

Humpback whale

Megaptera novaeangliae



Adaptation to environment

- Massive amounts of fat (blubber) to keep it warm in Antarctic waters
- Breathing hole in top of its head allows it to breathe easily, massive lungs enable it to stay underwater for long periods
- Migrates north in winter to give birth in warmer waters then travels south to feeding grounds.

Feeding relationships

Where do I live? Sandy Beaches

What do I eat?

- Krill (small shrimp) which it filters from sea water by forcing it between many hairy plates of baleen in its mouth.

What eats me?

- Humans: an estimated population of 10 000 was reduced to about 100 by whaling off Moreton Bay from 1952 – 1962; now, numbers gradually increasing towards 5000.

- Length: 14 m (4.5 m at birth)
- Extremely long pectoral flippers (one-third body length)
- Upper body black, belly white.