



Orcas

[Source: IE](#)

Recently, **a group of Orcas** had attacked a **sailboat** off the coast of **Spain**. Since 2020, over 700 interactions between orcas and boats near the [Strait of Gibraltar](#) have been recorded.

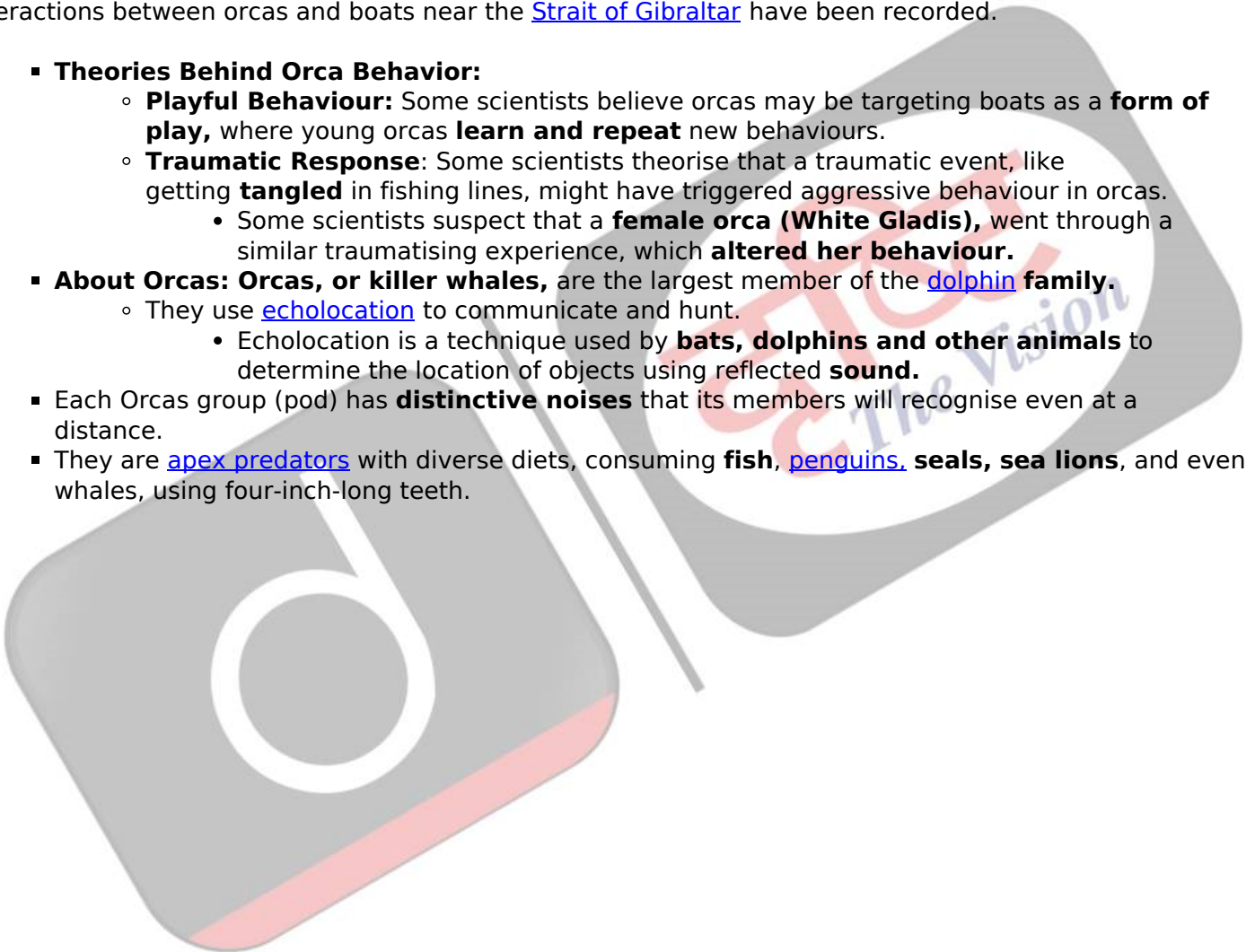
▪ Theories Behind Orca Behavior:

- **Playful Behaviour:** Some scientists believe orcas may be targeting boats as a **form of play**, where young orcas **learn and repeat** new behaviours.
- **Traumatic Response:** Some scientists theorise that a traumatic event, like getting **tangled** in fishing lines, might have triggered aggressive behaviour in orcas.
 - Some scientists suspect that a **female orca (White Gladis)**, went through a similar traumatising experience, which **altered her behaviour**.

▪ About Orcas: Orcas, or killer whales, are the largest member of the [dolphin family](#).

- They use [echolocation](#) to communicate and hunt.
 - Echolocation is a technique used by **bats, dolphins and other animals** to determine the location of objects using reflected **sound**.
- Each Orcas group (pod) has **distinctive noises** that its members will recognise even at a distance.
- They are [apex predators](#) with diverse diets, consuming **fish, [penguins](#), seals, sea lions**, and even whales, using four-inch-long teeth.

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GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN

(*Platanista gangetica gangetica*)

National aquatic animal of India

Facts

- Can only live in freshwater; prefer deep water
- Essentially blind; hunts by emitting ultrasonic sound
- Can't breathe in water; must surface every 30-120 seconds for air
- Also called 'susu' because of sound they make while breathing

Habitat & Distribution

- Distributed in Ganges and Brahmaputra River basins of India, Nepal and Bangladesh.
- Distribution range in India covers 7 states namely, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

Protection Status

- IUCN Red List:** Endangered
- CITES:** Appendix I
- Wildlife Protection Act 1972:** Schedule I

Threats

- Habitat destruction
- Pollution
- Bycatch
- Climate Change
- Hunting

Conservation Efforts

- Project Dolphin (2021):** On lines of project Tiger
- National Dolphin Research Centre (2021):** India's and Asia's First; in Patna University (Bihar)
- Dedicated Dolphin Sanctuary:**
 - Vikramshila sanctuary (Bihar) – 1991
 - Hastinapur sanctuary (UP) – Proposed



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