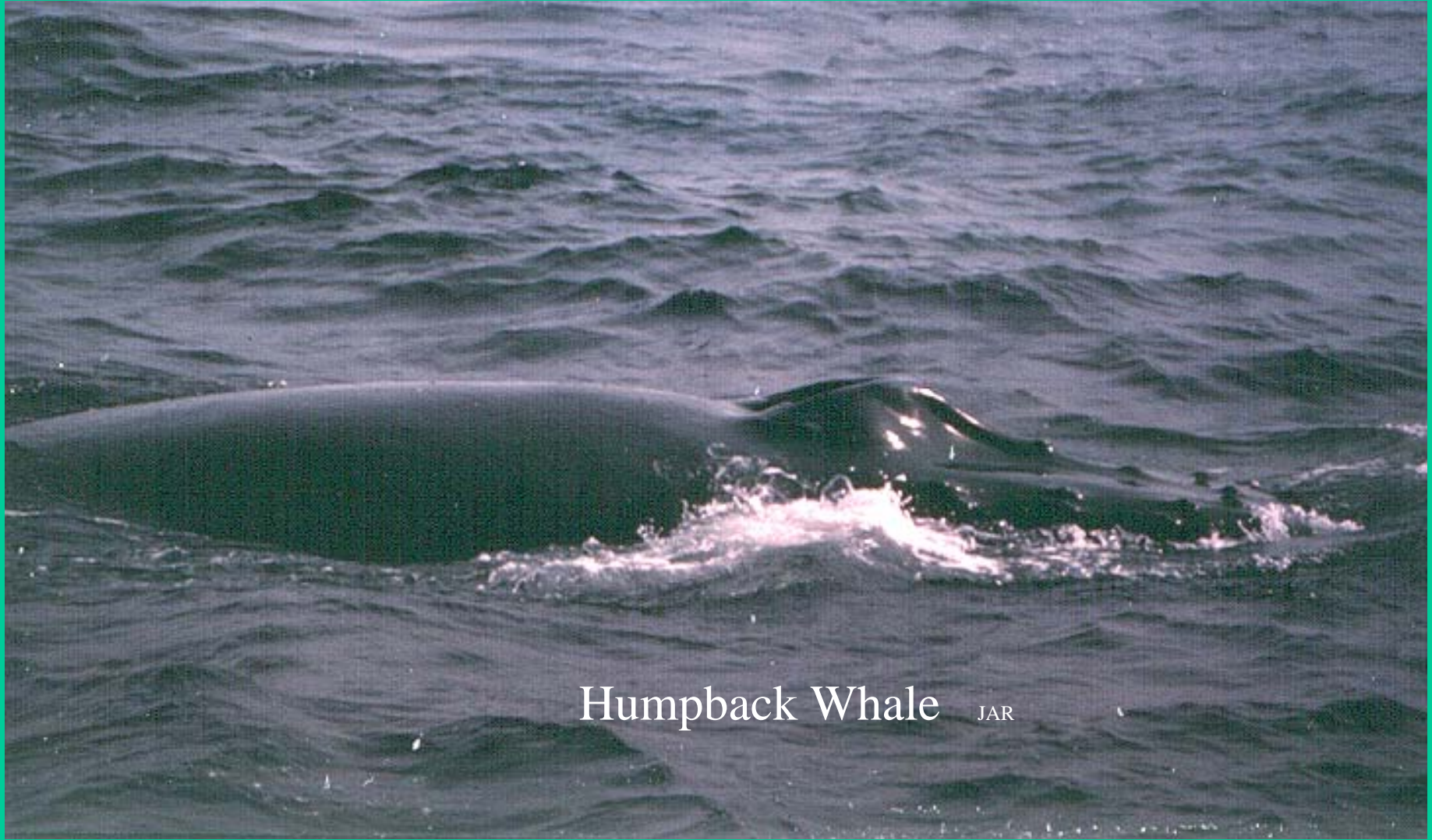




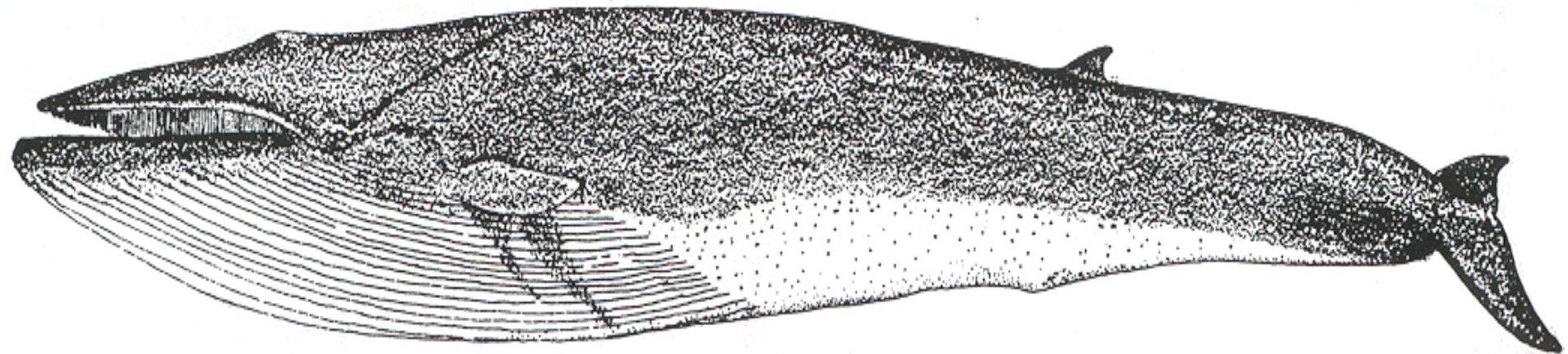
Humpback Whales JAR



Humpback Whale JAR



Humpback Whale JAR



Fin Whale

**Young Fin whale
showing asymmetrical
coloration of lower jaw.**



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Image courtesy of Center For Coastal Studies

Single median ridge on rostrum.



Right lower jaw
is white.



Underside of Fin whale flukes. Note dark edge.



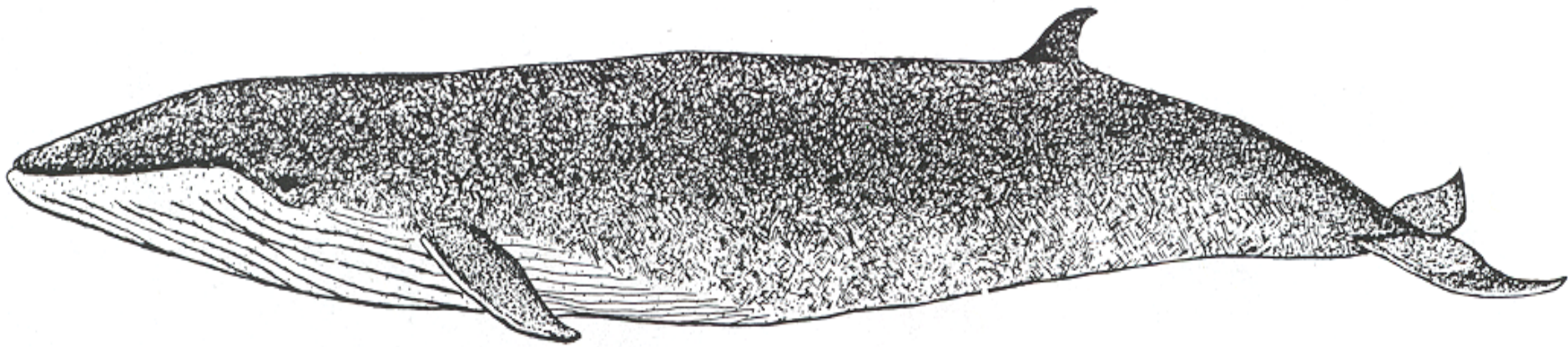
Image courtesy of Center For Coastal Studies

Fin whale cow & calf pair



Pod of Fin whales





Bryde's Whale

Bryde's Whale.

**Note 3 distinct ridges on
rostrum.**



Image courtesy of R. Pittman, NMFS, La Jolla

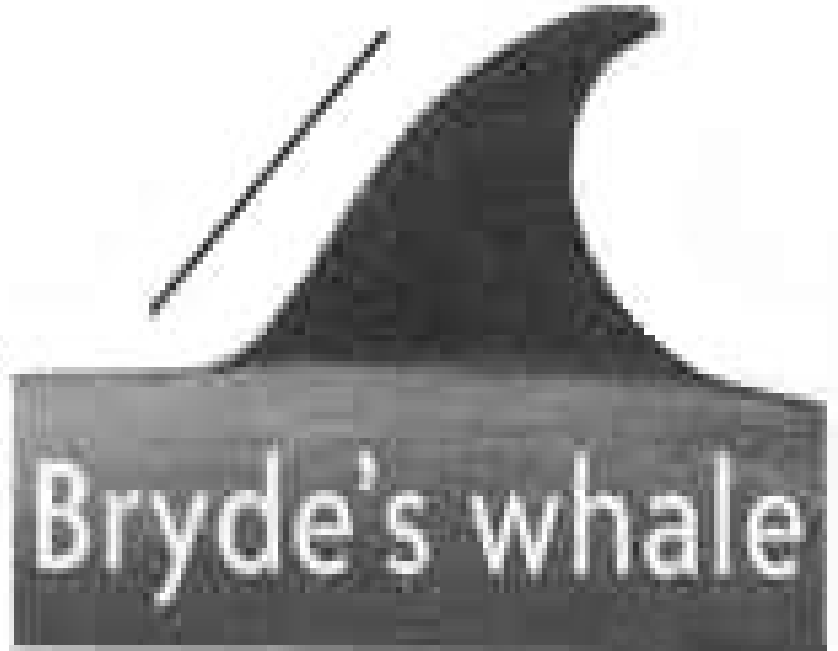
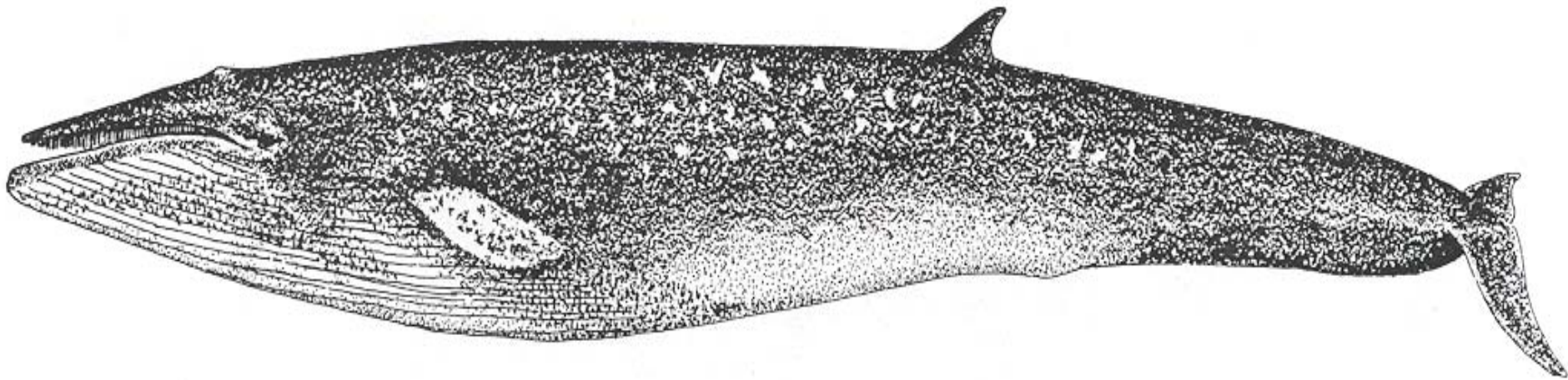


Image from *Marine Mammals of the North Eastern Pacific and Adjacent Arctic Waters, An Identification Guide* by Alaska Sea Grant

The dorsal fins of the fin whale & Bryde's whales.



Sei Whale



Sei Whale. Single distinct ridge on rostrum.



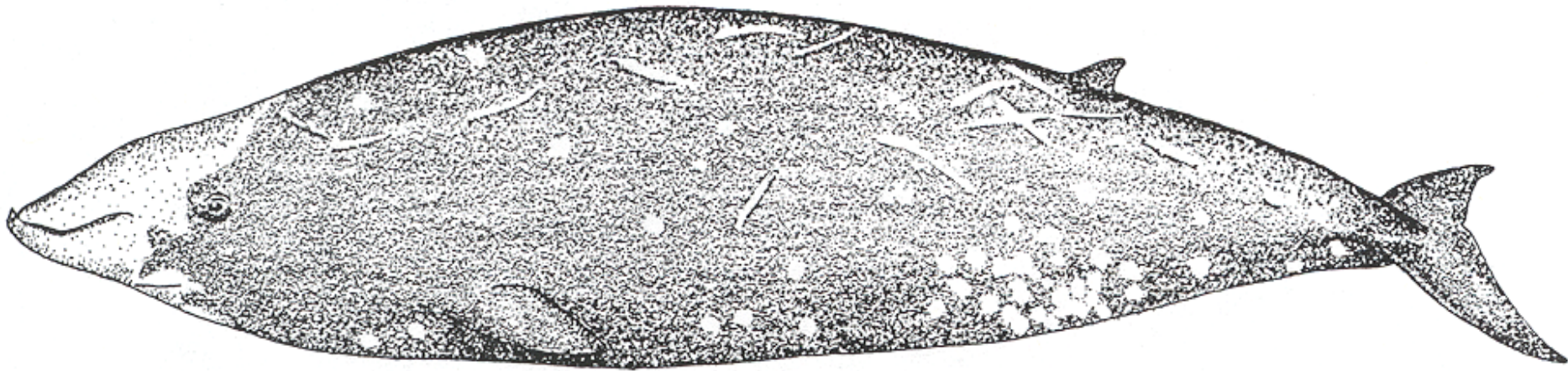
Baird's Beaked Whale JAR



Baird's Beaked Whale JAR

Baird's Beaked Whale JAR



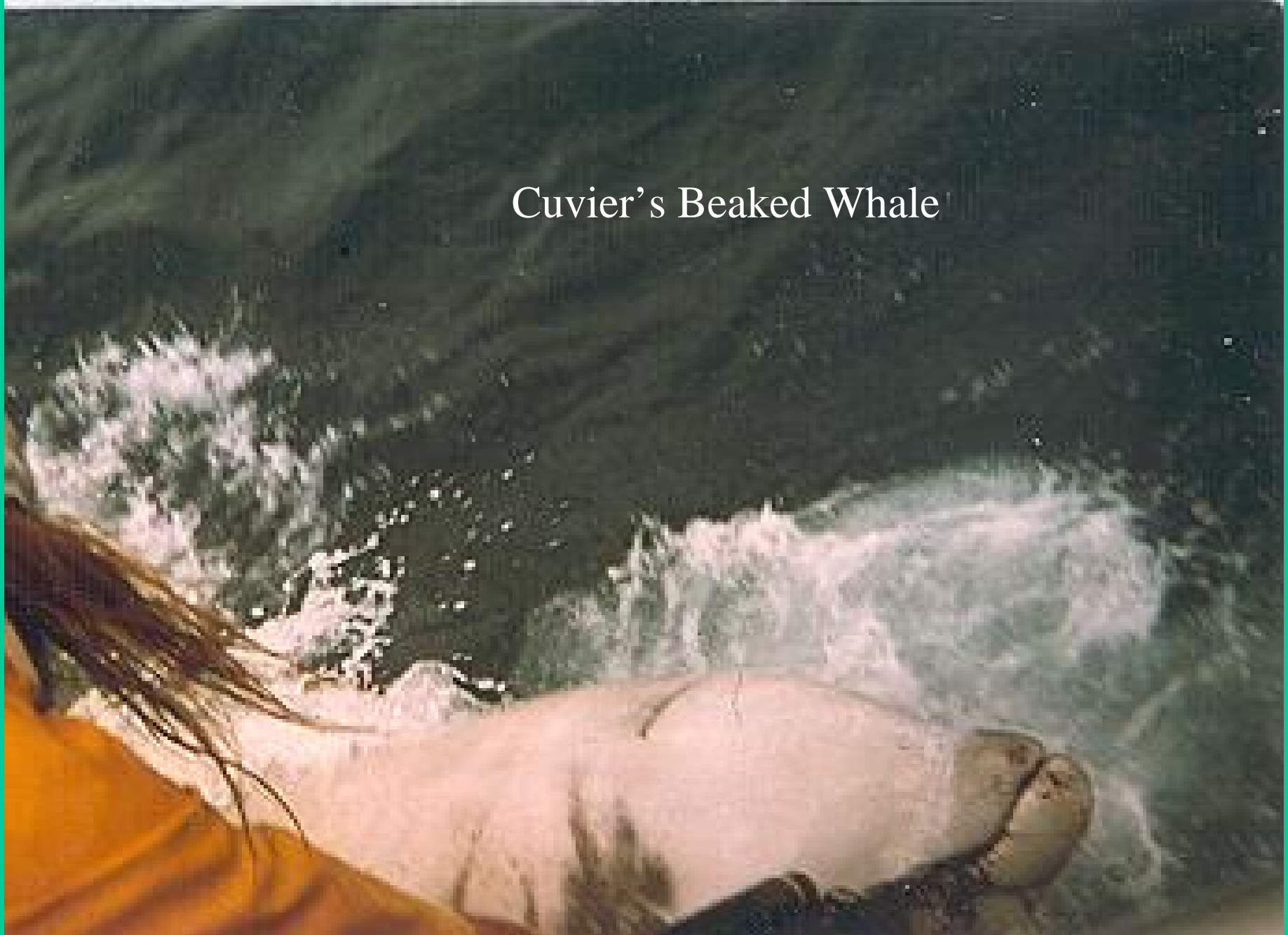


Cuvier's Beaked Whale



Cuvier's Beaked Whale

Cuvier's Beaked Whale





Cuvier's Beaked Whale



Unid. Beaked whale. *Mesoplodon spp.* (pos. *Blainville's*)