

## **Panel 10**

### **ORCA ECOTYPES**

Orca are currently considered a single species, inhabiting cool waters around the world. Orca ecotypes show subtle differences in body shape, colouration and behaviour, and they don't interbreed. In short, orca ecotypes behave like separate biological species.

In Antarctic waters alone, there are at least four distinct forms of orca, referred to as types A, B, C and D. Little is known about Type D Orcas, but the other types may be new species, according to genetic research. When examined in detail, northern hemisphere ecotypes may also represent genetically distinct species.