



IMPACT OF HUMANS ON WHALES

The Negative Side



Whaling

Despite severe criticism, hunting of whales continues in some countries such as Iceland, Norway, and Japan.



Petroleum industry

The petroleum extraction process involving seismic surveys, lubricants, and toxins has damaged the hearing and overall habitat of the whales.



Whale watching

This booming tourism sector can be fatal to whales. It is due to the risks of collisions with tourist boats and the loud noises created by the boat engines.



Entanglement

Statistics state that more than 300,000 whales perish due to entanglement-induced starvation, infections, and laceration

The Positive Side



With the efforts of the International Whaling Commission, a 97 percent success was seen in the California blue whale population.



Since its establishment, the Pacific Whale Foundation (PWF) has brought the North Pacific whale population to 21000 from 1000.



The PWF has a 'Be Whale Aware' program to educate people about safe whale watching and how to reduce the risks for the whales.



References:

- 1 Whales; Smithsonian, Ocean Find Your Blue
- 2 Threats to whales and dolphins; Taras Oceanographic Foundation
- 3 40 ways to save the whales on our 40th anniversary; Pacific Whale Foundation