

ORCA

Size: Males, 25-27 feet; females, 21-24 feet

Weight: Males up to 7 tons; Females up to 5 tons

Color: Black on the upper body with a large white patch above the eye and a gray saddle patch behind the dorsal fin; irregular white pattern on the underside from the jaw to the tail and stretching up the side

The orca, a toothed cetacean, is also called the *killer whale* because it is the only cetacean that regularly eats warm-blooded prey, such as seals, porpoises and other whales – although orcas in Greater Puget Sound feed primarily on fish. Highly social, orcas travel in family groups called *Pods*. Each pod has its own distinct "language" of calls. Pods that live within a specific region are known as *resident*, while pods that travel more widely are called *transient*. In Greater Puget Sound there are three resident pods:

