

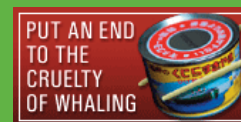
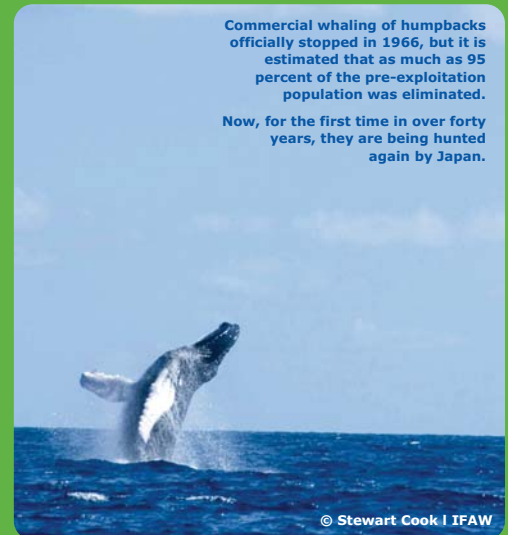
▶ Whales & Whaling

Believe it or not, whales face more threats today than at any other time in history. While many people think that hunting whales stopped over 20 years ago, Japan, Iceland and Norway continue killing whales for products that nobody needs. In fact, more than 30,000 whales have been killed for commercial purposes since the ban on whaling in 1986. Commercial whaling means that the products obtained from the dead whales are sold on the international markets – the commercial markets.

▶ BATTLING FOR THEIR LIVES

Despite a world wide ban on commercial whaling, whaling countries defend their whaling program by calling it "scientific whaling". This is a loophole in the law that allows countries to kill whales supposedly for scientific purposes but the reality is that whale meat ends up in fish markets and restaurants. The fact is, you don't need to kill whales to study them.

Don't forget that whales face a growing number of other threats on top of commercial whaling. Collisions with ships, ocean noise, entanglement in fishing gear, industrial development and climate change threaten the many creatures that inhabit our oceans, including the largest and most graceful of them all, the whales.



DID YOU KNOW ?

Whales are worth more alive than dead! What about alternatives to commercial whaling? If people want to 'use' whales, why not 'use' live ones in the wild? Communities can benefit in many ways from offering people the chance to watch whales in their natural habitat - but from a distance. This is called responsible whale watching. IFAW supports whale watching as long as it doesn't harm or disturb the whales that are being watched.



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IFAW HELPING WHALES

IFAW works hard to stop commercial whaling around the world. IFAW works with governments to gain support to stop commercial whaling, and also puts pressure on whaling countries to stop whaling. IFAW also carries out scientific research and writes scientific papers.

IFAW always attends the International Whaling Commission meetings to support stronger rules to prevent whaling and to promote whale sanctuaries and responsible whale watching. Just like your school's student council governs certain student activities, the International Whaling Commission - or IWC for short - is the global organization that governs certain whaling and whale conservation activities.

▶ Diving in Dominica! In Dominica, a small island in the Eastern Caribbean, the whale watching industry depends on a group of seven sperm whales that live in the area. People come from all over to watch them.

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