Whales and Dolphins of New Zealand and Australia: An Identification Guide

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In the central region of New Zealand whaling was based primarily (Dawbin, 1966) on harpooning sperm whales, Physeter catodon; humpback whales, Megaptera novaeangliae; and southern right whales, Eubalaena australis, when these whales moved through Cook Strait, the sole channel between the North and South Islands of New Zealand (Figure 1). Distribution of whales and dolphins in the Far-Eastern seas and in the North-Western Pacific is considered. In 1995 abundance of whales and dolphins (752 specimens) was intermediate between their numbers in unusually warm 1991 (909 specimens) and unusually cold 1993 (682 specimens). Identification sheet of whales and dolphins in the Dutch Caribbean. View full-text. Discover more. Sperm Whale in Kaikoura, New Zealand | © Bernard Spragg/Flickr. Save to Wishlist. New Zealand is a place for wildlife encounters. Migratory whales pass by the country’s shores year-round, so getting up close and personal with these amazing creatures only requires a bit of knowledge of where to go. This guide will showcase all the key places to watch the whales as they make the most of their natural surroundings. Kaikoura. There’s a good reason Kaikoura has been dubbed the ‘whale watching capital’ of New Zealand. A resident population of Bryde’s whales is commonly seen swimming alongside the visiting bottlenose and common dolphins as well as orca, pilot whales, and humpback whales.