

Current whale migration models are too simplified

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New research challenges the traditional view that baleen whales (Mysticetes) migrate between high-latitude feeding areas and low-latitude breeding areas.

Using populations of fin whales in the Mediterranean as a case study and reviewing the migratory behaviors of all baleen whales, investigators found that the seasonal behavior of Mediterranean fin whales is highly dynamic, that other populations of [baleen whales](#) show similar migratory patterns, and that the traditional model of whale migration is too simplified.

"Mysticete migration should be thought of as a continuum of different strategies that have evolved in the face of different selective pressures. A greater knowledge of ecological factors, reproductive patterns, and local adaptations is needed to understand the evolutionary mechanisms behind the diversity of [migratory habits](#)," said Dr. Christina Geijer, lead author of the *Mammal Review* study.

More information: Christina K.A. Geijer et al, Mysticete migration revisited: are Mediterranean fin whales an anomaly?, *Mammal Review* (2016). [DOI: 10.1111/mam.12069](https://doi.org/10.1111/mam.12069)

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