



Sperm Whales

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Researchers investigating the **Sperm Whales** (*Physeter macrocephalus*), have outlined the fundamental aspects of their potential communication methods for the first time.

- Sperm whales utilise **rapid clicks** underwater, resembling the sound of an exceptionally loud zipper, for communication and echolocation purposes, aiding in prey tracking.
 - These clicks are thought to constitute a "**phonetic alphabet**" enabling the whales to construct words and phrases.
- The sperm whale is dark blue-gray or brownish, with white patches on the belly.
 - They are the **largest of the toothed whales and have one of the widest global distributions** of any marine mammal species.
 - They are found in **temperate and tropical waters** throughout the world.
 - They have the **largest brains** of any animal and live in **matriarchal groups** of about 10.
 - They are listed as **vulnerable** in the [IUCN Red List](#), mentioned in **Appendix I** of [CITES and included in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972.](#)

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