

WALD



SHIP STRIKES

At a meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, the committee of the United Nations International Maritime Organization (IMO), approved a shipping lane change into and out of Boston Harbor.

It was determined that the current shipping lane passes through an area of high whale density.

Based on the database, officials have calculated that the lane change could reduce risk of ship strikes to endangered northern right whales by 58 percent and to all baleen whales by 81 percent.

In 2005, New England Aquarium research indicated that of the 48 dead right whales reported since 1986, at least 18 were killed by vessel collisions.



YEAR OF THE DOLPHIN

We are building a strong alliance to achieve a common objective: to protect dolphins. A crucial factor in achieving this is educational awareness of dolphin species, inform decision makers and involve local communities.

The UN Convention on Migratory Species, together with its specialized agreements on dolphin conservation ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS and WDCS have declared 2007 the Year of the Dolphin.

Dolphins are connected to our cultural history and awareness. Living in oceans and rivers, they are a living treasure of our blue planet. However, their survival is becoming increasingly difficult.



PROFILES AND CONSERVATION

WDCS was proud to present Tim Routhier, and his staff, with the first "Profiles & Conservation" tribute. As part of this award, WDCS presented Tim and his staff with a certificate and whale adoption of an endangered humpback whale. This award is to thank someone in the community for making conservation a part of their life.

EDUCATION EFFORTS IN JAPAN

With over 23,000 small whales and dolphins slaughtered in Japanese waters annually, and another 1,000 large whales taken in Japan's 'scientific research' hunts on the high seas, Japan continues to pose one of the greatest challenges in WDCS's global fight to protect whales and dolphins. Japan continues to defy international opinion by hunting whales despite an international moratorium condemning these hunts, and even extending a quota to include endangered and threatened species of whales, such as the fin and humpback whale.

Through a myriad of efforts, WDCS is working to change the public's perception of whales and dolphins in Japan. WDCS has supported consumer education campaigns through local Japanese groups, including the dissemination of information related to mercury and other heavy-metal contamination in whale and dolphin meat for sale in local markets. WDCS has supported the independent testing of whale meat for pollutants and toxins dangerous to human health. In November, WDCS was on the ground in Taiji and Futo, Japan, to witness and document the annual dolphin drive hunts which had commenced in September, and continue through April. In these hunts, over 2,000 small whales and dolphins, including pilot whales and Risso's, striped and bottlenose dolphins are corralled into small coves where they are subsequently slaughtered for their meat, or taken alive for the international aquarium industry. WDCS's report, *Driven by Demand* [www.drivenbydemand.org], details the insidious connection between local and international marine parks and the dolphin drive hunts in Japan. The report has been translated into Japanese and is currently being disseminated through various educational outreach initiatives in Japan. In addition, WDCS has been working with international marine mammal scientists to pressure zoo and aquarium associations, Japanese and other Asian marine parks to abolish the practice of sourcing live dolphins from these hunts.

In 2005, WDCS presented simulated multi-media whale watches (bilingual in Japanese and English) as well as an all-day dolphin watch and dolphin sculpture workshop at the Aichi World Expo in Nagoya, Japan. As part of Expo, attended by more than 15 million people, WDCS produced

comprehensive 44-page booklets introducing high quality whale watching in Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan, and a waterproof fold-out guide to finding and identifying cetaceans in Japanese waters. Produced in Japanese, Chinese, Korean and English editions, some 18,000 copies of the booklet and 2,000 copies of the guide were distributed mainly in Japan through Expo and later distribution by whale watch operators and others.

WDCS is also working actively with whale watching associations and operators in Japan to positively promote the educational, economic and other potential that whales hold for the Japanese people, and the world, through observation of these animals in their natural environment through responsible and sustainable whale and dolphin watching. This task has become complicated, however, as more recently some dolphin watching ventures in Japan have focused on taking passengers to view captive animals that are held in sea pens. It is not clear how widespread this practice is throughout Japan, but it has been witnessed in Taiji where dolphins are captured and held in close proximity to where they are slaughtered after being driven to shore in drive hunts. The complex relationship between whale and dolphin appreciation, and hunting activities, illustrates the profound challenges that we face in developing educational initiatives in Japan. For some, and possibly many Japanese, there seems to be little or no conflict between viewing wild and captive cetaceans and even viewing them as food.

In working with a local conservation organization, the Elsa Nature Conservancy, WDCS is hoping to develop an 'educational road show' that will travel throughout Japan, and serve to educate students and the general public about dolphins and the threats that they face, including the dolphin drive hunts, whaling and captivity. This educational exhibit will travel through universities in Tokyo and through the coastal villages where the hunts occur, providing an opportunity to contrast the beautiful images of whales and dolphins in the wild with images of drive, harpoon and other hunts. WDCS will continue to foster the love and appreciation for whales and dolphins that can be found within Japan, and hopes to shape that into a public sentiment that encourages the government of Japan to abandon these cruel and unsustainable practices.

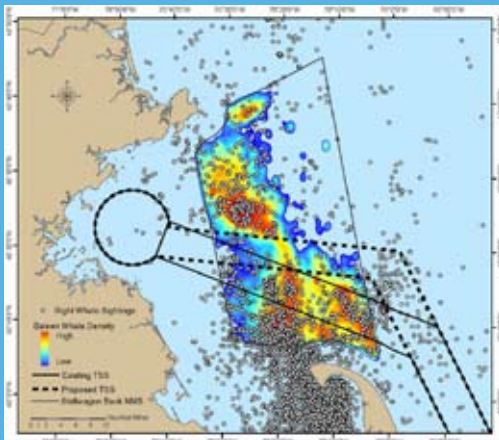
RIGHT WHALES AND EDUCATION

In December of 2006, researchers announced the extinction of a 20 million year old species of dolphin, the Baiji. In the 1980's, scientists estimated there were 400 Baiji alive, only a remnant of the estimated 5,000 that once existed, but a number sufficient to allow recovery for the species if adequately protected. Sadly, over-fishing, vessel traffic, noise, habitat alteration (degradation through to destruction) and pollution continued to exert ever increasing pressure. The result? In less than 30 years, they are now extinct. The similarities to the history and fate of the Baiji and the North Atlantic right whale are close and as a result very alarming. Historically, thousands of right whales roamed the waters of the eastern seaboard of the United States and Canada. However, over-hunting took its toll and the population has dwindled to the current day level of a less than 400. While protection from hunting was enacted in 1935, other human generated threats continue to pressure this species including those from vessel strikes, entanglements in fishing gear, pollution, habitat degradation as well as the increasing industrial development of our oceans.

The parallels are frighteningly similar between the Baiji and right whales. Fewer than 400 NA right whales currently

remain and the rate of loss from this population is unsustainable. It is not however unpreventable. But preventing extinction entails more than research, it requires awareness. WDCS firmly believes that education and outreach are an important component to any conservation plan. As a result, we are happy to announce that WDCS Senior Biologist, Regina Asmutis-Silvia, has been appointed the Chair of the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium's Education Team. In her role as Chair, she will work with a team of scientists, conservationists and educators, the top experts in the field, to develop a program focusing on the threats that right whales face and the actions we can take to ensure their survival. WDCS is honored to be part of this collaborative effort and we ask you to stay tuned to the progress of this innovative program.

According to Regina, "It took less than 30 years for the Baiji to go from a viable population to extinction. We have a voice which can ensure a different fate for right whales- we need to use it now."



SBNMS



Photos: K. Jackson/FFWCC





Peggy Oki – Make a Paper Whale

Peggy Oki has been bringing attention to the issue of whaling and other threats to dolphins and whales in a number of ways, including through public appearances resulting from the 2002 documentary. “Dogtown and the Z-Boys”, about the Los Angeles skateboarding scene and her experiences in the 1970s as the only female member of the famous Zephyr skateboard team.

She then went to UC Santa Barbara to study environmental biology, eventually receiving her BA in Painting at the College of Creative Studies (UCSB). The theme of her paintings reflects the landscapes, seascapes and marine mammals she loves.

Peggy is working with a range of organizations including WDCS on consolidating the current ban that is in place on commercial whaling activities. One of the striking images she has created is a Curtain of Paper Whales.

Peggy attended the International Whaling Commission meeting in June 2006 held at St Kitts to support the conservation movement and like minded countries and delegations. She is planning to be at the 2007 International Whaling Commission meeting being held in Anchorage. Over the next 7 months at various education events WDCS is hosting or will be involved with, we will be encouraging people to make paper whales and send them along with at least a \$1 donation to the WDCS office at 70 East Falmouth Highway, East Falmouth MA 02536 to support WDCS’ whaling campaign and help WDCS to help Peggy reach her goal. Peggy’s goal is to have a paper whale curtain of 26,000 whales representing the number of whales known to have been killed in scientific whaling hunts by countries such as Japan, Norway and Iceland since the ban on commercial whaling was introduced.

SIGHTINGS

Agassiz

Bat

Buckshot

Churchill

Cloud

Colt

Columbia

Coral

Crystal

Cygnus

Filament

Half Moon

Haze

Istar

Ivory

Lightning

Liner

Little spot

Mars

Midnight

Navaho

Nile

Onyx

Orbit

Patches

Pepper

Reflection

Regulus

Rune

Salt

Scratch

Scylla

Seal

Sickle

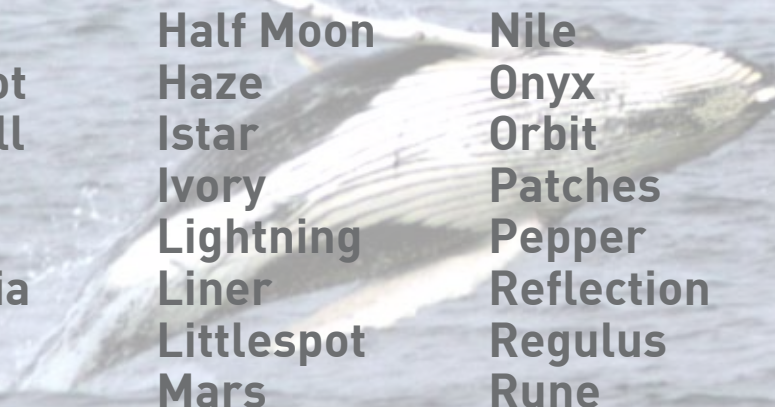
Sirius

Spoon

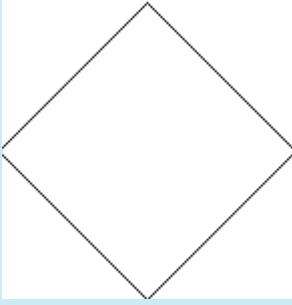
Stub

Tanith

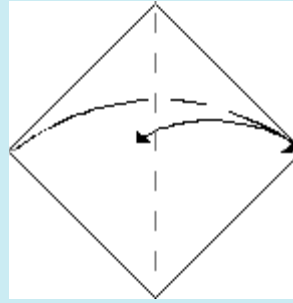
Wy



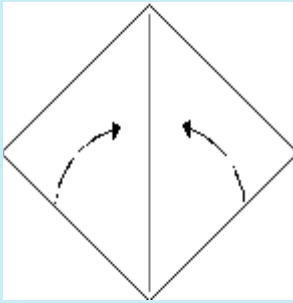
ORIGAMI WHALE



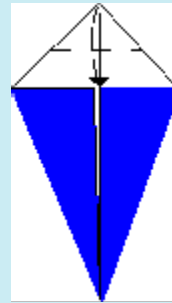
1. Place origami paper color side down so that one of the points is at the bottom.



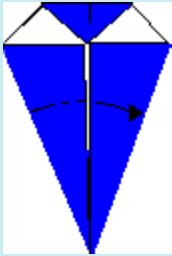
2. Fold origami paper in half, from left to right, making a taco fold. Crease well. Unfold.



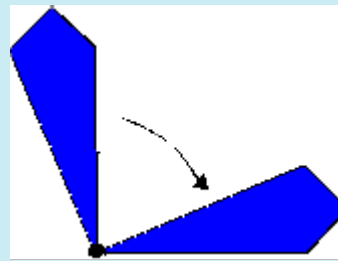
3. Fold the lower left and right sides to meet at the center crease you made in step 2. Crease well. Your origami should look like a kite.



4. Now fold the top point of the origami down to meet the top edges of the sides you folded in in step 3 to make a small triangle.



5. Fold the left side of the origami over to meet the right side. Crease.



6. Put your finger on the bottom point and turn the whale sideways (clockwise).



7. Fold the end point up to make a tail. You can tear or cut along the center of the tail to make flukes for your whale.



8. Fold down the top point of the head and draw a happy face...Have a whale of a day!

WATER FESTIVALS

WDCS is pleased to announce its collaborative efforts with the Nantucket Soundkeeper as participants in the 2007 Cape Cod Water Festivals. The Water Festivals are a program of the Cape Cod Groundwater Guardian Team. They are an interactive series to teach students about all aspects of water- from aquifers, to septic systems, to estuaries and whales. As part of the festival, WDCS and Soundkeeper are presenting students with information on how groundwater pollutants impact the oceans and marine life. "The message we are trying to send is that it doesn't matter where you live on land, you can have a positive impact on the oceans" said Regina Asmutis- Silvia, WDCS Senior Biologist "by doing simple things like recycling, picking up trash, or avoiding dumping hazardous chemicals down your drain, you can, literally, save a whale".



Photo: Regina Asmutis-Silvia WDCS (NA)

Helping Whales

WDCS WHALE OF A WEEKEND

Join WDCS for an Ocean Safari exploring the wild marine life of Cape Cod Bay and the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. You may encounter humpback, finback and minke whales. Collect plankton and learn about some of the smallest, and fastest animals on the planet. Meet WDCS biologists and learn how your support has made a difference in the international efforts to protect whales.

Program Cost (per person)

May 18-20, 2007- \$600

August 17-19, 2007-\$650

A non-refundable, non-transferable deposit of \$150 is required at the time of registration. Final payment for the May trip is due by March 17th. Final payment for the August trip is June 18th.

Contact info: WDCS at 508-548-8328 or contact@whales.org

Whale Tail Chips!



A company pledging to donate a portion of their proceeds to marine conservation recently caught our attention. Upon learning of Whale Tails Tortilla Chips' generosity, WDCS researched the company's website www.whaletailschips.com and read how the company's owners Ric and Terry Kraszewski used photographs of a WDCS' adoptable whale, Cat's Paw, as inspiration for designing the whale's tail tortilla chip's unique shape.

As a result, WDCS honored Whale Tails Tortilla Chips with an adoption of their own and while Cat's Paw might be the obvious choice, WDCS biologists felt she was a bit too elusive so, instead, they decided to send Adoption papers for "Salt" the grand dame of all humpback whales and the first individually identified humpback in 1976.

Michael Waterson, WDCS treasure said, "We also thought "Salt" appropriate given the chip connection and because many of her calves are named for condiments: Salsa born in 1991 and Tabasco in 1998".



WDCS and Whale Tails will be working together in the future to spread the word about whales and the need for increased conservation of our oceans and its inhabitants. We believe working together is a natural fit because both organizations connect people to whales.

MISSIONFISH

Give to WDCS while selling on eBay. It's safe and easy to donate from an eBay sale to WDCS. eBay Giving Works - the easiest way to sell certified charity items on eBay. Through eBay Giving Works, you can do well for yourself and support the whales at the same time! Visit www.missionfish.com and set up an account today.

Whalewatch is published for Whale Adoption Project Members by WDCS (NA), Inc, the Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society. WDCS is the global voice for the protection of whales, dolphins and their environment.

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Additionally, we wish to acknowledge the commercial whale watch companies that provided a platform of opportunity to obtain these sightings including, but not limited to: AC Cruise Lines, Boston Harbor Cruises, Cape Ann Whale Watch, Captain Bill and Sons Whale Watch, Captain John Boats, Dolphin Fleet, Hyannis Whale Watcher, Mass Bay Lines, New England Aquarium, Portuguese Princess, Seven Seas Whale Watch, and the Yankee Fleet.

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