

The February creature is one of the smallest species of the baleen whales, reaching up to 35 ft in length. Instead of teeth, baleen whales have rows of flexible plates that filter food from the water. They feed on krill or small schooling fish, such as, capelin, cod, herring, and pollock. This species that lives in our region is the third most abundant whale on the Atlantic Coast. This fast species can leap out of the water and is identified by its pointed beak, or snout, and that they do not show their tail when diving. For a chance to win a COA T-shirt, submit your guess to Judge L. Piked by mail, fax, email (18 Hartshorne Dr., Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732; 732-872-8041; science@CleanOceanAction.org) or by visiting CleanOceanAction.org.

Another name for this whale is Little Piked



Photo from <http://www.itsnature.org/sea/aquatic-mammals/minke-whale/>

<http://www.acsonline.org/factpack/MinkeWhale.htm>

<http://www.cresli.org/cresli/cetacean/minke2.html>

Minke Whale *Balaenoptera acutrostrata*

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/cetaceans/minkewhale.htm>