

Sperm Whale (Cachalot)

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Scientists found that **Sperm whales** use complex vocalisations resembling Morse code, revealing a sophisticated communication system with a “**phonetic alphabet**”.



[Ref: TH]

About Sperm Whale (Cachalot):

- They live in a **stable and complex matrilineal society**.
- They are the **largest of the toothed whales**.
- The teeth on the **bottom jaw can grasp large squid or fish** unlike other large whales, which filter smaller, denser prey through baleen.
- They communicate using bursts of clicking noises called '**codas**' — sounding like Morse code.
- They are **usually found in deep oceanic waters** and can be observed closer to the shore around islands.
- They are hunted for their **valuable whale oil**, which was widely used to fuel lamps and make soap.
 - **Whale meat** is served as a traditional food in many parts of the world.

IUCN Status:

- **IUCN status:** Vulnerable
- **Mediterranean sperm whale (Genetically distinct):** Endangered

In India:

- The sperm whales are a **protected species under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act**.
 - ???????The possession or trade of any of its by-products, including Ambergris and its by-products, is illegal under provisions of the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.