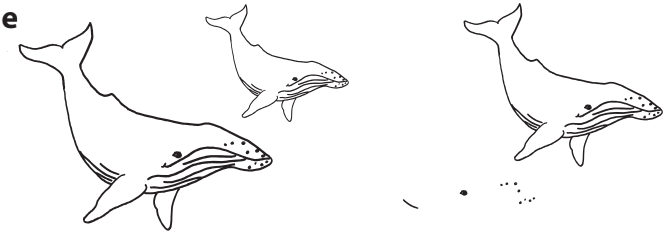


Understanding **THREATS** To Humpback Whales

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary protects humpback whales and their habitat in Hawai'i. Hawai'i is the only state in the U.S. where humpbacks breed, calve, and nurse. Although scientists believe humpbacks are making a comeback in the North Pacific, threats still exist.

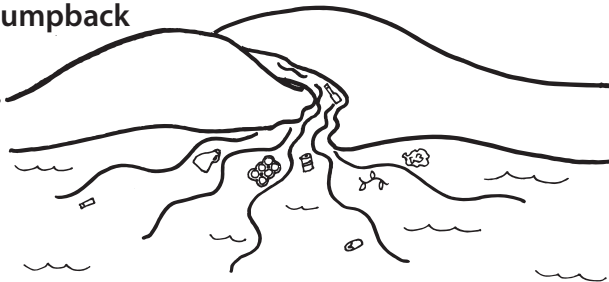


Humpback whales were listed as an endangered species in 1973. At the start of the 20th century, their population decreased because they were hunted by commercial whalers. A variety of products were made from the blubber and bones of whales. For instance, the oil from the blubber of a humpback whale was used to fuel lanterns.



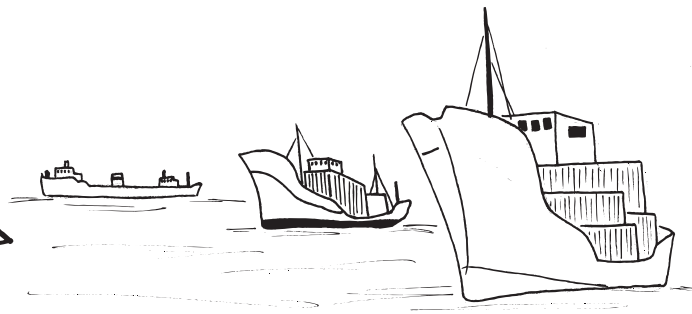
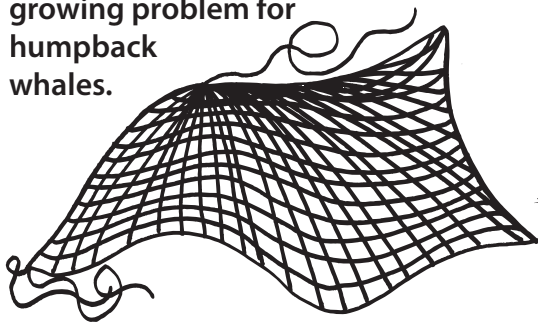
The population of humpbacks in the North Pacific may currently number as many as 7,000. However, prior to whaling their population may have been as high as 20,000.

Collisions with boats may seriously injure humpback whales as well as people. It is illegal to be closer than 100 yards to a humpback whale.



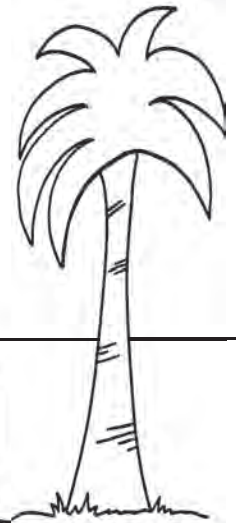
Poor water quality affects the habitat and may affect the health of humpback whales.

Entanglement in marine debris is a growing problem for humpback whales.



Underwater noise may affect humpback whales and their behavior.

HELP SAVE THE WHALES!



For more info, visit us at
<http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>
or call 1-888-55-WHALE.

