

Lesson 8.3

What Sounds Do Whales Make?

NEW BEDFORD WHALING MUSEUM
WHALES
GIANTS OF THE OCEAN

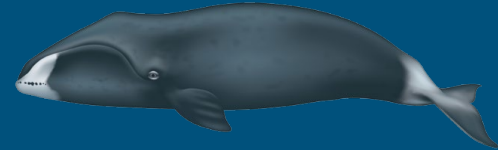


Sounds From Cetaceans

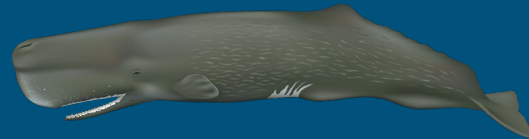
Humpback whale [Humpback - Bermuda 1953](#)



Bowhead whale [Bowhead - Alaska 1978](#)



Sperm whale [Sperm Whale - 1962](#)



Orca [Orca - Norway 1989](#)



Sound files come from William A. Watkins Collection of Marine Mammal Sound Recordings, which are property of the New Bedford Whaling Museum and WHOI Marine Mammal Center. Images by Uko Gorter.

The Ocean is a Noisy Place

We know that all cetacean species make sounds to communicate.

Toothed whales (odontocetes) also echolocate to hunt and navigate.

Fishes, shrimp, and natural events make sounds that travel through our global ocean.

Unfortunately, human activity adds several sources of noise pollution to the ocean, making the process of communication more difficult for marine animals.

This site, [Audio Gallery](#), curated by the Graduate School of Oceanography at URI, has an excellent gallery of natural and human-made sounds. Our favorites include bearded seal, grunts and croakers. Snapping shrimp and lightning are worth hearing, too. Pick a few and listen.



NOAA photo



NOAA photo



NOAA photo