

Discriminating between dwarf (*Kogia sima*) & pygmy (*K. breviceps*) sperm whales

Both species tend to lie motionless at the surface and sink out of sight, though they will occasionally roll at the surface when diving. Several features allow them to be discriminated in the field:

- 1) *K. sima* reach maximum lengths of 2.7 m; *K. breviceps* reach maximum lengths of 3.8 m.
- 2) The dorsal fin of *K. breviceps* is smaller and positioned further back than in *K. sima*, so that the size of the fin relative to the amount of back typically showing is much smaller for *K. breviceps*
- 3) *K. breviceps* has a distinct hump on the back when at the surface, while *K. sima* has a flat profile to the back.
- 4) *K. sima* usually has a pointy fin that is fairly erect, while *K. breviceps* has a rounded fin that is recurved.



Pygmy sperm whales (*K. breviceps*)

Dwarf sperm whales (*K. sima*)