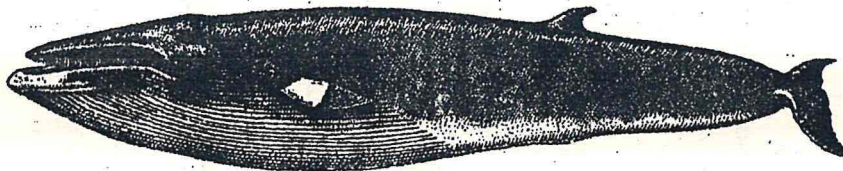


MINKE WHALE TAKEN

The Australian Whaling Commission has reported that on June 9 its chaser "Gascoyne" captured a minke whale (Balaenoptera acutorostrata) measuring 36' 9".

Also known as the "Little Piked Whale" and "Lesser Rorqual", this species is said to seldom exceed 33' in length. It is the smallest of all the furrow-throated baleen whales. It may be distinguished readily by the broad, white band which crosses the upper side of the fore flipper and by the entirely white or yellowish-white whalebone. Scottish fishermen gave it the name of "Little Piked" on account of its high dorsal fin.

Strictly speaking, the name B. acutorostrata applies only to the North Atlantic species, since the Antarctic form has been named B. huttoni, and the one which occurs in the North Pacific has been called B. davidsoni. As their external features are very similar, all are generally treated as the one species. On this basis it has a world-wide distribution.



MINKE WHALE (Balaenoptera acutorostrata)

The bluish-grey, brownish-grey, or greyish-black coloration of the head, lower jaws and back, becomes lighter on the flanks. Ordinarily the entire throat, chest, and remainder of the underparts, with the exception of four or five outer folds, are ivory white. Throat folds, from 50 to 70, extend from the chin backwards onto the chest.

Probably this whale feeds more on fish than do its larger relatives. The specimen taken by the "Gascoyne" had a large number of mackerel, averaging about 6 inches, in its stomach.