

Distinguishing pygmy killer (*Feresa*) and melon-headed whales (*Peponocephala*)

- 1) The dorsal cape for *Feresa* is clearly demarcated, dips at a relatively shallow angle below the dorsal fin, and does not extend as far below the dorsal fin. *Peponocephala* have a very indistinct cape that dips at a steeper angle and extends lower on the side below the dorsal fin.
- 2) *Peponocephala* have a subtle “face mask” (darker on the sides of the head around the eye and above the mouth), whereas in *Feresa* there is a dark patch on the crown extending from posterior of the blowhole downwards towards the mouth.
- 3) *Peponocephala* generally only have white on the lips (except in some really large ones). *Feresa* often have light areas on the front of the head too.
- 4) Head shape in *Feresa* tends to be more bulbous. Except in large adults, *Peponocephala* don't have a very bulbous head shape. Young *Peponocephala* usually have a slightly visible beak and triangular-shaped head.
- 5) *Feresa* tend to have more white tooth rakes, and they are typically paired and widely-spaced.
- 6) *Feresa* have rounded pectoral flippers while *Peponocephala* flipper tips are acutely pointed.



Pygmy killer whales

Melon-headed whales