

# MarLIN Marine Information Network

Information on the species and habitats around the coasts and sea of the British Isles

## Walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*)

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/128]. All terms and the MarESA methodology are outlined on the website (https://www.marlin.ac.uk)

This review can be cited as:

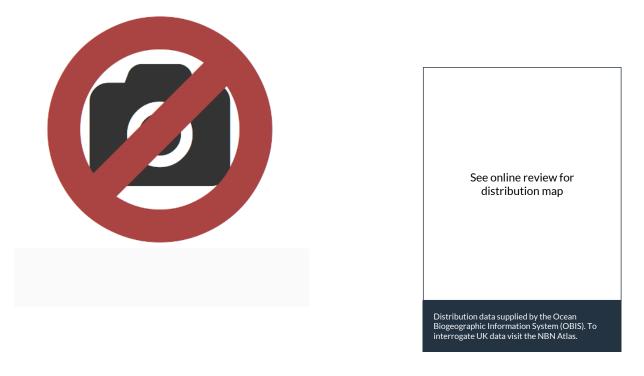
Barnes, M.K.S. 2008. Odobenus rosmarus Walrus. In Tyler-Walters H. and Hiscock K. (eds) Marine Life Information Network: Biology and Sensitivity Key Information Reviews, [on-line]. Plymouth: Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom. DOI https://dx.doi.org/10.17031/marlinsp.128.1



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Researched by	Morvan Barnes	Refereed by	Admin
Authority	(Linnaeus, 1758)		
Other common names	-	Synonyms	-

## **Summary**

#### Description

The warus *Odobenus rosmarus* is the only member of its family and is very easily identified. Like seals, walruses have both pectoral flippers and tail flippers as well as a muzzle with long whiskers. The walrus differs by having a broad muzzle with the whiskers on the front end, and by having two large tusks up to 1 m in length. The walrus is a large and bulky species reaching up to 3.6 m in length. Its skin is notably thick, rough and creased. It has small 'bloodshot' eyes. The tail end is enclosed in a web of skin. Most walruses are grey to cinnamon-brown in colour, becoming paler with age. The skin becomes flushed with blood when warm and they acquire a rosy red colouration.

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

Usually found in Arctic waters but individuals have been found in the North Sea, the west coast of Ireland and one record exists for the Firth of Clyde, Scotland.

#### **9** Global distribution

#### 🖌 Habitat

The walrus is found in shallow water and coastal habitats, on sandy beaches and rocky shores.

#### ↓ Depth range

#### **Q** Identifying features

- Large, bulky body up to 3.6 m in length.
- Broad muzzle with long whiskers at the front.
- Two large tusks up to 1 m in length.
- Thick and creased skin.

#### **<u><u></u>** Additional information</u>

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#### **%** Further information sources

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