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Blue Whales

Quick Facts:

Status: Endangered

Scientific Name: *Balaenoptera musculus*

Population: 10,000-25,000 individuals

Weight: Close to 200 tons (approximately 33 elephants)

Length: 80-100 feet

Places: Southern Chile, Gulf of California, Coral Triangle

Habitats: Oceans

Quick description:

The blue whale is the largest animal on the planet. It has a heart the size of a Volkswagen Beetle. Its stomach can hold one ton of krill and it needs to eat about four tons of krill each day. They are the loudest animals on Earth and are even louder than a jet engine. Their calls reach 188 decibels, while a jet

reaches 140 decibels. Their low frequency whistle can be heard for hundreds of miles and is probably used to attract other blue whales.



Morten Lindhard / WWF-Canon Blue whale at sunset, Mexico.

Why they matter?

Whales are at the top of the food chain and have an important role in the overall health of the marine environment. BLUE whale's iron-rich poo is a really important source of nutrients in the marine food chain, promoting Southern Ocean productivity, which boosts fishery yields. These nutrients, particularly iron and nitrogen, are vital for phytoplankton, at the base of the food chain. Because plankton help to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Moreover, they help us fight the climate crisis—on average, a whale throughout its lifetime captures the same amount of carbon as 1,000 trees.

Current Threats:

Due to their enormous size and mass, blue whales have no natural predators on earth. They are only endangered through man-made causes. Although blue whales are legally protected today, they do continue to face some man-made threats in the form of entanglement, vessel strikes, climate change, and other threats.

- Entanglement:

Blue whales can become entangled in fishing gear including traps, pots, or gillnets. They can either swim off with the gear attached or becoming anchored. When entangled, whales may drag and swim with attached gear for long distances, ultimately resulting in fatigue, compromised feeding ability, or severe injury, which may lead to reduced reproductive success and death.

- Vessel Strikes:

Inadvertent vessel strikes can injure or kill blue whales. Vessel strikes have killed blue whales throughout their range, but the risk is much higher in some coastal areas with heavy ship traffic. More than 80% of global trade takes place by container at sea, making the international shipping industry a major and influential player in the global economy. Though this activity is great for our regional economy, it can also pose serious problems for blue whales when these shipping lanes intersect with feeding habitats, resulting in these fast-moving ships fatally striking and killing these endangered animals.

- Other Threats:

Other threats to blue whales include ocean noise, habitats degradation, ocean pollution, vessel disturbance, and drastic changes in climate that can happen over the years. That is why global warming is of particular concern. Global warming causes glaciers and permafrost to melt fast which allows a large amount of fresh water to flow to the oceans. There is concern that this can cause a disruption in saline levels and thermocline circulation. This disruption in thermocline circulation can affect blue whales' migrations as they are based on ocean temperature. The change in ocean temperature can also affect the blue whale's food supply. For instance, the increased warm temperatures and decreased saline levels can cause a significant shift in krill location and abundance.



What Blue Whales need to survive?

- Highly efficient Lungs
- Water!
- Blubber
- Krill

Because they live underwater, blue whales need highly efficient lungs to survive. Their lungs exchange 80-90% of oxygen, as opposed to humans who only exchange 10-15%. The trachea extends all the way to the center of the lungs to help adapt to its diving habitat..

Whales spend their entire lives in the ocean. Their bodies are completely adapted to life in the water. ... Whales are huge and they need water in their bodies to survive, just like us.

Blubber plays a significant role in whales' life. Having blubber allows whales to maintain their body heat and survive in frigid environments that would otherwise be uninhabitable. Some whales can also use their blubber for energy when food is scarce or during long trips.

Blue whales eat krill - tiny, shrimp-like crustaceans that live throughout Earth's oceans. The huge whales can eat up to four tones of krill every day.



WHALES AND THE PLASTIC PROBLEM:

Whale health is linked to and is a critical indicator of ocean health. They even help drive a tourism

industry of whale-watching worth more than \$2 billion globally. Yet even these ocean giants are being impacted by the “deadliest predator in the sea”: plastic Pollution

Plastic waste pollutes every corner of the ocean, threatens marine wildlife, and even ends up in the seafood we eat. From our local beaches to remote tropical islands and polar regions, plastic is choking our oceans and killing wildlife. It is the most visible example of human impact on our seas. Currently, more than 11 million metric tons of plastic are flowing into the ocean each year. By 2050, there could be more plastic in the sea by weight than fish.

Ocean plastic pollution harms marine life in two ways: through ingestion and entanglement.

Globally, more than 240 wildlife species, including whales, are known to have ingested plastic, which can result in internal injuries and death. A recent study of marine life found that flexible plastic like plastic bags and packaging is responsible for the largest proportion of deaths from debris, primarily due to gastric obstructions.

One of the most damaging types of marine plastic pollution is abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear—commonly called “ghost gear.” About 10% of the world’s ocean plastic pollution is made up of plastic-based fishing nets and rope. Every year, 300,000 whales, dolphins, and porpoises get accidentally entangled in nets and lines and die a slow and painful death through suffocation, starvation, or exhaustion.

Plastic pollution is a global problem that requires a global solution. A global and legally binding United Nations agreement is established as a priority to stop the leakage of plastics into our oceans by 2030. Every single country is part of this plastics crisis and every single one must be part of the solution. We need a united global response, with clear obligations and responsibilities to prevent and control plastic pollution. We need an immediate UN agreement that will stop the leakage of plastics into the oceans and accelerate the transition to a circular economy for plastic so it never becomes waste or pollution.

*please follow till the last page.

My Instagram post:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CU99m5Ash5Q/>



Caption:

Together Towards a Bettee World 🌍👥

Just a remind: you have probably seen documentaries showing sea animals eating or are stuck in garbage, and you probably, because of our humane nature, were like: omg how cruel they are to dump plastics into ocean, but, how do you know that piece of plastic was not yours which caused that fish to die?!

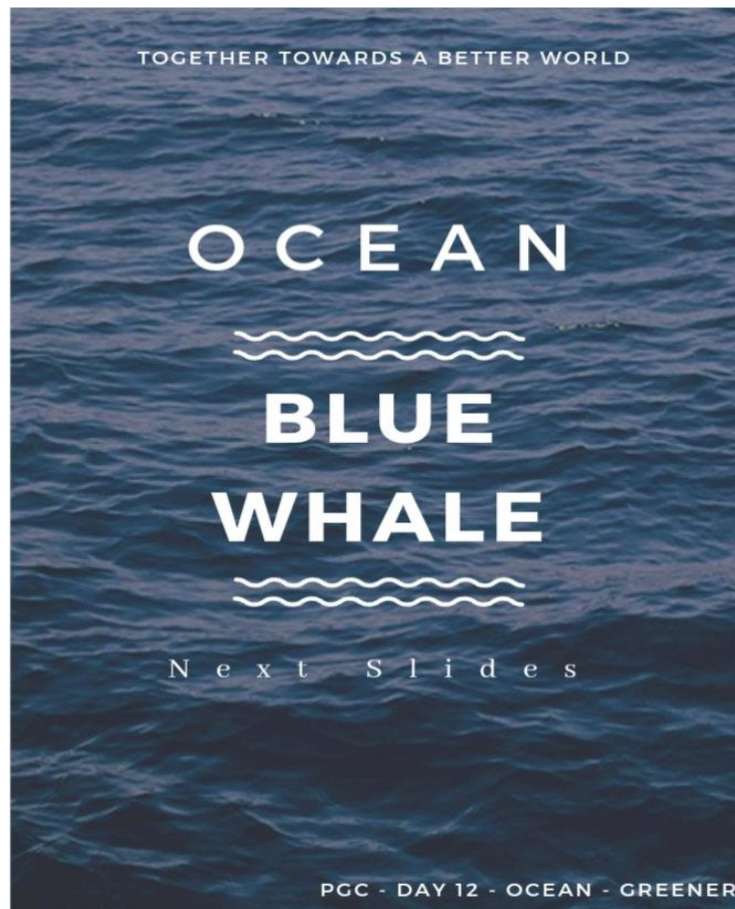
Be careful with your use.

[@turninggreenorg](#)

[@natracare](#)

[@onlyone](#)

[#pgc2021](#)



TOGETHER TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD

FUN FACT 1:

BLUE WHALES ARE THE
LARGEST AND LOUDEST
ANIMALS IN THE
WORLD



TOGETHER TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD

FUN FACT 2:

BLUE WHALES ARE AN
INTERNATIONAL
ANIMALS, THEY LIVE IN
ALL THE WORLD'S
OCEANS EXCEPT THE
ARCTIC.



TOGETHER TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD

FUN FACT 3:

BLUE WHALE'S WEIGHT
IS ABOUT 200 TONS,
EQUAL TO ALMOST 33
ELEPHANTS.



TOGETHER TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD

FUN FACT 4:

BLUE WHALE'S LENGTH
IS ABOUT 80 - 100
FEET.



TOGETHER TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD

FUN FACT 5:

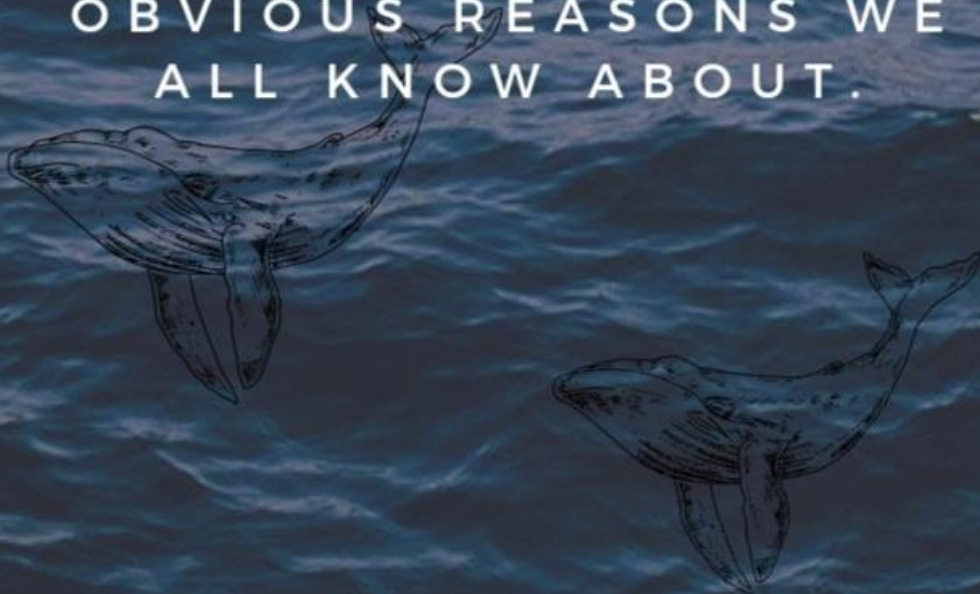
BLUE WHALE'S
POPULATION IS ABOUT
10000 - 25000
INDIVIDUALS.



TOGETHER TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD

HOW TO HELP 1:

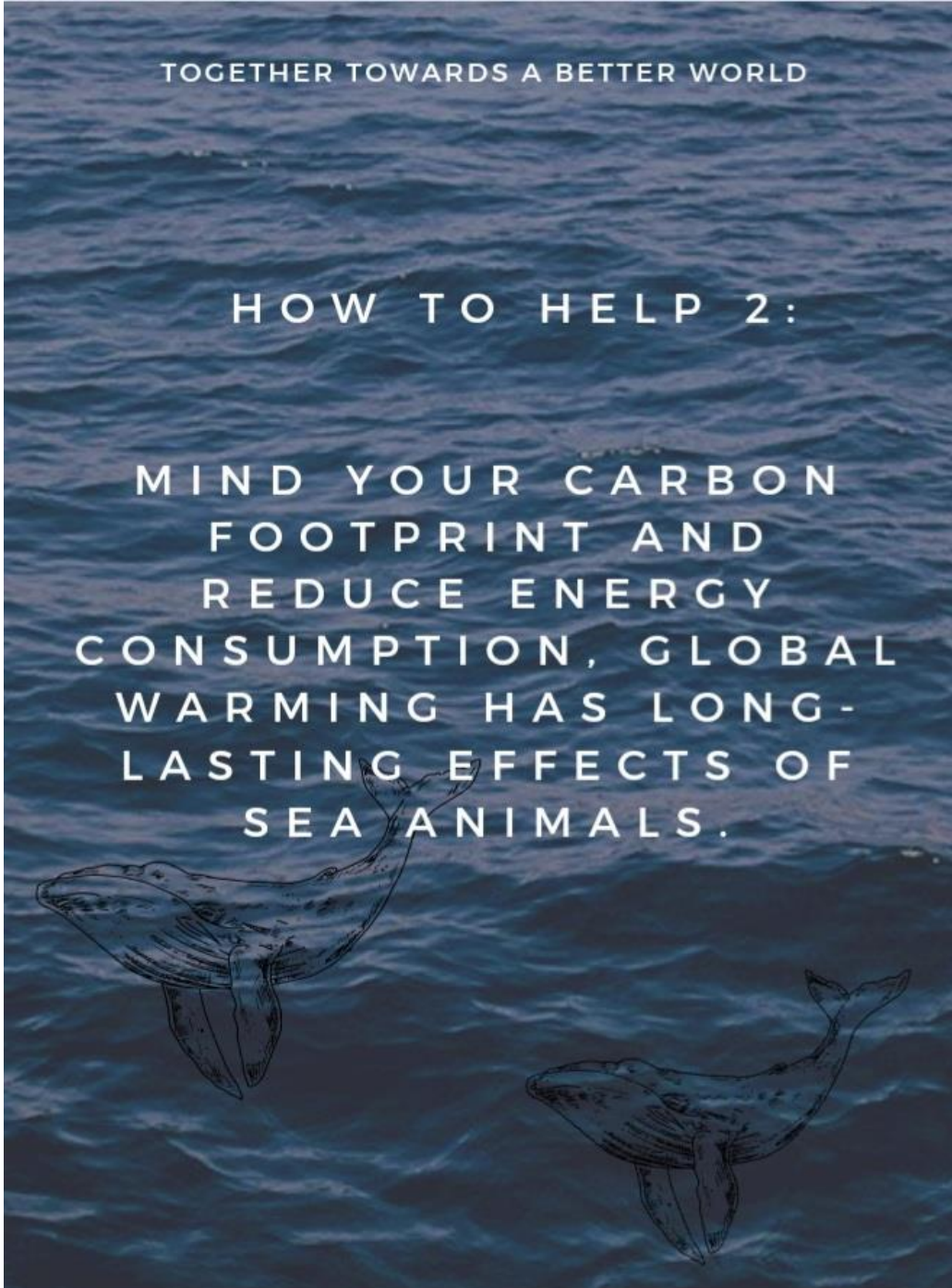
USE MORE REUSABLE,
RENEWABLE, AND
RECYCLABLE
MATERIALS, AND LESS
PLASTIC, FOR A LOT A
OBVIOUS REASONS WE
ALL KNOW ABOUT.



TOGETHER TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD

HOW TO HELP 2:

MIND YOUR CARBON
FOOTPRINT AND
REDUCE ENERGY
CONSUMPTION, GLOBAL
WARMING HAS LONG-
LASTING EFFECTS OF
SEA ANIMALS.



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HOW TO HELP 3:

SUPPORT
ORGANIZATIONS
WORKING TO PROTECT
THE OCEAN AND SIGN
RELATED PETITIONS



TOGETHER TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD

THANK YOU :)



Resources:

<https://www.wwf.org.au/what-we-do/species/blue-whale#:~:text=Whales%20are%20an%20important%20part,the%20health%20of%20our%20oceans.&text=These%20nutrients%2C%20particularly%20iron%20and,base%20of%20the%20food%20chain.>

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/blue-whale>

<https://2seewhales.com/blog/blue-whale-endangered/>

http://bioweb.uwlax.edu/bio203/s2012/olson_rile/adaptation.htm

<https://www.whalefacts.org/whale-adaptations>

<https://whalescientists.com/do-whales-drink/>

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/quick-questions/what-do-blue-whales-eat.html>

WWF, Ellen Macarthur Foundation and BCG. 2020. The business case for a UN treaty on plastic pollution. WWF, Ellen Macarthur Foundation and BCG, Gland, Switzerland.

WWF. 2020. Stop ghost gear: the most deadly form of marine plastic debris. WWF, Gland, Switzerland.