

NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES (*Eubalena glacialis*)

LEXI J

FAILS ON OUR PART WHEN IT COMES TO WHALES

TWO BIGGEST HUMAN THREATS ARE

- ENTANGLEMENT (39 WHALES IN PAST FIVE YEARS)
 - VESSEL STRIKES (16 WHALES IN PAST 5 YEARS)
- THESE THREATS...
- ALTER MIGRATORY PATTERNS (PLACES WHALES IN BOAT ZONES WHICH RESULT IN INJURIES)
 - DAMAGE ABILITY TO FIND FOOD, COMMUNICATE, AND NAVIGATE (DUE TO SEVERE INJURIES)
 - ONLY 44% OF MALES AND 33% OF FEMALES SURVIVE LONGER THAN 36 MONTHS AFTER ENTANGLEMENT
 - 85% OF THIS SPECIES HAVE BEEN ENTANGLED AT LEAST 1
 - SINCE 2003, ALMOST ALL JUVENILE AND ADULT RIGHT WHALE DEATHS ATTRIBUTED TO HUMAN ACTIVITIES.

FACTS

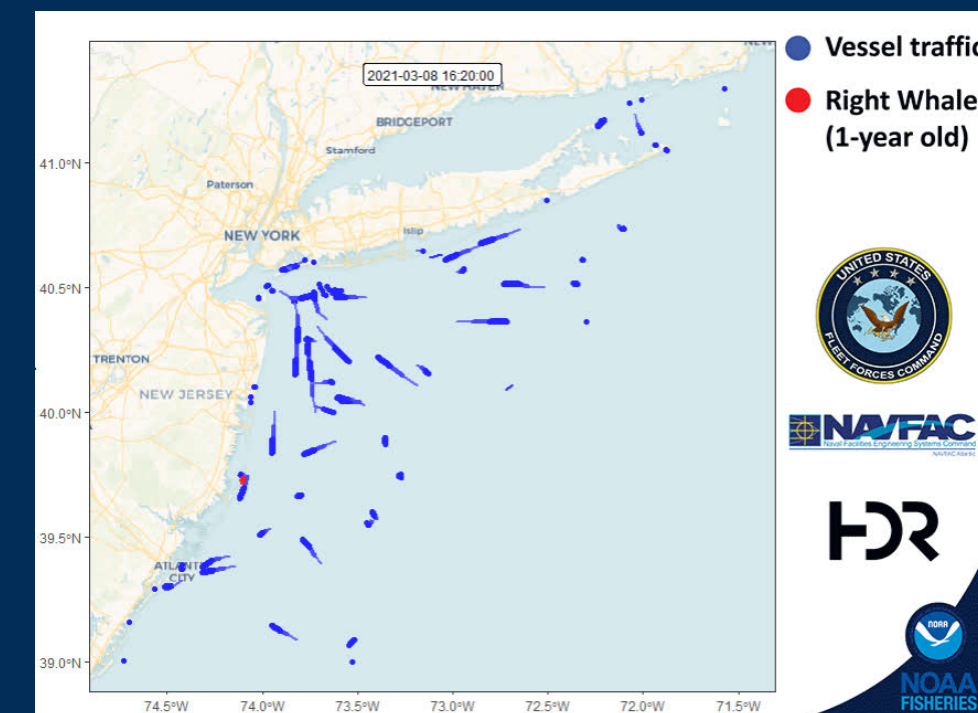
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PREDICTED EXTINCTION: 2040
LESS THAN 350 WHALES CURRENTLY
BALEEN WHALES
(FAMILY: BALAENDAE)

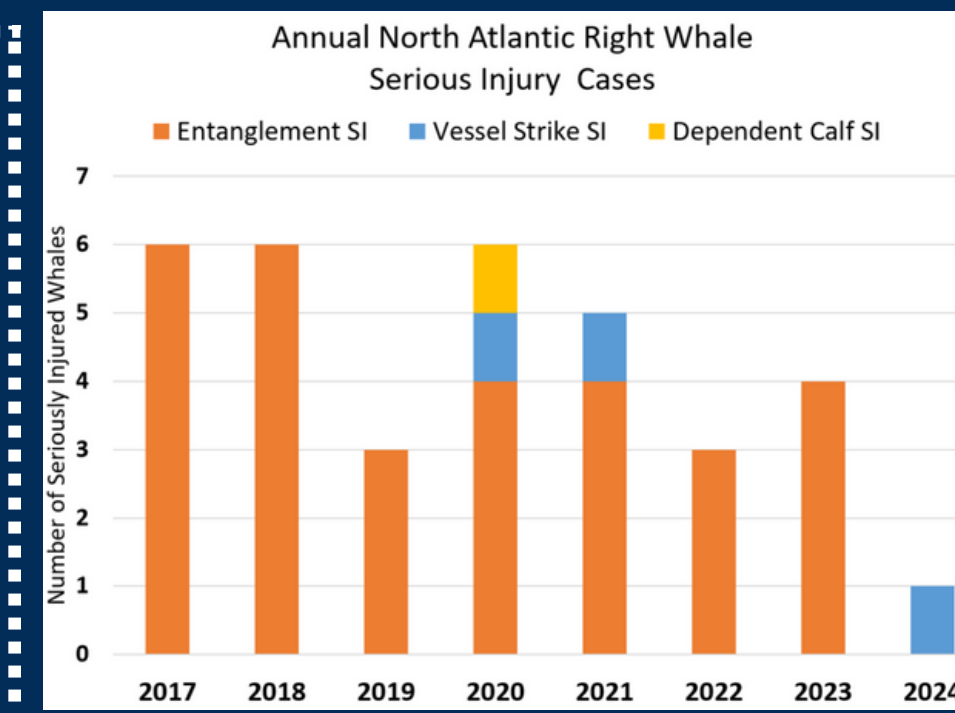
- COASTAL GEORGIA SERVES AS VITAL CALVING GROUNDS, PROVIDING SHELTERED HABITATS, ABUNDANCE OF ZOOPLANKTON, AND HISTORICAL MIGRATORY ROUTES
- RIGHT WHALES ENHANCE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS BY STIRRING UP NUTRIENTS AS THEY FEED, BOOSTING PHYTOPLANKTON GROWTH WHICH ABSORBS CARBON DIOXIDE, AND THEIR LARGE BODIES STORE CARBON, AIDING IN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION.
- FACE A MORTALITY RATE THAT OUTPACES THEIR BIRTH RATE, THREATENING THEIR SURVIVAL.
- WHALE LICE (CYAMIDS) BENEFIT FROM NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES' SKIN AS HABITAT AND FOOD, AIDING IN SKIN HYGIENE AS A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP

SOLUTIONS THROUGH ATTRIBUTIONS

- VESSEL SPEED REGULATIONS- 10 KNOTS OR LESS WITHIN DESIGNATED AREAS (APPLIES TO 35-65 FT VESSELS)
- ENFORCEMENT WITH SATELLITE AND ONBOARD TRACKING TECH.
- ENCOURAGE ROPELESS FISHING GEAR TO PROTECT WHALES FROM ENTANGLEMENT (THIS WOULD ALLOW FISHERMEN TO RETRIEVE TRAPS REMOTELY ETC)
- INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE PLIGHT AND DESCRIBE ACTIONS THAT COULD BE TAKEN
- MINIMIZE ACCIDENTAL ENTANGLEMENTS BY ADJUSTING SEASONS, GEAR, AND PRACTICES TO REDUCE BYCATCH (EX. USING WEAK LINE GEAR, TEMPORARILY CLOSING CERTAIN SPOTS WHERE BREEDING OCCURS, ENHANCE REPORTING AND MONITORING FOR RAPID RESPONSE.)



GRAPH TO THE LEFT SHOWS BOAT TRAFFIC COMPARED TO 1 YEAR OLD WHALE. PHOTO TO LEFT SHOWS A DEAD 1 YEAR OLD WHALE (PILGRIM); CAUSE OF DEATH VESSEL STRIKE, INCLUDING SKULL FRACTURES AND BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA. GRAPH TO THE RIGHT DISPLAYS SERIOUS INJURY CASE CAUSES OF NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES



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