

Family Ziphiidae ~ beaked whales

strap-toothed whale

Mesoplodon layardii

Strap-toothed whales are another WhaleTimes' favorite. Why? The male's teeth. Two large teeth, called "tusks," grow up from the bottom jaw. The tusks curve upward and backward, eventually growing over the upper jaw. An adult male can barely open his mouth because the tusks essentially "strap" it shut. This doesn't seem to stop males from hunting or eating, though. Very little is known about this unusual whale.

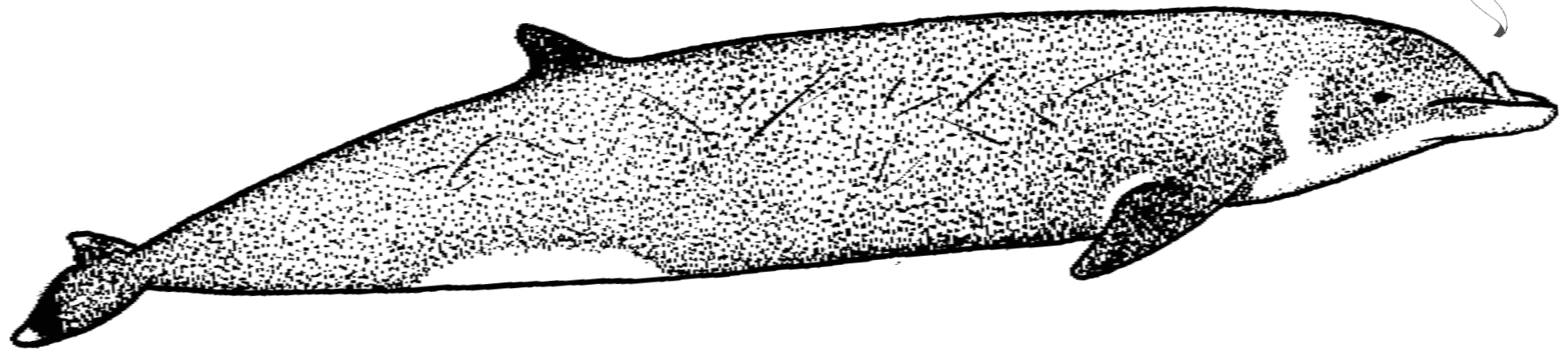
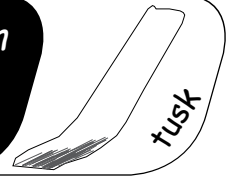
STRAP-TOOTHED WHALE

length: 20.2 ft (6.15 m)

weight: unknown

home: Found in cold temperate waters of the Indian Ocean, South Atlantic & South Pacific.

*A strap-toothed whale's tusks can be as long as 30-35 cm (11-14 inches).
(That's as long as a 2-liter bottle.)*



Strap-toothed whales are as long as twenty 2-liter bottles end-to-end

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