

Reserved wildlife in the seas of Thailand

Reserved wildlife refers to 19 species of rare or endangered wildlife according to the Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act 2019, including Sumatran rhinoceros, Chinese Goral, Kouprey, Fea's Muntjac, Water Buffalo, Sea Cow, Marbled Cat, Javan Rhinos, Thamin or Brow-antlered Deer, Sumatran Serow, Bryde's whale, Omura's whale, Malayan Tapir, Schomburgk's Deer, Sarus Crane, White-eyed River Martin, Gurney's Pitta, Leatherback Sea Turtle and Whale Shark. Therefore, hunting or possession is prohibited whether living wildlife or wildlife carcasses, except for the purpose of academic research or public zoo business with permission from the Director-General of Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation.



dugong

Dugong dugon

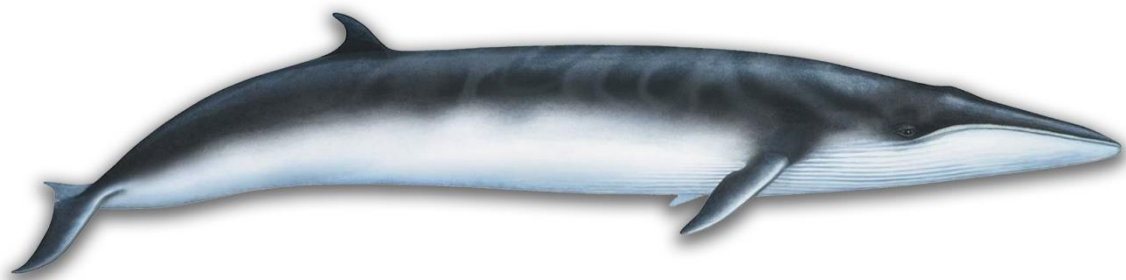
Its fusiform-shaped body resembles a dolphin. Pinkish-gray or gray-brown with short hair scattered throughout the body. Each has a pair of small eyes and ears. The ears are small openings. There are no ear auricles. There is a pair of close nostrils. Nostrils have valves that close and open. Dugongs breathe every 1-2 minutes. They have a pair of front flippers on either side of their body. The two fins were changed from the front pair of legs. They live on the sea floor. Dugongs do not have weapons to protect themselves. There is only a large body and thick skin which may protect them from bites or attacks from other creatures. For the young ones, they stay with their mother and rely on their mother as a good shelter.



Bryde's whale

Balaenoptera edeni

It has a slender body, smooth skin. The dorsal fin is small, located towards the tail. There are filter teeth for filtering food on the upper jaw. There is a groove under the chin that it will expand while eating food in order to increase the area of receiving food. The groove extends from the chin to navel which locate nearly halfway to the body's length. its eyes and ears are small relative to the body's size. The ears are behind the eyes. its ears are small holes which are sometimes hardly to notice. There are two breathing holes and three ridges on its head.



Omura's whale

Balaenoptera omurai

Its character is similar to Bryde's whale. It was first discovered in 2003 and the result of inspection concluded that it is unlike Bryde's whales, Omura's whales are smaller. Adult males are only 10 meters long and females are only 11.5 meters long. Number of pleats under the throat of Omura's whales are more than Bryde's whales', 80 - 90 pleats, and its dorsal fin is higher and less curved than Bryde's whales'.

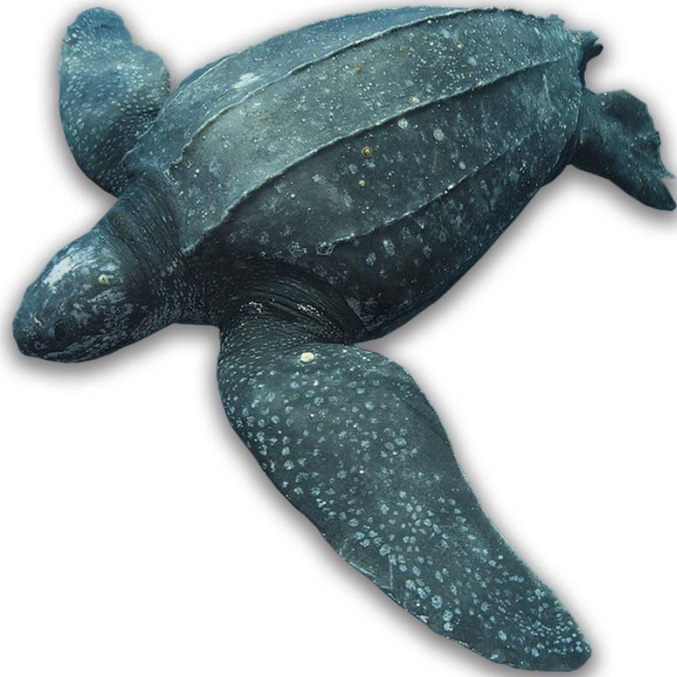


Whale shark

Rhincodon typus

ปลาฉลามวาฬเป็นปลาที่มีขนาดใหญ่ที่สุดในโลก โตเต็มที่มีขนาดถึง 18 เมตร มีน้ำหนักถึง 20 ตัน ลำตัวมีสีเทา ดำ มีจุดกลมๆ สีขาว หรือสีเหลือง เรียงเป็นแนวตามลำตัว อาจมีแถบเส้นแคบๆ สีขาว หรือ สีเหลืองพาดตามขวาง ด้านท้องและส่วนล่างมีสีขาวหรือเหลือง

Whale sharks are the largest fish in the world. The fully grown reaches a size of 18 meters and weighs up to 20 tons. its body is gray-black with round, white or yellow spots arranged in lines along the body. There may be narrow white or yellow stripes running across. The belly and underside are white or yellow.



Leatherback turtle

Dermochelys coriacea

It is the largest sea turtle in the world. Its shell is scaleless, and looks like a sheet of thick black leather. There may be white spots all over the body. The carapace has 7 convex ridges along the length from head to tail (including the side edges). There are no scales covering the head. The upper beak is 3-way in shape. For fully grown, the carapace has a length of 250 centimeters, a weight of over 1,000 kilograms, and the size that found laying eggs is not less than 150 centimeters. Leatherback turtles live in the open sea. Their food are plants and pelagic animals that mainly is jellyfish. Presently, there are very few leatherback turtles. They could be found when laying eggs on the sandy beaches of the Andaman Sea of Thailand, Phang Nga and Phuket Provinces and Tarutao Islands. There have never been reports of leatherback turtles laying eggs in the Gulf of Thailand.