

**FIRST RECORD OF AN ENTIRELY WHITE HARBOUR  
PORPOISE (*Phocoena phocoena relicta* ABEL 1905)  
IN ROMANIAN BLACK SEA WATERS AFTER 27 YEARS**

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Cases of completely white animals are rare in nature and even more in case of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises). The most notorious white cetacean, real or imagined, was Moby Dick. When it comes to real facts, Migaloo, the albino humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), was spotted yearly off the eastern coast of Australia in the early '90. There are several reasons or explanation for skin depigmentation such as albinism, piebaldism, vitiligo and poliosis. Albinism is widespread in the animal kingdom and is used to refer to a genetic disturbance. Genetic studies showed that albinism is caused by a mutation of a gene that regulates the production of melanin, the pigment protein in skin, hair and eyes. The gene inheritance is conditioned by its presence in both genitors. In 1993, an albino harbour porpoise was found stranded on the Eforie Sud beach. The present article brings another sighting, after 27 years, of an anomalously white harbour porpoise in Romanian Black Sea waters.