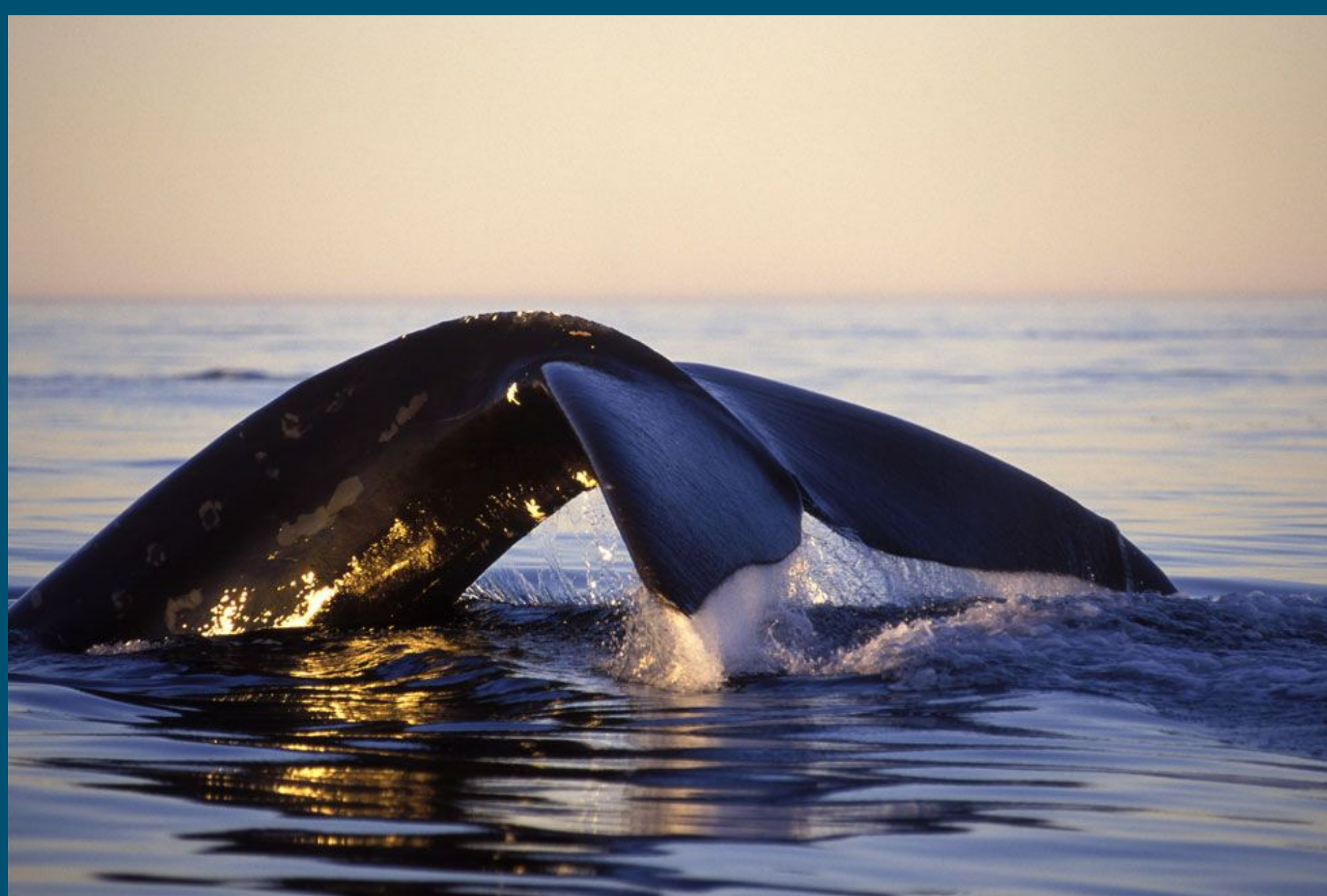


# SAVE THE NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE



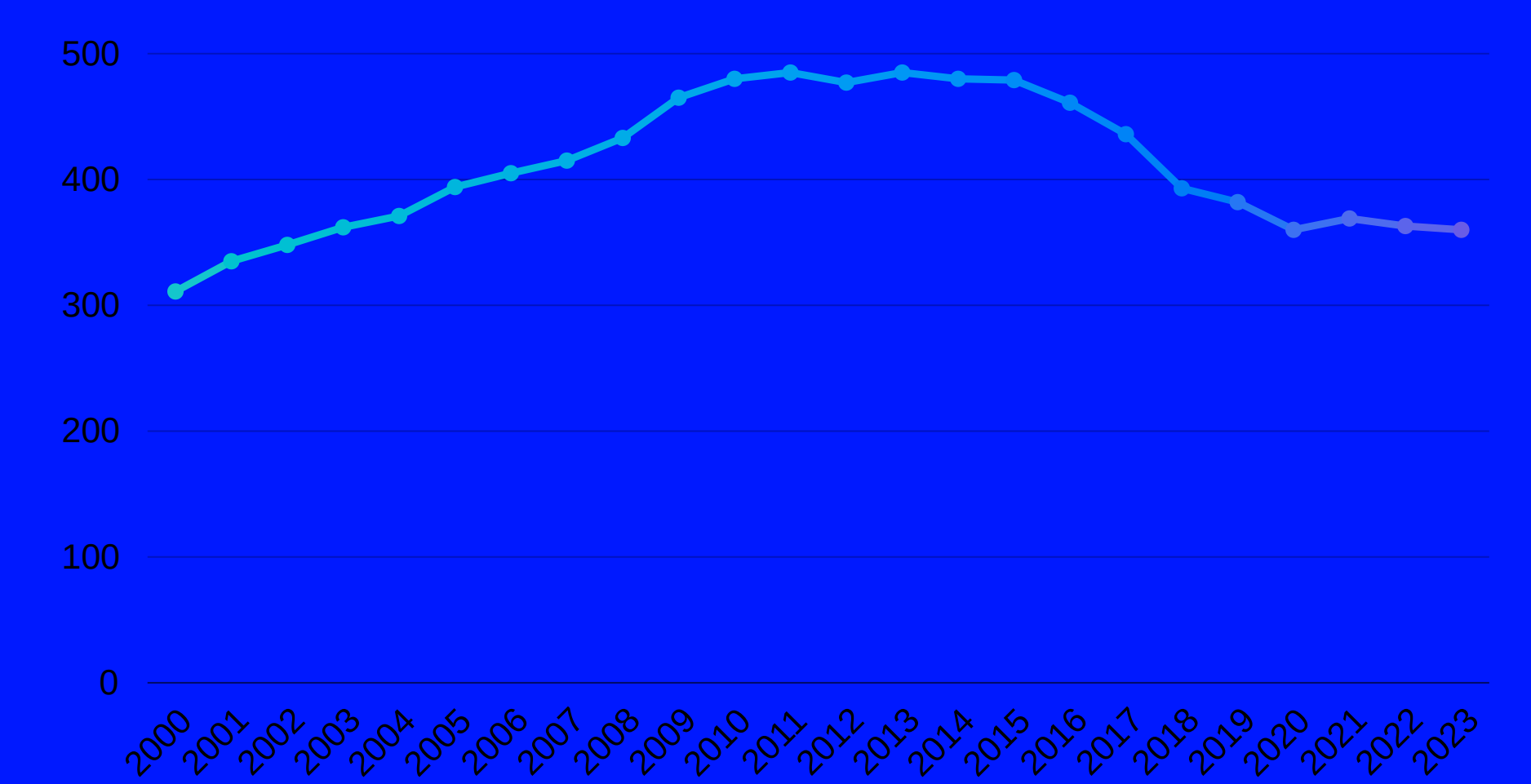
## Ecology of the North Atlantic Right Whales

- The North Atlantic Right whale : *Eubalena glacialis*
- Fourth largest whale in the world coming in at 55-60 feet when an adult, that's the size of a Greyhound bus
- Baleen whales, secondary consumers
- Primarily feed on cope pods and zooplankton
- The species *Cyamis Ovalis* and *Cyamis Gracilis* the whales white callouses home
- Their poop causes Phytoplankton to reproduce more which takes CO2 out of the air and makes O2 just like a tree which helps us humans

## Importance of the Georgia coast

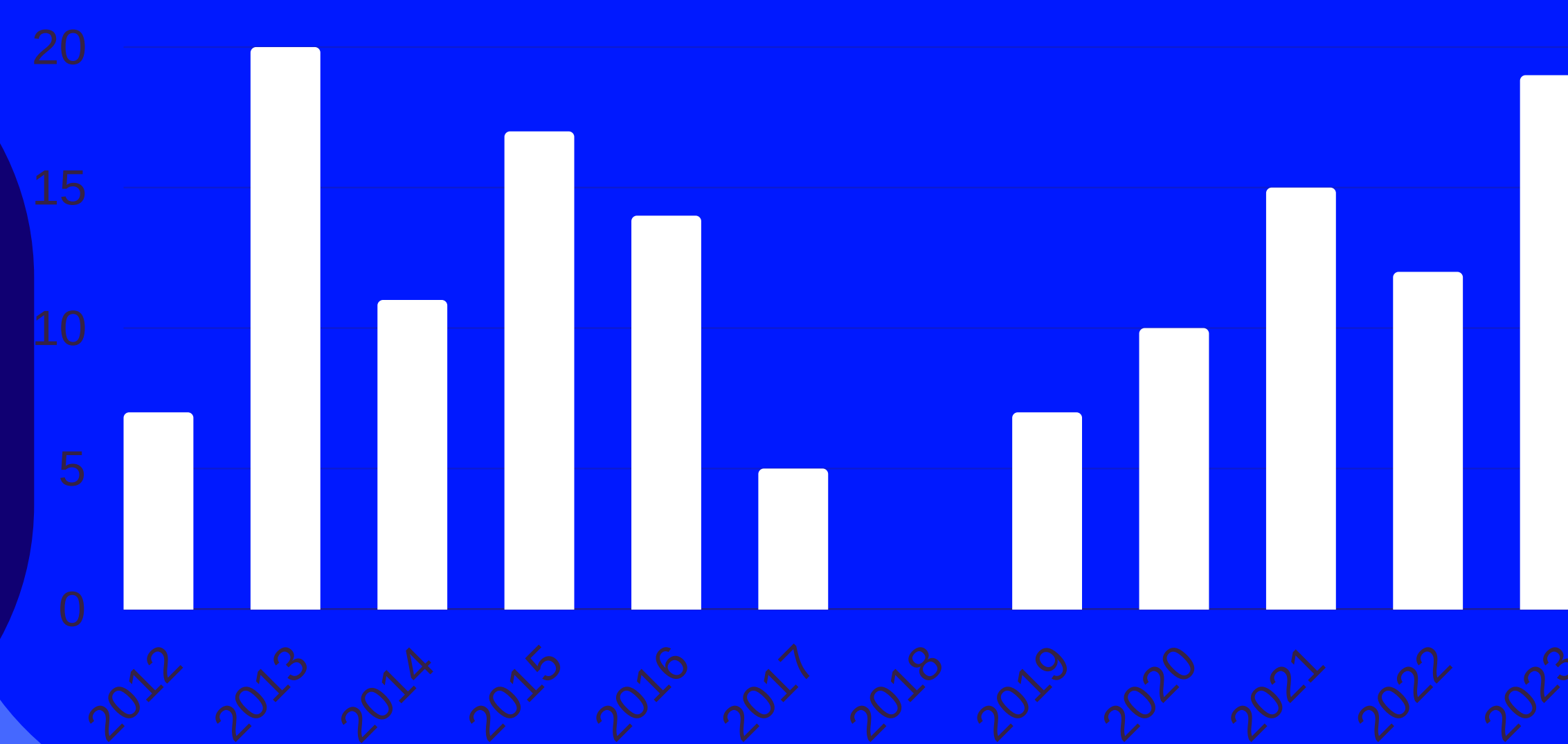
- The North Atlantic Right Whale use the coasts of Georgia as their calving grounds
- The North Atlantic Right Whale will travel from the waters of Canada and northeastern U.S.A. down to the coasts of Georgia, South Carolina, and Northern Florida
- These are the only known calving grounds in the world for these whales
- If the species has any chance of surviving their calving grounds must be a safe place for the whales and their young calves

NORTH ATLANTIC WHALE POPULATION SINCE 2000



NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES BORN IN PAST 12 YEARS

This graph shows the number of North Atlantic Right Whales born each year since 2012



## Population Trends

- The North Atlantic Right Whale became endangered when whaling became popular as they were known as the "Right" whale to hunt
- After becoming endangered the species never recovered and for a short time from 2000-2015 their numbers increased but have sadly started to dwindle in numbers again
- They Critically Endangered are today
- Estimation of total population size is 346-362
- Only 74 calves have been born in the past 5 years
- Only 70 breeding adult females in the entire population
- They are registered as state and federally endangered
- Scientists are predicting that the population may be entirely extinct by 2040



## Threats and Impact

- The three biggest threats are entanglement in fishing gear, vessel strikes, and Global Warming
- Global Warming is causing the North Atlantic Right Whales to move closer and closer to shipping lanes in an attempt to follow their food
- Entanglement in fishing gear hurts the whale and often leads to death with the NOAA estimating 80 % of Right Whales having become entangled at some point in their life
- Vessels will collide with whales and often have no clue however the whale is left with deep gashes that can become infected and kill the whale
- One newborn whale named Juno's Calf, was recently struck around January 10th, and sadly the wounds where to great
- Juno's calf was found dead off of Cumberland Island on march 4th

## Solutions

- The New England Aquarium has conducted studies showing that restricting vessels 65 feet and larger to 10 knots (about 11.5 mph) will significantly reduce the chances of vessel strikes for these whales
- However whales are still being struck by smaller boats, and the NOAA is now pushing a bill that also restricts vessels smaller than 65 feet to 10 knots which would also tremendously help as 5 of the 12 reported vessel strikes in 2023 where small vessels
- The NOAA has also suggested restrictions for when certain fishing gear is allowed, as well as suggesting the restriction to "Weak Rope" gear and sinking ground lines (as opposed to ones that float between crab traps)



Juno's Calf and their wounds



## Sources

- [NOAA](#)
- [Animal Diversity Web](#)
- [Whales Online](#)
- [New England Aquarium](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund](#)
- [Center For Biological Diversity](#)
- [NOAA Fisheries](#)
- Graphs were made by creators of the poster

