

The *Western Crusader* reported a few sperm whales, mostly alone or in pairs, as well as many fur seals, Dall porpoises, “dolphins,” and sei whales, from 51–52°N and 133–136°W in May 1964.

Harem schools move offshore and females are seldom seen on the whaling grounds after mid-June. There appears to be an important summer feeding area well off the coast of British Columbia where females wean their calves in August and September. Geographical limits of this summering population have not yet been determined.

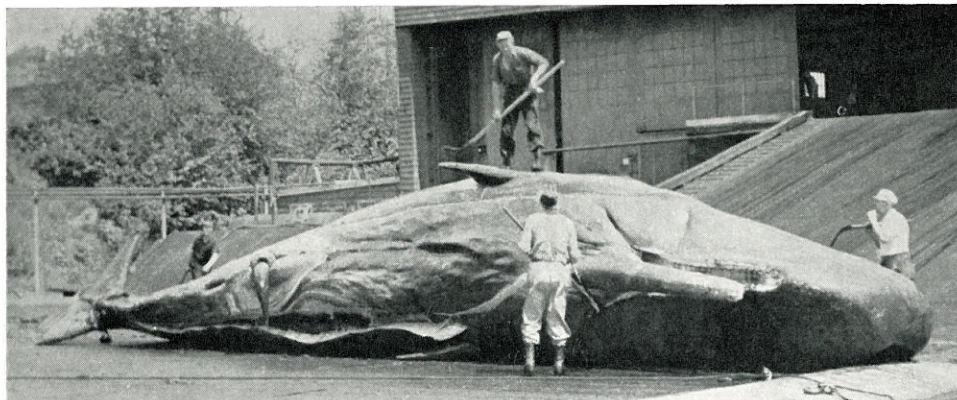


FIG. 6. A 52-foot adult male sperm whale, *Physeter catodon*, at the Coal Harbour whaling station. (Photograph by G. C. Pike.)

Growth and body proportions of 375 sperm whales from British Columbia are similar to those from the Aleutian Islands and Japan (Fujino, 1956) and from the Antarctic (Matthews, 1938). Males larger than 33 feet and females larger than 28 feet are mostly sexually mature. Therefore, the catch on this coast consists almost entirely of sexually mature animals.

Figure 6 shows a 52-foot male sperm whale being processed at the Coal Harbour whaling station.

Family DELPHINIDAE—Ocean Dolphins

Stenella sp(p).

Scheffer and Rice (1963) and Hershkovitz (1966) place both *S. styx* and *S. euprosyne* under *S. caeruleoalbus* Meyen 1833. Miller and Kellogg (1955) and Hall and Kelson (1959) consider *S. styx* and *S. euprosyne* to be synonymous. Several papers, including recent checklists, attest to the chaotic state of the taxonomy of this genus. To avoid further confusion we have chosen to omit species or subspecies names in the subsequent discussion of specimens from British Columbia.

Stenella sp. is known from British Columbia by three specimens, one of which was recorded in the literature. The published record was of a partial skull (UBC 2884) taken from the beach at Muchalat Arm, Nootka Sound, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, during the winter of 1948 (Cowan and Guiguet, 1952). The record

includes a note that the skull was about 20% narrower at the base of the rostrum than in other specimens but no actual measurements are given.

The second specimen is a complete skull collected by the skipper of the *Penguin II* at Campbell River in April 1961 (UBC 8011).

The third specimen comprises a skull (Fig. 7), cervical vertebrae, and eight thoracic vertebrae of a whale taken in a fishing trawl seven miles from Kyuquot on the west coast of Vancouver Island by Mr R. Pope, skipper of the *Tov II*, on April 23, 1963. The skull and skeletal fragments were sent to the Nanaimo Station by Mr R. M. Wilson. Measurements of the skull are shown below. The specimens (UBC 9236) were subsequently presented to the University of British Columbia.

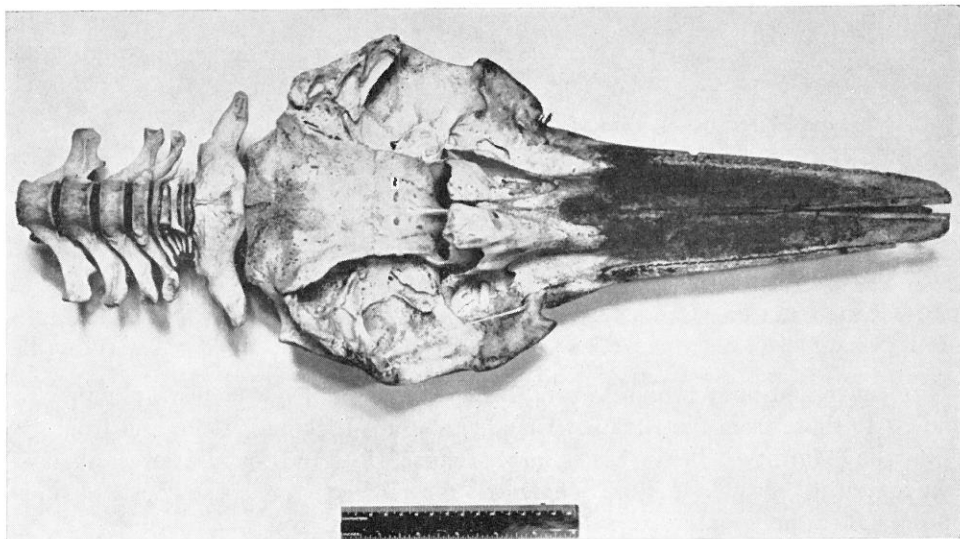


FIG. 7. Skull of *Stenella euphrosyne* from Kyuquot, 1963.

Skull measurements of the 1963 Kyuquot specimen are as follows: condylobasal length, approximately 500 mm including estimated broken tip; length of rostrum, 250+ mm; width of rostrum, 60 mm; anterior to antorbital notches, 112 mm; maximum (zygomatic) width, 203 mm; width of braincase across parietals, 152 mm. An estimated 7 mm was broken off at the tip of the rostrum, and tips of the premaxillaries were slightly eroded. Length of the upper tooth row was estimated at approximately 210 mm. Numbers of teeth in the upper tooth rows were estimated at from 45 to 50 pairs.

The above skull measurements are similar to recorded measurements of two specimens of *Stenella* sp. from Washington (Kenyon and Scheffer, 1949) and two from the coast of Oregon (Kellogg and Scheffer, 1947; Scheffer, 1953). They differ from skull measurements recorded by Fraser (1953) for the euphrosyne dolphin in the North Atlantic, *Stenella (Prodelphinus) euphrosyne* (Gray), mainly in the relatively shorter length and narrower width of the rostrum.