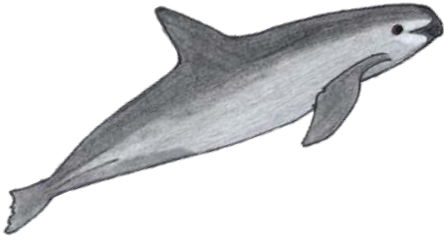


12 Get-to-Know Vaquita Facts



Vaquitas are the smallest marine mammal of the whale, dolphin and porpoise family.

Their main threat is drowning while being caught in fishing gear.

1. Vaquitas are timid and very hard to find. It could be because there are so few of them.
2. You can recognize them by the dark rings around their eyes, and dark patches around their lips.
3. They do not have gills so must swim to the surface of the water to breathe.
4. Because of their small size you can easily tell them from other porpoises. Also, their build is stockier and they have larger flippers with a smaller head.
5. They live only in Mexico's Gulf of California.
6. They feed on smaller squid, crabs, crustaceans and several varieties of fish.
7. As part of the vast underwater food chain, Vaquitas are both predators and prey. They help to control the crustacean and fish populations, and at the same time are prey themselves for killer whales and sharks.
8. They are very good swimmers like dolphins but are not as fast.
9. To communicate, navigate and detect the location and size of their prey or oncoming predators they use sonar pings.
10. Females give birth to one calf every 2 years.
11. The loud noises they make sound like a snorting pig. They used to be called puffing pigs.
12. They are rarely seen but may be seen in groups of 2 or 3. Mostly they are thought to be loners.