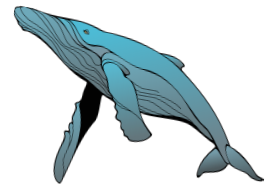




Calling All Conservationists!



For hundreds of years, humans believed the ocean to be endless in its abundance of life. From [food sources](#) and everyday [products](#), to surfing and SCUBA diving, our world oceans have provided us with a variety of resources and recreation. As the world population increases, the need for these resources grows, sometimes putting a significant strain on the environment. Loss of habitat, pollution, illegal hunting practices, and overfishing are just a few of the reasons that there are several marine mammal species currently on the threatened/endangered list. One of the ways we can help make a difference is to educate ourselves on their vulnerabilities and make responsible decisions in our everyday lives so that these species can make a come-back and continue their roles in helping maintain a healthy balance in the ocean ecosystem.

The [Marine Mammal Protection Act](#) is one example of how humans are trying to protect and preserve marine mammal populations. Click on the link and answer the following questions:

- 1) When was the act officially passed?
- 2) What reasons/actions led to the development of this act?
- 3) What does the MMPA state (what rules does it enforce?)

ACTIVITY- Create your own conservation poster!

Materials:

- Paper (regular sized or poster)
- Pens/Markers/crayons

Directions-

- Choose a threatened or endangered marine mammal ([click here for some ideas](#))
- Research what caused them to become threatened/endangered
- Research why they are important to their habitat (ecological role)
- Create a conservation poster with the information you found and pictures of your marine mammal
- Present to your friends/family and share ideas on how we can help educate others on the importance of marine mammal conservation