



FYI Respiratory System

How long can you stay underwater without coming up for air? Bet it's not as long as these other mammals! Of course, they spend lots of their time in the water, so it's not totally fair, but still. Here's a look at the average time that a number of species can hold their breaths.

- **Human:** 1 minute
- **Polar bear:** 90 seconds
- **Sea otter:** 5 minutes
- **Platypus:** 10 minutes
- **Muskrat:** 12 minutes
- **Hippopotamus:** 15 minutes
- **Sea cow:** 15 minutes
- **Porpoise:** 15 minutes
- **Beaver:** 20 minutes
- **Seal:** Between 15 and 28 minutes, depending on the species
- **Greenland whale:** 60 minutes
- **Sperm whale:** 90 minutes
- **Bottlenose whale:** 2 hours

