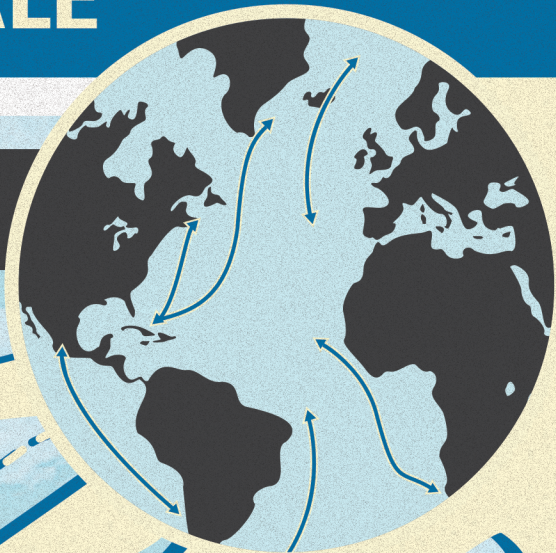


THE CURIOUS WORLD OF THE HUMPBACK WHALE

Humpback whales are among the most awe-inspiring of all marine mammals. Nearly driven to extinction 50 years ago, humpbacks today are making a slow but remarkable recovery, thanks to international bans on whaling. Scientists estimate there are approximately 100,000 humpbacks in our oceans today. We have just begun to discover how incredible these animals are.

Humpbacks are known to migrate up to 10,000 miles round-trip every year.

One rogue female humpback set a migration record of 6,089 miles traveling from Brazil to Madagascar.



Bubble netting is a unique hunting method that some humpbacks use to catch fish.



Some whale groups use sound and bubble nets to trap schools of herring.

They dive below the trapped fish and lunge up out of the water with a mouthful of food.

Only male humpback whales sing.

The patterns found on whale flukes are used to identify individual whales, like a human fingerprint.

Humpbacks sing head down with their bodies motionless.



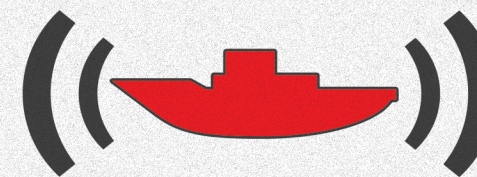
Humpbacks don't have teeth. Instead they have a comb-like baleen made of bristles.

They use the baleen to filter krill and small fish from the sea.



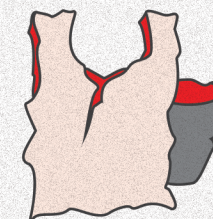
Humpback song recordings were put on board the Voyager spacecraft in 1977, which entered interstellar space in 2012.

MODERN DAY HUMPBACK THREATS



Ship strikes can injure or kill humpbacks.

Entanglement in fishing gear is a major threat to whales in the open ocean.



Pollution by plastic, toxins, and noise inhibit whale recovery.



Songs can last 20 minutes and are heard miles away.