

Mobile Species of the Clyde



Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) Peileag



- Description:** Small size, rounded head (no beak) & triangular dorsal fin. Seldom bow rides.
- Size:** 1.4m to 1.9m
- Habitat:** Seen year round in coastal areas. The Clyde has high abundance of resident porpoise. June is height of calving period.
- Group Size:** Usually 2 to 5

Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) Deilf



- Description:** Distinctive hour-glass pattern on sides. Keen bow-riders and very active on surface.
- Size:** 1.7 to 2.4m
- Habitat:** Summer visitors to coastal & offshore areas. A year-round resident 'Kylie' lives in the Clyde and regularly associates with harbour porpoises.
- Group Size:** Usually 20 to 50 but sometimes in smaller groups.

Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) Muc bhiorach



- Description:** Large dolphin with prominent dorsal fin and distinctive beak. Highly active and often bow rides.
- Size:** 1.9 to 3.9m
- Habitat:** Seen year-round in coastal waters. Often seen in the Clyde and around Kilbrannan Sound.
- Group Size:** Typically 3 to 10 but can be up to 30.

Risso's Dolphin (*Grampus griseus*) Deilf risso



- Description:** Grey with white scars. Large rounded head (no beak) & tall dorsal fin. Seldom bow rides.
- Size:** 2.6 to 3.8m
- Habitat:** Prefers deep water but may be seen in coastal waters. Only a few sightings in the Clyde.
- Group Size:** Usually small groups but can be up to 50.



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Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*) Mada chuain



- Description:** Distinctive black & white pattern with white patch behind each eye and darker saddle patch. Males have very tall dorsal fin (up to 2m), females have smaller, curved fins.
- Size:** 5.5 to 9.8m
- Habitat:** May be seen anywhere in Scottish waters but only a few sightings per year in Clyde
- Group Size:** 1 to 10.

Minke Whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) Muc mhara mhionc



- Description:** Pointed head, dark body with distinctive white bands on flippers. Small fin two-thirds down its back. Blowholes and fin visible at same time.
- Size:** 7 to 10m.
- Habitat:** Summer visitor to coastal areas and common on the Clyde.
- Group Size:** Tend to be solitary but can be seen feeding in groups of up to 10.

Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) Muc mhara crotach



- Description:** Black or dark grey back with paler underside. Long white pectoral flippers. The head and fins are covered in fleshy tubercles (lumps). The low dorsal fin is set well back on body.
- Size:** up to 15m
- Habitat:** Spring and summer visitor to coastal waters. Usually 1-2 individuals sighted in Clyde each year.
- Group Size:** Can be solitary but also found in small groups and mother calf pairs.

Long Finned Pilot Whale (*Globicephala melas*) Muc mhara chin mhoir



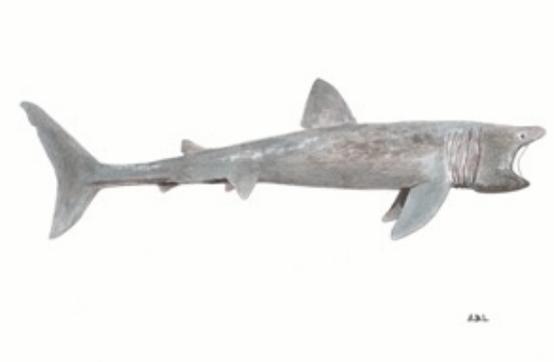
- Description:** Bulbous head, no beak with low rounded fin set well forward. Grey/black/dark brown in colour with grey/white patch on chin.
- Size:** up to 6m
- Habitat:** Normally seen in open ocean but comes in to coastal areas. Sometime sighted in North Channel area.
- Group Size:** Found in groups of 10 - 100



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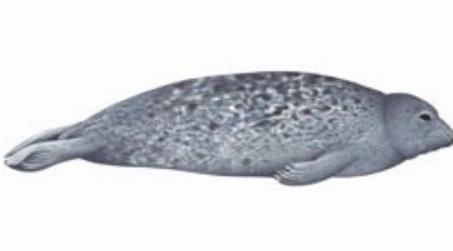


BASKING SHARK (*Cetorhinus maximus*) Cearban



- Description:** Large plankton feeders seen feeding at surface of water. Conical snout and enormous mouth contains bristle-like gill rakers for filter feeding. Two fins (dorsal and tail)
- Size:** 4.5 to 9m
- Habitat:** Summer visitors to coastal areas. The Clyde is a hotspot for this species.
- Group Size:** Solitary but can be seen in groups of up to 100 animals.

Grey Seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) Ron glas



- Description:** They have a long, dog-like muzzle. They have pronounced Roman nose, with parallel nostrils. Variable coat with patches of black, brown, white and silver, tending to be darker on underside. Males tend to be darker than females.
- Size:** Adult males up to 2.5m long (300kg) and females up to 1.8m (150kg)
- Habitat:** In all coastal area in Clyde. Often spotted at haul-out sites and following fishing vessels.
- Group Size:** Solitary but can be seen in groups of up to 30 animals at various Clyde haul-out sites. Pupping starts in late summer until beginning of winter

Harbour/Common Seal (*Phocoena vitulina*) Ron calaidh



- Description:** Smaller than grey seals. Generally paler than grey seals with variable colour and extensively mottled fur pattern
- Size:** Adult males up to 1.8m (120kg) and females up to 1.5m (100kg)
- Habitat:** The Clyde has important haul-out sites for this species and widely sighted.
- Group Size:** Solitary but can be seen in groups of up to 100 animals at bigger haul-out sites. Pupping starts in May until July

