



THE CAST OF THE FILM

Despite their appearance, dolphins, whales and manatees are not fish; they are mammals, but mammals that live in water. They are marine mammals. Like all mammals, including ourselves, they are warm-blooded, breathe using lungs, give birth to live young that they feed with milk, and have some hair. Cetaceans usually are born with hair but shed it when very young. Cetaceans build complex social relationships. Whales and dolphins do not belong to the same scientific order as the manatees. Whales and dolphins belong to the order Cetacea. Manatees belong to the order Sirenia. There are approximately 86 kinds of cetacean classified into 2 main suborders.

BALEEN WHALES (MYSTICETES)

They are cetaceans with baleen plates with which they filter-feed, and two blowholes. This is a suborder of around 13 species including rorquals. “Rorquals” are baleen whales that have throat grooves that expand when they feed. They are the largest animals on earth with females usually larger than males. Some dinosaurs might have been as long but they never weighed that much.

TOOTHED WHALES (ODONTOCETES)

They are cetaceans with teeth and one blowhole. Suborder of around 70 species, including dolphins. Dolphins belong to the largest and most diverse family of toothed whales, with around 30 species. The orca is the largest of the dolphins. The oceanic dolphins include six large dolphin species that have the word “whale” in their name. One of them, the pilot whale, appears in the film. The male is larger than the female.

MARINE MAMMALS APPEARING IN DOLPHINS AND WHALES

BALEEN WHALES

- Fin whale (rorqual family)
- Southern right whale
- Humpback whale (rorqual family)

TOOTHED WHALES

- Sperm whale
- Orca (dolphin family)
- Short-finned pilot whale (dolphin family)
- Beluga whale
- Risso’s dolphin
- Bottlenose dolphin
- Common dolphin
- Spotted dolphin (Atlantic)

SIRENIAN

- West Indian manatee

Cetaceans, better known as dolphins and whales, have been roaming the oceans for millions of years. Yet, in only one century we have slaughtered many of them close to extinction. Despite efforts to protect them, human activity has forced these weakened populations to face the greatest danger of all: the destruction of their habitat and food resources.

All these marine mammals are in danger!