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Mellon-headed whale (*Peponocephala electra*)

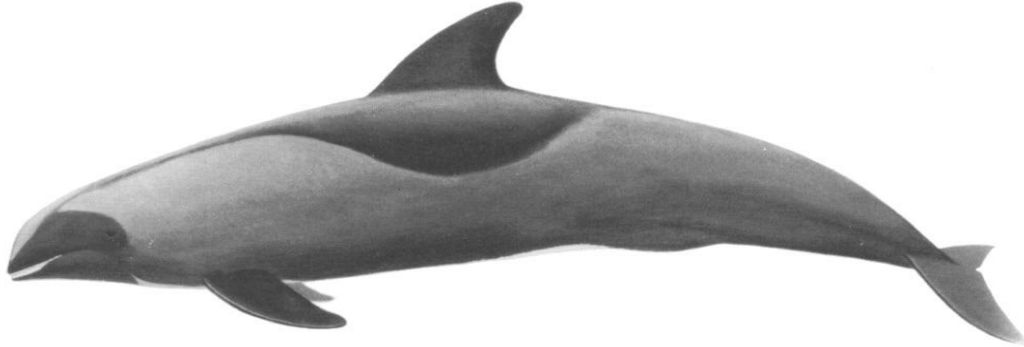
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SCMMSN Species Fact Sheet

Mellon-Headed Whale

(*Peponocephala electra*)



Source: FAO Species Identification Guide: Marine Mammals of the World, 1993.

U.S. Range: Mostly Gulf of Mexico and Pacific Islands.

Size: Adult max. Male 8'8" (2.6 m) Female 9' (2.75 m). Neonates 40" (1 m)

Identification: Dark cape and face, lighter gray body, light ventral patches, light lips. Dorsal fin is tall (up to 1ft) and falcate. Head appears triangular from above and conical from the sides.

Stranding History: Strands occasionally every 1-5 years in the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Islands. Strandings are rare in the Southeastern Atlantic. In South Carolina, one mass stranding was reported (3 individuals) in the winter of 2008.

Conservation Status: Listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List.

FYI

The Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits the handling of any marine mammal, dead or alive, and the collection of any parts (e. g., teeth, bones) by unauthorized persons.

The South Carolina Marine Mammal Stranding Network personnel are authorized and trained to collect valuable biological data during stranding events. Public cooperation is greatly appreciated.

To report a stranding, call the South Carolina DNR hotline: 1-800-922-5431.

The majority of live strandings consist of animals that are sick and dying. Marine mammals may carry **infectious diseases** that might be **contagious** to humans. Remember the beach is an unfamiliar environment for them. They are stressed and scared. Please remain at a safe distance at all times.

For further information on marine mammal strandings or on the South Carolina Marine Mammal Stranding Network, visit our website: <http://bccmws.coastal.edu/stranding>

Thank you for your cooperation.

The South Carolina Marine Mammal Stranding Network would like to thank the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for their permission to use images from the FAO Species Identification Guide: Marine Mammals of the World, 1993.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). 2011. *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. Version 2011.1. Retrieved on October 18, 2011, from <http://www.iucnredlist.org>

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The South Carolina Marine Mammal Stranding Network is administered by Coastal Carolina University under the authority of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Stranding Agreement Letter, under authorization of Sections 112(c) and 403 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act)

