

The porpoise - one of the world's smallest whales

Porpoises are marine mammals and are part of the same toothed whale parvorder (or group) as dolphins and sperm whales. The porpoise breeds in all Danish waters and can often be seen close to the shoreline - especially in the Little Belt area. Porpoise can live as long as 25 years, adult females growing to almost two meters long. The female is slightly larger than males and typically gives birth to one calf (or pup) per year during the summer.



Did you know?



About 3,000 porpoises live in the Little Belt, making it the place in Denmark where you have the best chances of seeing them close to the shore.

The social porpoise

We used to think that porpoises are antisocial animals because they are often seen swimming around alone. Recent research, however, shows that they are far more social than we thought and that they are lively communicators underwater. New research suggests that porpoises are able to team up when hunting shoals of fish. This very rare form of collaboration is also seen in animals like wolves, lions and orcas (killer whales).

