Marine Vertebrate Animal Classification

Kingdom Animalia

* Phylum Chordata
  + Subphylum Vertebrata – vertebrates
    - Jawless Animals – jawless fish (hagfish and lampreys)
    - Jawed Vertebrates
      * Class Chondrichthyes – cartilaginous fish
        + Chimeras and ratfish
        + Elasmobranchs – sharks, skates and rays
      * Class Osteichthyes – bony fish
        + Lobe-finned fish
        + Ray-finned fish
      * Class Amphibia (not really in marine environment)
      * Class Reptilia (remember they are now combining class Reptilia and Aves)
        + Sea snakes, iguanas, sea turtles, saltwater crocs
      * Class Aves
        + Family Haematopodidae – oystercatchers
        + Family Charadriidae – plovers and turnstones
        + Family Scolopacidae – sandpipers and curlews
        + Family Recurvirostridae- avocets and stilts
        + Family Ardeidae – Herons
        + Family Laridae – gulls and terns
        + Family Pelecaniformes – pelicans, boobies and commorants
        + Family Diomedeidae – albatrosses
        + Family Sphenisciformes – penguins
      * Class Mammalia
        + Order Carnivora

Sea otters, polar bears

Suborder Pinnepedia

Family Otariidea – eared seals

Family Phocidae – true seals

Family Odobenidae – walruses

* + - * + Order Sirenia – dugongs and manateed
        + Order Cetacea

Suborder Mysticeti – baleen whales

Family Balaenidae – right and bowhead whales

Family Balenopteridae – rorquals (blue, gray, humpback)

Suborder Odontoceti – toothed whales

Family Monodontidae – white (beluga and narwhal)

Family Phocaenidae – porpoises

Family Delphinidae - dolphins