# False killer whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*)

MarLIN – Marine Life Information Network
Marine Evidence–based Sensitivity Assessment (MarESA) Review

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### A report from:

The Marine Life Information Network, Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.

**Please note**. This MarESA report is a dated version of the online review. Please refer to the website for the most up-to-date version [https://www.marlin.ac.uk/species/detail/123]. All terms and the MarESA methodology are outlined on the website (https://www.marlin.ac.uk)

### This review can be cited as:

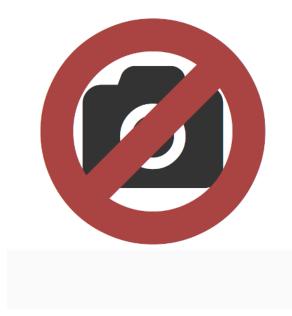
Barnes, M.K.S. 2008. Pseudorca crassidens False killer whale. In Tyler-Walters H. and Hiscock K. (eds) Marine Life Information Network: Biology and Sensitivity Key Information Reviews, [on-line]. Plymouth: Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom. DOI https://dx.doi.org/10.17031/marlinsp.123.1



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See online review for distribution map

Distribution data supplied by the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). To interrogate UK data visit the NBN Atlas.

Researched by	Morvan Barnes	Refereed by	Admin
Authority	(Owen, 1846)		
Other common names	-	Synonyms	-

# **Summary**

# Description

Pseudorca crassidens is a toothed whale and can be recognised as such by the single blowhole and the presence of teeth. It is a member of the dolphin family with a characteristic prominent median notch in the flukes, a smooth crease-less throat and sharply pointed teeth. The false killer whale reaches up to 6 m in length. It has moderately long and slender, bent flippers and small tail flukes. The dorsal fin is tall, large and located on the middle of the back. The head is smoothly sloping without a snout. It is entirely black in colour.

### **9** Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

Has been recorded off the west coasts of Scotland, east of the Orkney Isles and north-west of County Mayo, Ireland.

### **♥** Global distribution

-

### 🔼 Habitat

The false killer whale is an offshore species although little is known about their prefered bathymetry.

#### 1 Depth range

# **Q** Identifying features

- Slender body up to 6 m in length.
- Tall dorsal fin located on the middle of the back.
- Very deepened tail stock.
- Entirely black in colour.
- Rounded head with no beak.
- Flippers bent at the mid-point.
- Straight mouthline.

# **Additional information**

False killer whales are usually found in pairs or in groups up to several hundred individuals. Their surface behaviour is typical of dolphins with acrobatic leaps and bow-riding are not uncommon. Dive duration is unknown (Kinze, 2002).

## **✓** Listed by













# **Further information sources**

Search on:











G & G NBN WORMS

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