



About me

Aleksis

27 years,

from Helsinki, Finland

Who am I?

- Sailor
- Student at the University of Helsinki
 - MA European & Nordic Studies
 - Also studied in Norway and the Netherlands
- Nordic Ocean Watch Finland
- Intern at Environmental Rights Center Bellona, St. Petersburg



My interests

- **Traveling: *sustainable travel***
 - Volunteer, study, work abroad!
- **Nature, oceans and mountains**
 - Summer = sailing
 - Winter = skiing and snowboarding
- **Photography, art and architecture**
 - Before studying *international relations*, I wanted to become an architect! I wanted to design better buildings and cities.



A large whale is breaching the surface of the ocean, with its dark, sleek back and a prominent dorsal fin visible above the water. The scene is set against a dramatic sunset sky, with warm orange and yellow light breaking through dark, layered clouds. The water is a deep, dark blue, and the overall atmosphere is serene and majestic. The text "WHALES IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

WHALES IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN

Overview: Whales in the Arctic Ocean

- Main species found in the Arctic
- Whales and the Arctic ecosystem
- History of the human-whale relationship
- Indigenous peoples
- Whaling and whales as a natural resource: 18th-20th centuries
- Whale-watching today
- Whales in pop-culture
 - Moby Dick, Namu, Orca, Free Willy
 - In Russian pop-culture?
- Contemporary issues and challenges
 - Whaling?
 - Climate change?
 - Pollution?
- How to solve these?
- My tips

Whales and the Arctic ecosystem

Whales are classified according to two groups:

1) Toothed whales

→ they have teeth!

2) Baleen whales

→ they do not have teeth, but filters known as 'baleen plates'



NARWHAL



GRAY WHALE



HUMPBACK



ORCA (KILLER WHALE)



Why are whales important?

- Ecosystem management

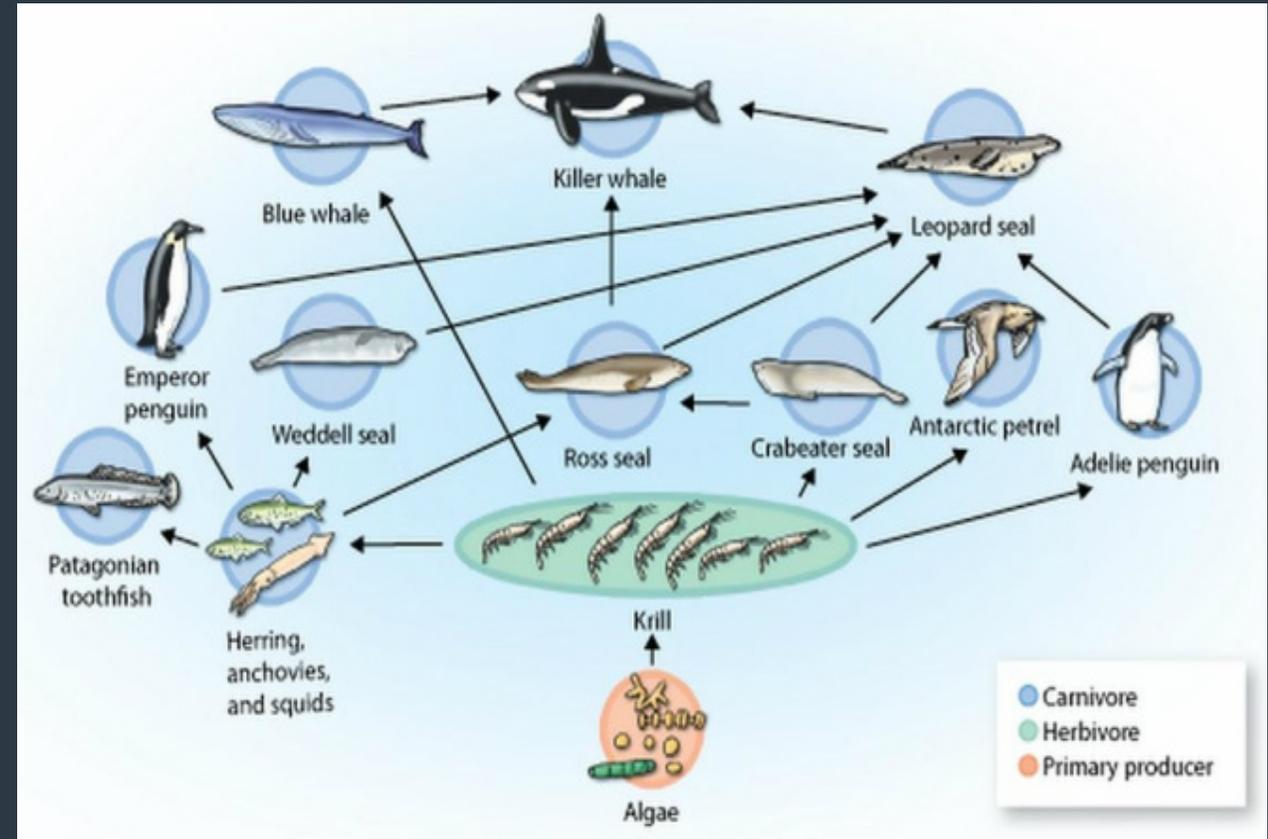
→ THEY EAT FISH AND OTHER SMALLER ANIMALS

→ A blue whale can eat up to 40 million krill per day

They contribute to **the functioning of the entire ecosystem.**

As big marine mammals they **help regulate ecosystem balance** in the oceans.

Whales are considered to be among the **most intelligent animals.**



Brief history of human-whale interaction

Indigenous peoples and communities

- Inuit communities in North American, Nordic and Russian Arctic
- Culture and subsistence

Industrial whaling

- Among the largest industries for over 300 years, appx. 17th – 20th centuries

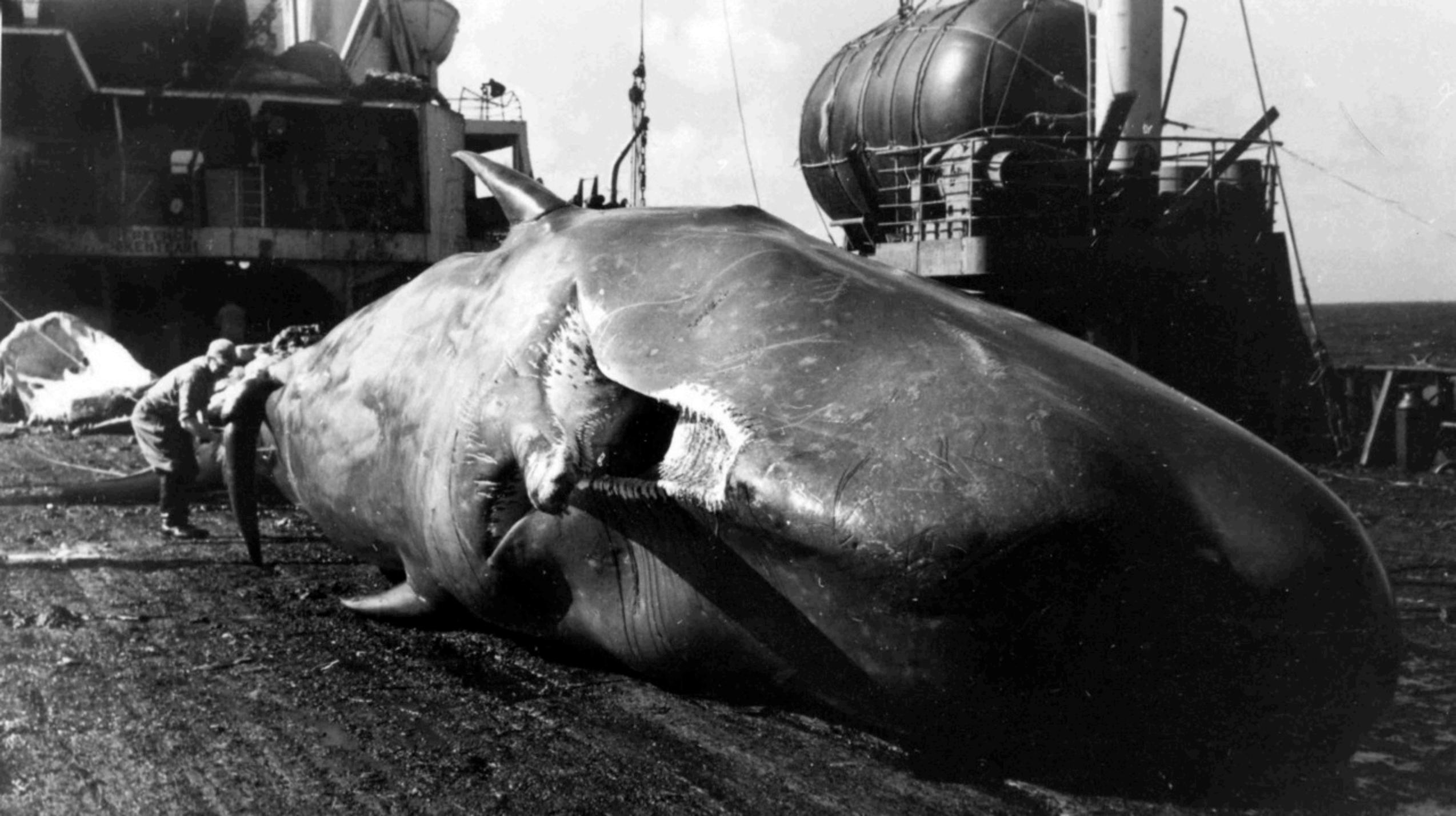
Conservation and the modern sustainable whale economy

- Whale-watching
- IWC and international conservation efforts



**INTERNATIONAL
WHALING
COMMISSION**



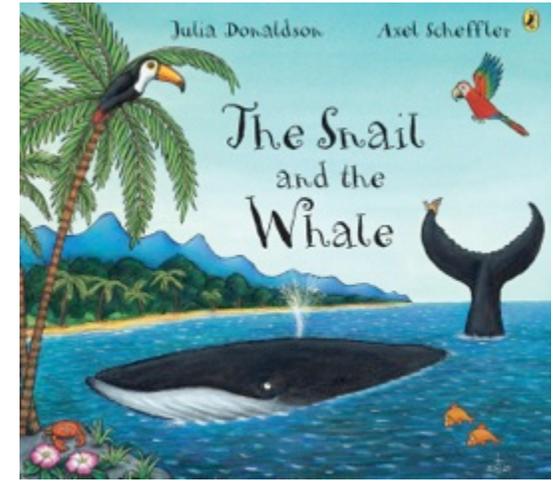


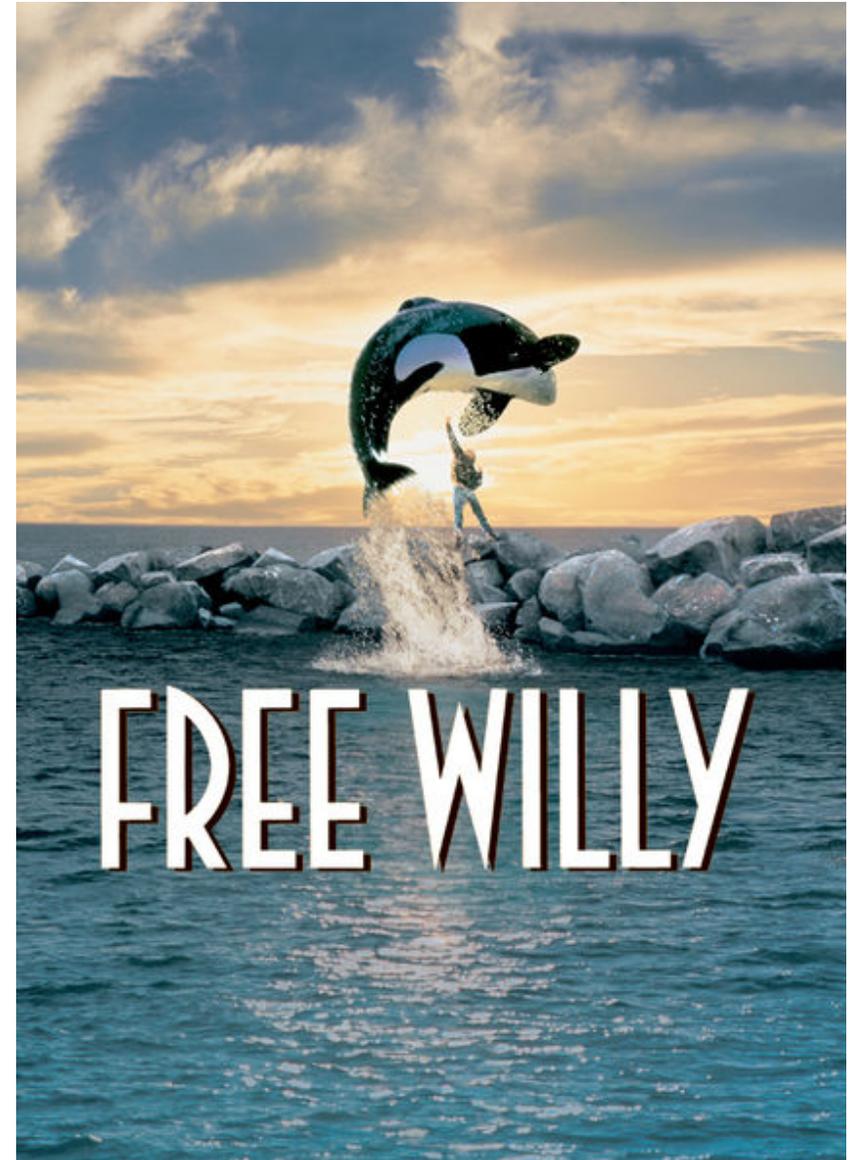
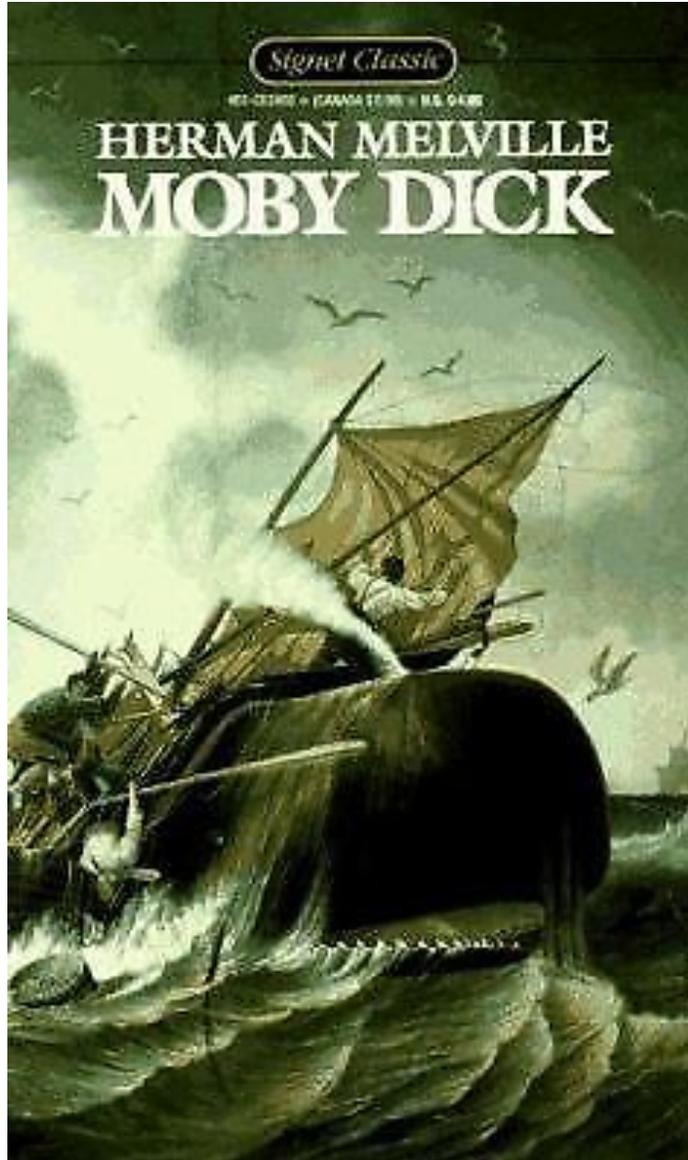




Whales in popular culture

- Whale movies: Free Willy!
- Aquariums and water-parks
- Moby Dick by Herman Melville
- Children's books and cartoons: *The Snail and the Whale*, *Baby Beluga*
- In Russian pop-culture?



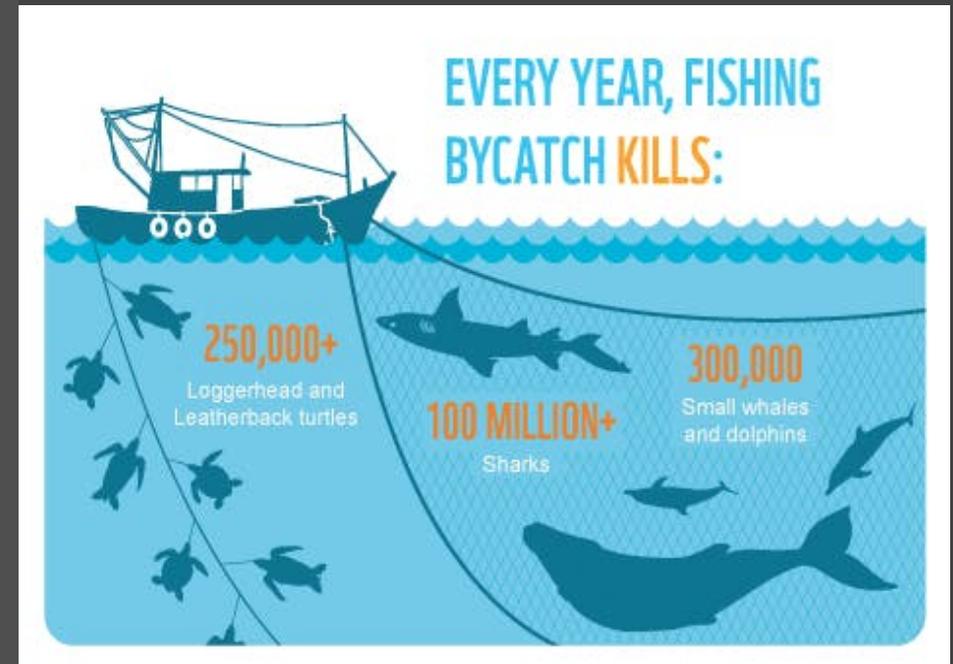






Contemporary challenges

- **Whaling and by-catch from fishing**
- **Climate change**
 - Fundamental changes in the ocean ecosystems
- **Pollution**
 - Bacteria, metals, oil spills, plastics etc.
- **Shipping**
 - Noise pollution



What to do?

- **My tips**
 - Be mindful of how you consume
 - Make sure that trash does not end up into the sea
 - Use less disposable plastic
 - Eat less meat and more veggies
 - Travel sustainably, fly less
- **Your thoughts? Opinions? What are you willing to do?**



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Thank you! Спасибо!