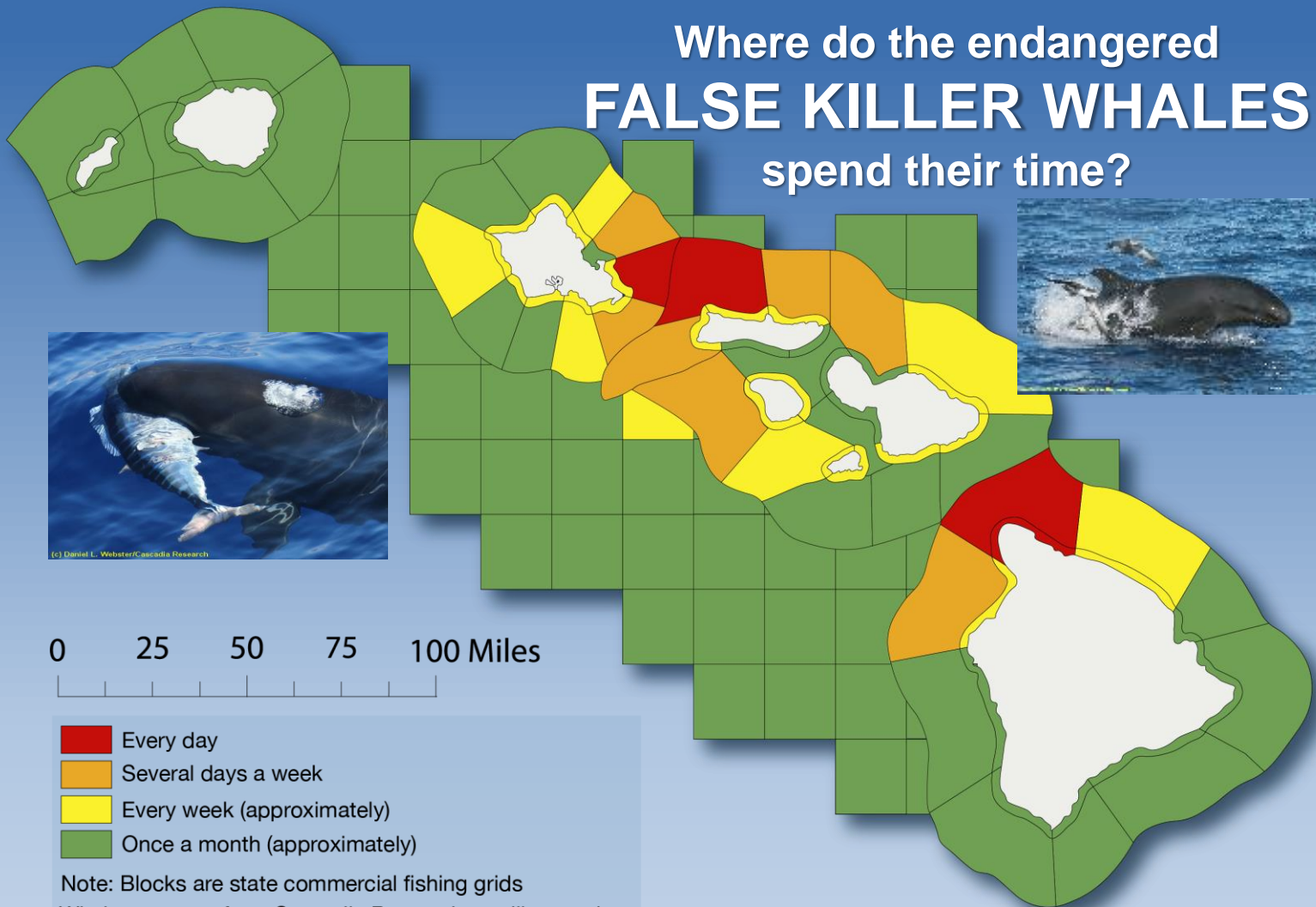


Where do the endangered FALSE KILLER WHALES spend their time?



0 25 50 75 100 Miles

- Every day
- Several days a week
- Every week (approximately)
- Once a month (approximately)

Note: Blocks are state commercial fishing grids
Whale presence from Cascadia Research satellite tag data

KAMAAINA OHANA False Killer Whales in MHI

- ◇ Highly social long-term groups
- ◇ They eat fish we like to eat – Mahi mahi, ahi, ono, ika, opah, etc.
- ◇ They frequently share food
- ◇ Males live to 58, up to 20 feet
- ◇ Females live to 63, up to 16 feet
- ◇ Reproduce once every 7 years
- ◇ Females mature at 8-10 years and go into menopause in their 40's
- ◇ Older members of the pod pass on cultural information and help raise the keiki.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ◇ Be aware in high use areas
- ◇ Take above water photos of dorsal fin
- ◇ Call in **all** sightings and interactions
- ◇ Change direction to avoid interactions; bring in lines; move to a new area
- ◇ If you hook one, remove as much of the gear as possible, safely.

In 2012 MHI Insular False Killer Whales (IFKW) were listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The current population estimate is 150-170 individuals

Main Threats:

- Interactions with hook and line fisheries - FKW target catch
- Environmental contaminants
- Marine Debris

Please report sightings to
800-747-7329, or online at
<https://falsekillerwhales.org/>
send photos to
hawaii@cascadiaresearch.org

Report all interactions and
marine animal emergencies to
888-256-9840



HOW TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE: FALSE KILLER WHALES, SHORT-FINNED PILOT WHALES, PYGMY KILLER WHALES, AND MELON-HEADED WHALES IN HAWAII

There are four species of small black whales resident in Hawaiian waters, two relatively large (false killer whales, short-finned pilot whales) and two relatively small (pygmy killer whales, melon-headed whales). The four look fairly similar but can be discriminated based on relative dorsal fin size and position, head shape, and flipper shape, as well as other characteristics (summarized in table at the bottom). Photos are not to scale.

Prepared by Cascadia Research Collective, Olympia, WA. For more information see www.cascadiaresearch.org/hawaii.htm
 To send photos contact Robin Baird or Sabre Mahaffy at hawaii@cascadiaresearch.org. Illustrations by Uko Gorter. Rev 30 Sep 16.



false killer whale



pygmy killer whale

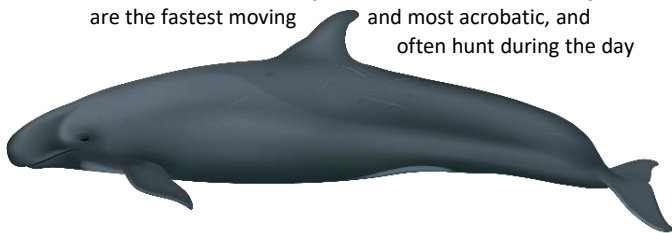


short-finned pilot whale

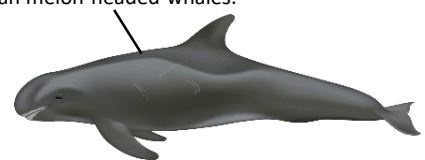


melon-headed whale

False killer whales (*Pseudorca crassidens*) are the fastest moving and most acrobatic, and often hunt during the day



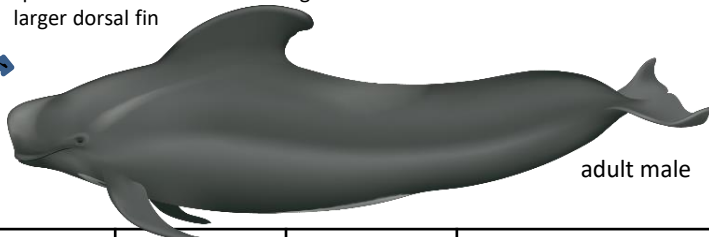
Pygmy killer whales (*Feresa attenuata*) have rounded tips to the flippers and a rounded head when viewed from above. They have a clear boundary to the cape and more white linear scars than melon-headed whales.



Illustrations are to scale

Short-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*)

have a dorsal fin that is larger and further forward on the back than other species. Adult males are ~3' larger than adult females and have a much larger dorsal fin



Melon-headed whales (*Peponocephala electra*)

have pointed flippers and a pointed head when viewed from above. They have a very diffuse boundary between the dark dorsal cape and the lighter side of the body that is only visible under very good lighting conditions



Species	Group size typical & range	Behavior towards boats	Behavior during day	Body size range	Typical depths fathoms	Frequency seen?	Group spread
Pilot whale	18 (1-195)	Usually indifferent	Usually resting at surface or travel	4'7" - 18'	270-1640	Common	Typically 1-2 subgroups
False killer	18 (1-41)	Often bowrides	Actively foraging, leaping regularly	5' - 17'	25-2700	Rare	Often over many miles
Pygmy killer	11 (1-33)	Usually avoids	Usually resting at surface	2'7" - 8'6"	270-1640	Rare	Typically one group
Melon-headed	245 (1-800)	Often bowrides	Usually resting at surface or travel	3'5" - 9'	110-2700	Uncommon but very large groups	Usually very clustered