



# HUMPBACK WHALE

*MEGAPTERA NOVAEANGLIAE*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Humpback whales sing! Their songs can be heard 30-40km away and each population has their own song.

## WILD ENCOUNTERS

From September to December AQWA teams up with Rottnest Fast Ferries, offering the chance to see humpbacks in the wild!

**SIZE: <1,800CM**

**DIET: KRILL**

**MAIN PREDATOR: SHARKS, KILLER WHALES**

**HABITAT: OPEN OCEAN, SHALLOW COASTAL**

**FOUND: WORLD WIDE**

## WHALE WINGS

Humpback whales are named after the way they 'hump' their back before diving underwater. Their side fins are up to 5m in length and give the Humpback whale its scientific name Megaptera - big winged.

## AS LONG AS THREE CARS!

Humpback whales can grow to 18m in length and weigh up to 45 tonnes. The female is larger than the male and both can live for over 50 years.

## FEELING THE STRAIN

Humpback whales feed on small prawn-like animals called krill, that they strain through hundreds of hair like strips called baleen. During their summer months in Antarctica these ocean giants may eat nearly 1 tonne of food a day, they then don't eat for 8 months!

## LOCALS!

There are six main populations of humpback whales in the southern hemisphere, one for each side of the three southern continents. In autumn, the Western Australian population heads off on its northern migration to breeding grounds. After mating and giving birth, the humpbacks head back down south to Antarctica to feed. It is on this southern leg of the longest migrations in the animal kingdom that we get to watch these majestic mammals in the waters right off Perth!

## AQUATIC ACROBATS

Humpback whales are famous for their remarkable surface displays. These displays include: propelling their body out of the water then crashing back down, slapping their side fins, slapping their tail and lifting their head out of the water.