Sperm whales in the Gulf of Mexico are thought to be a distinct stock from sperm whales found in the Atlantic. The species migrates throughout the Gulf, but uses this general region as a prime feeding site and spot to deliver and raise their calves.

**FACTS**

- Females carry their babies —or calves— between 14 and 16 months before giving birth.
- Sperm whales prefer to live in the open ocean, at depths of 300 meters and deeper.
- They have the largest brain of any animal and typically live between 50 and 70 years.
- 80% of the species diet consists of squid.
- Female and juvenile sperm whales live in mixed groups.
- Mature males live solitary lives, except when breeding.

**GREATEST THREAT**

Large vessel shipping lanes and contamination in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico threaten the region where sperm whales feed and raise their young.