



Protecting Whales in Our
Own Backyard & Beyond

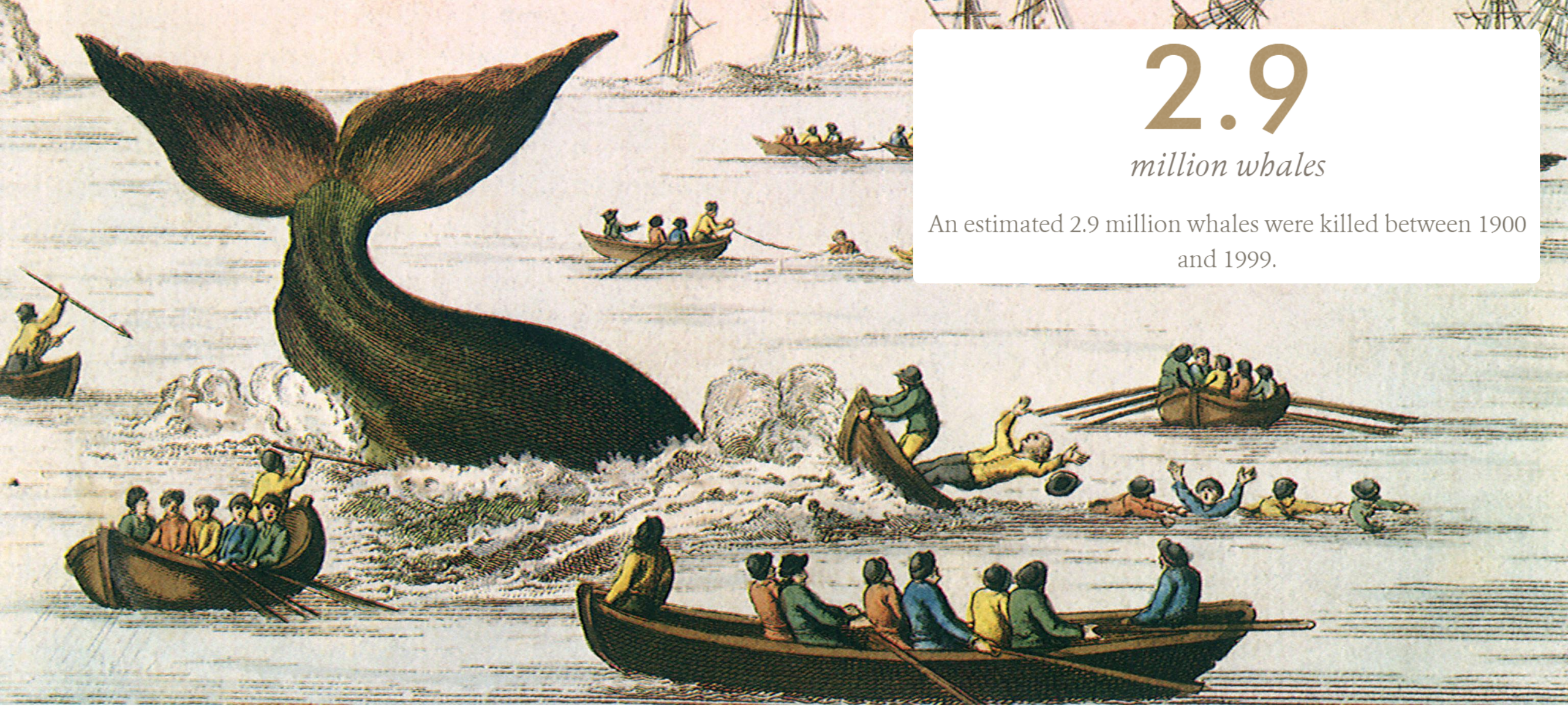


POSTCARDS

FROM THE

FIELD

GALA 2020



2.9
million whales

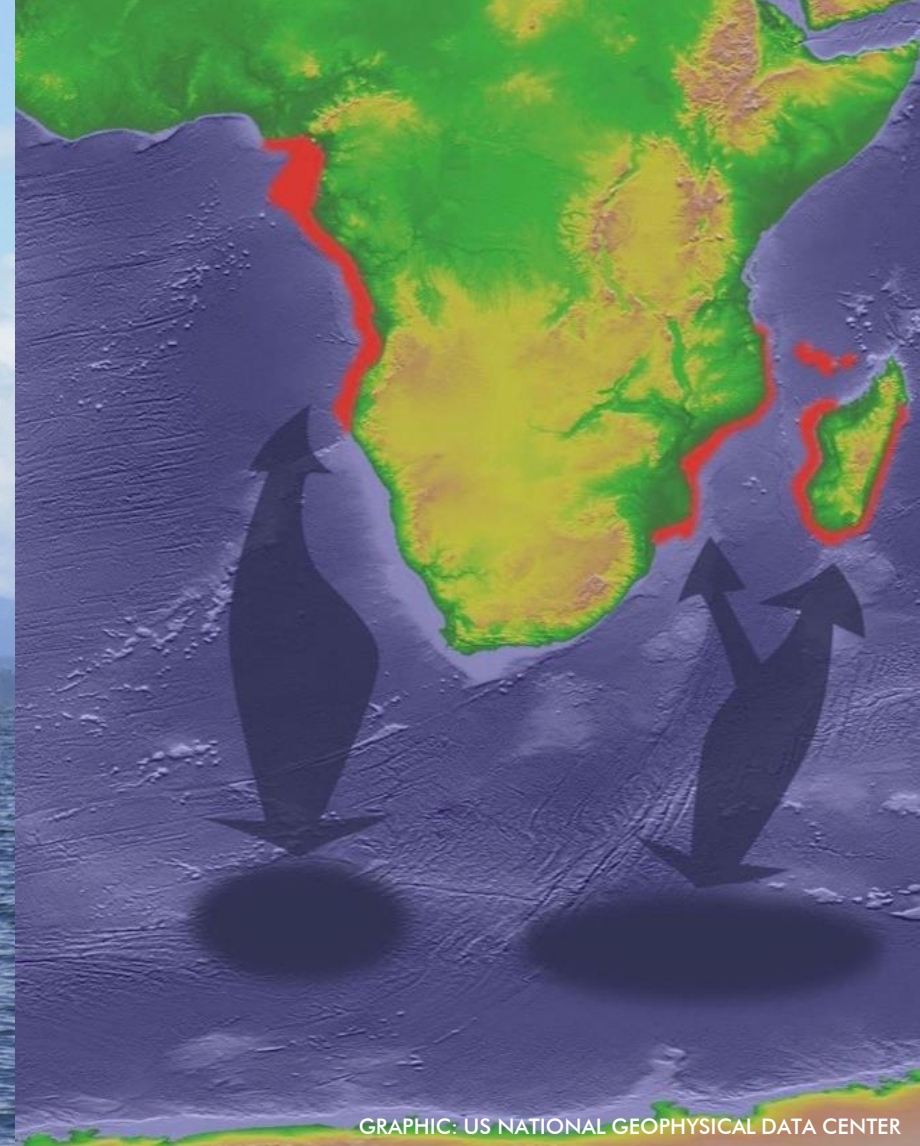
An estimated 2.9 million whales were killed between 1900
and 1999.

Whale populations were systematically depleted in the 19th and 20th centuries throughout the world's oceans due to whaling.





PHOTO: MATTHEW S. LESLIE/WCS



GRAPHIC: US NATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL DATA CENTER

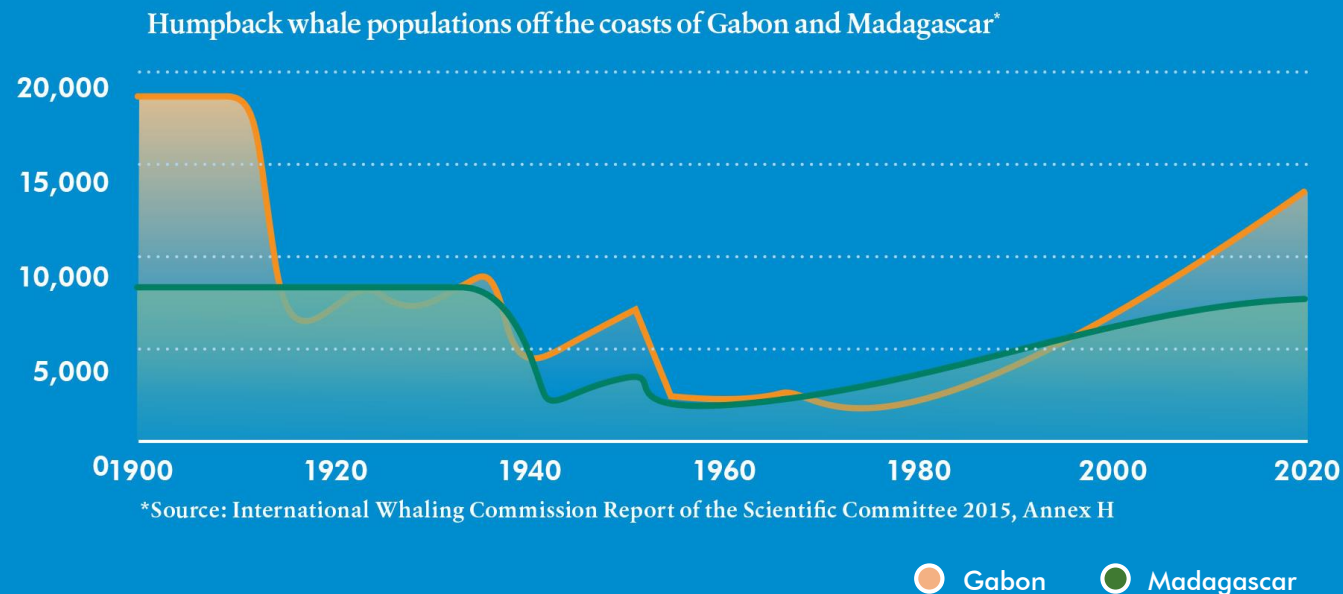
But some whale species, including Southern Hemisphere humpback whales, have been making a comeback. There are seven Southern Hemisphere humpback whale Breeding Stocks recognized by the International Whaling Commission. Humpbacks make annual migrations from high latitude summer feeding grounds to low latitude winter breeding grounds.





PHOTO: TIM COLLINS/WCS OCEAN GIANTS

THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

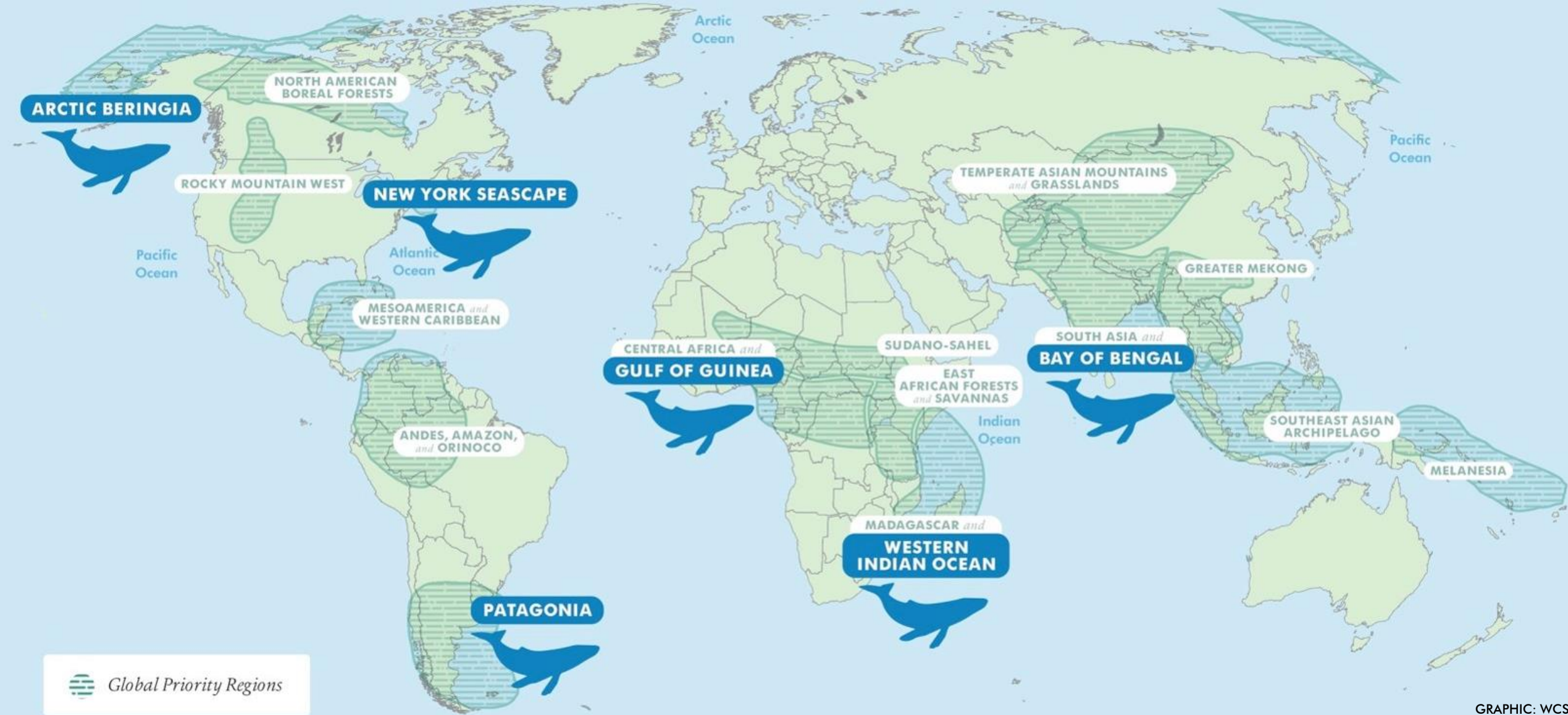


Humpbacks in Gabon and Madagascar may have **RECOVERED TO AS MUCH AS 70 AND 90 PERCENT** of prewhaling levels

GRAPHIC: WCS

Recovery for many Southern Hemisphere humpback whale populations is ongoing, and some showing promising success. WCS efforts are leading to a substantial recovery in these populations.





GRAPHIC: WCS

This map shows regions where WCS is conserving ocean giants around the world.





PHOTO: WCS OCEAN GIANTS/IMAGE TAKEN UNDER NMFS MMPA/ESA PERMIT NO. 14809

Whales' return to New York: In recent years, whales are seen with increasing regularity off the coasts of New York and New Jersey. Several amazing species are found here including blue whales, fin whales, North Atlantic right whales, and humpback whales.





PHOTO: ©CHASE DEKKER

The blue whale is the largest known animal on the planet, and is generally found offshore in areas beyond the continental shelf.





PHOTO: NOAA/M. FOSTER

Fin whales are one of the fastest baleen whales, and are generally found sometimes further offshore, but may shift inshore with different seasons. Males vocalize, or 'sing' year-round, and singing activity is greatest between fall and spring.





PHOTO: FWC UNDER NOAA PERMIT #15488

North Atlantic right whales make annual migrations along the U.S. East Coast. They are highly endangered, with only ~ 400 individuals left.





PHOTO: WCS OCEAN GIANTS/IMAGE TAKEN UNDER NMFS MMPA/ESA PERMIT NO. 14809

Humpback whales are most frequently seen nearshore, feeding on menhaden. Males produce long and complex songs mainly on their breeding grounds, but singing activity does occur off NY in winter and spring.





PHOTOS: WCS OCEAN GIANTS/IMAGE TAKEN UNDER NMFS MMPA/ESA PERMIT NO. 14809

WCS Ocean Giants Program has conducted regular boat surveys since 2016 to identify whale species and how they use New York waters. Over the last few years, WCS Ocean Giants have observed groups of more than 50 whales feeding in the New York Bight! An amazing wildlife spectacle right in our backyard.





PHOTO: HWS & NOAA/E. LYMAN. MMHSRP PERMIT #932-1905



PHOTO: OCEANA.ORG/F. FELIX



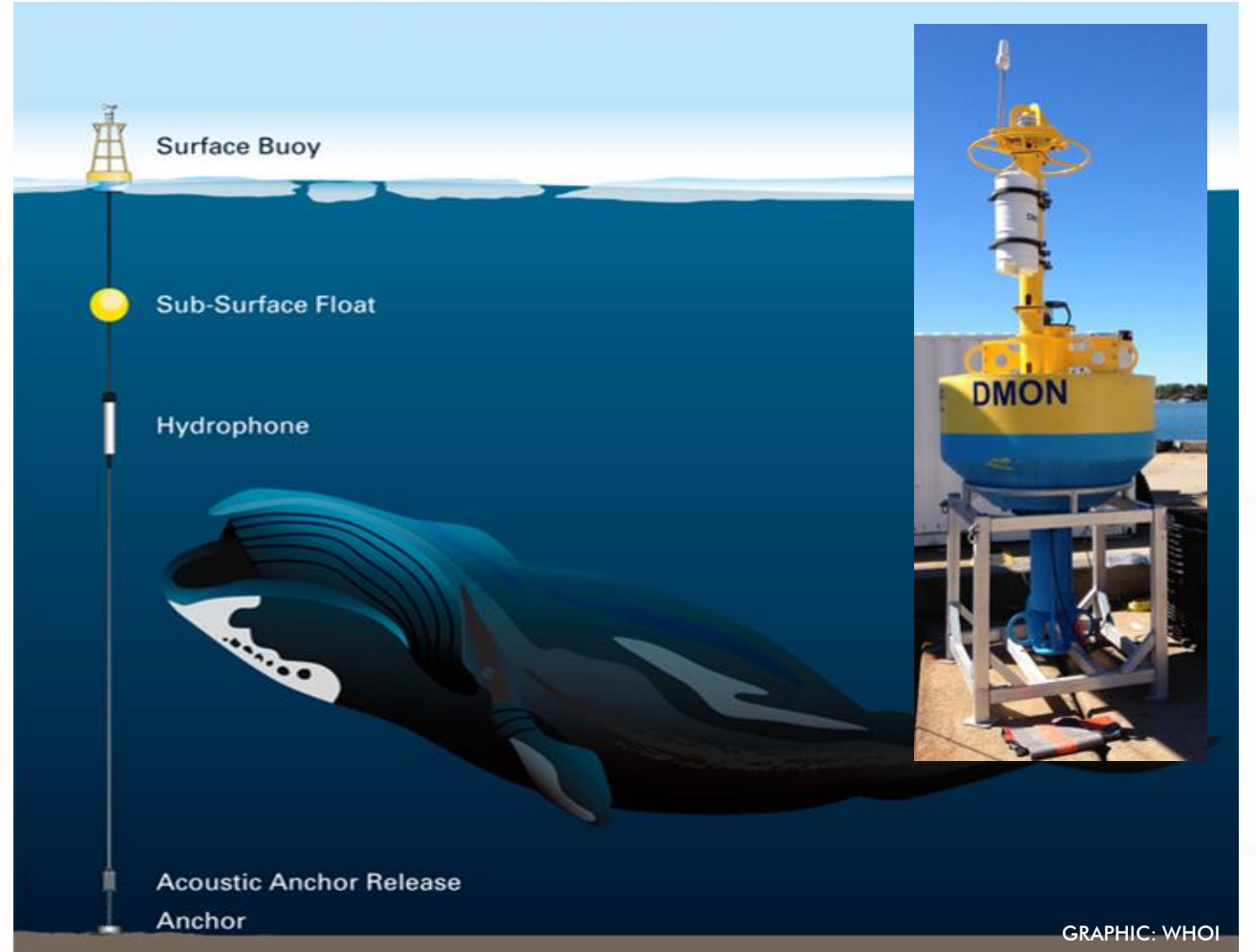
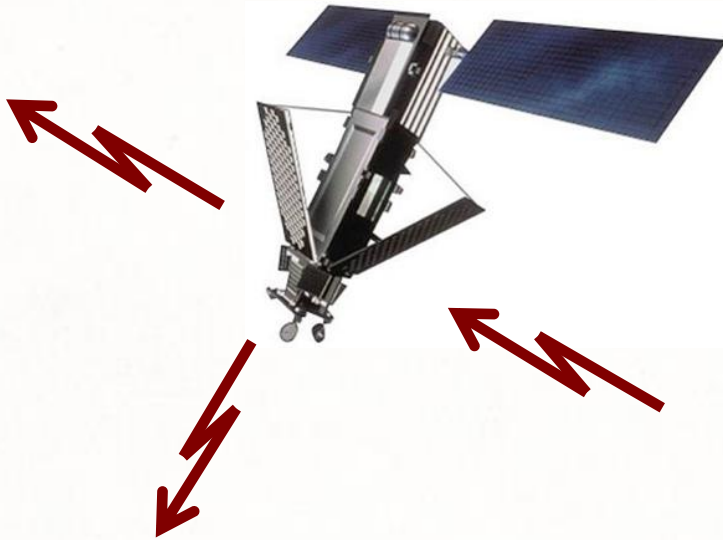
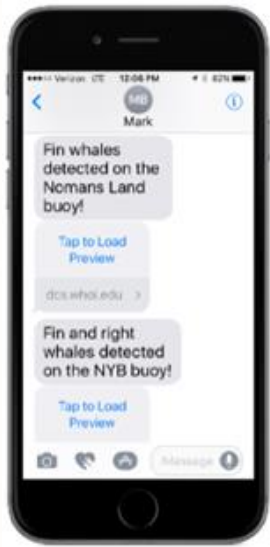
PHOTO: NYSERDA



PHOTO: INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOPHYSICAL CONTRACTORS

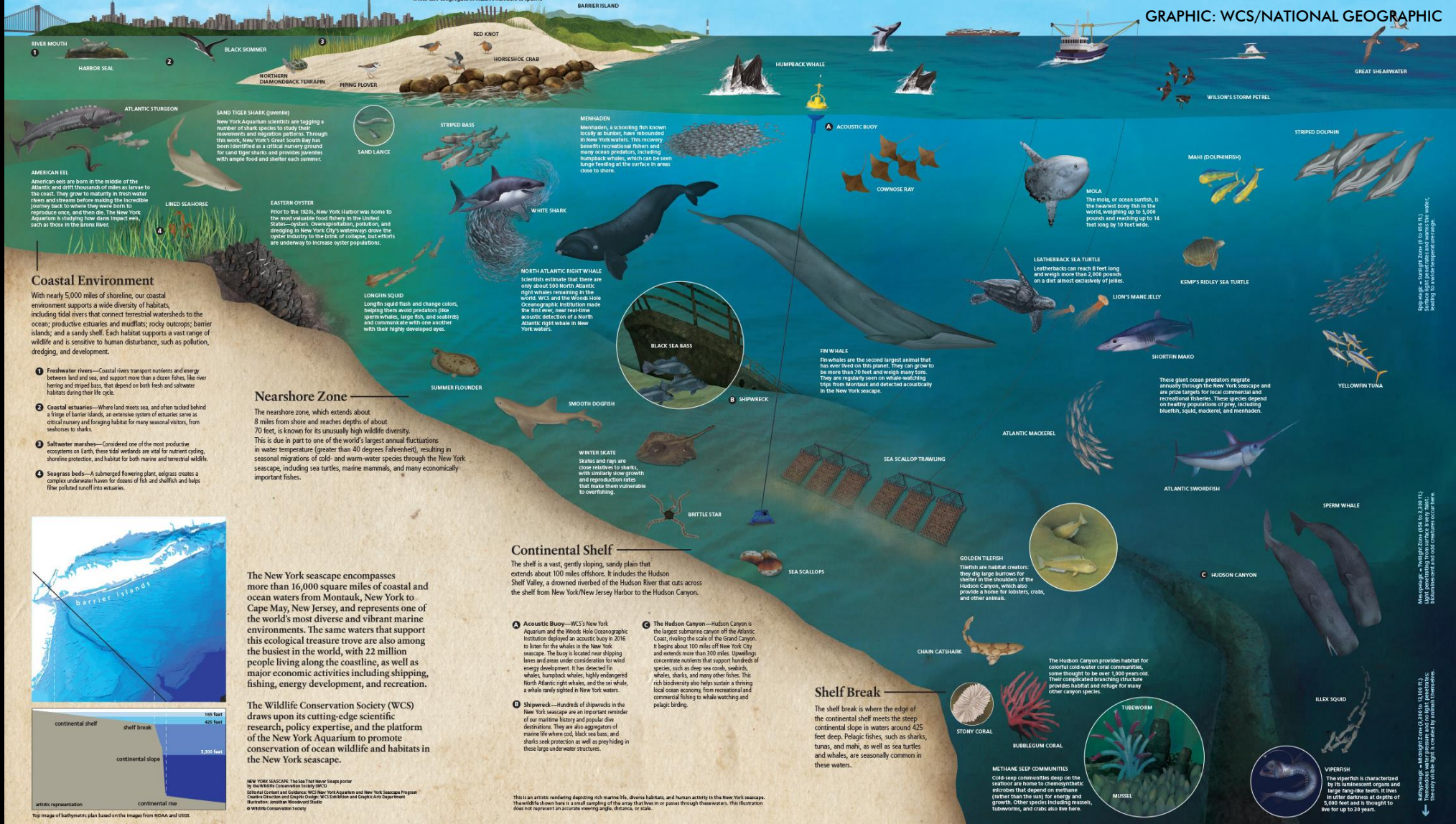
Despite the resurgence of whales in our waters, they now face 21st century threats including: Entanglement in fishing gear, ship strikes and underwater noise produced by human activities. Ongoing Unusual Mortality Events are declared for humpback, minke and North Atlantic right whales. WCS helps address these threats through applying our science to promote best practice, involvement in mitigation and monitoring, contributing to policy decisions, and public outreach and education.





Since 2016, a WCS & WHOI near real-time acoustic buoy that operates 24/7/365 relays fin, humpback, sei and North Atlantic right whale vocalizations, which helps WCS establish important baselines to inform future mitigation of offshore energy development. The exciting data from this buoy will also be available to the public through a kiosk at the NY Aquarium and even online through our website.





WCS is working to transform how people think about the New York Seascape, and implementing key conservation efforts to protect ocean giants and other marine life in the waters off New York





PHOTOS: WCS OCEAN GIANTS/IMAGE TAKEN UNDER NMFS MMPA/ESA PERMIT NO. 14809

Thank you for your support!

