

ENDANGERED SPECIES: BRYDE'S WHALE

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The 'Bryde's whale' is named after Johan Bryde. He discovered the species when he was helping set up one of South Africa's first whaling stations. 'Bryde's whales' are found in warm tempered waters around the world. There aren't many left making them an endangered species. 'Bryde's whales' have recently been protected, and people are doing all they can to keep them from going extinct.

THE EVENT:

On the 18th of September 2014, the Mexican government suggested to the National Ocean and Atmosphere Administration fisheries that they should protect 'Bryde's whales' under the marine mammal protection act and put them on the endangered species list. But only in 2019 was this put into place.

'Bryde's whales' are either black or dark grey on top, going down into white on their underside with three distinctive ridges on their head.



'Bryde's Whale' feeding in Hauraki Gulf.

SOCIAL ACTION-WHAT'S BEING DONE:

All 'Bryde's whales' are now protected under the marine mammal protection act. National Ocean and Atmosphere Administration fisheries are reducing the number of human impacts, helping more stranded whales, and educating the public about the threats 'Bryde's whales' face.

As a member of the public, you can help by keeping a lookout for whales when on the water, lowering the speed of your boat, keeping your distance, reporting whales in distress, and reporting anyone not following these rules.



A 'Bryde's Whale' surfacing off Flamingos.

THE EFFECTS:

There are only 100 'Bryde's whales' left in the wild. Unlike other species of whale, they don't migrate far, and with their small population, they lose gene diversity and they are forced to inbreed. The effects of this are slower population regrowth, the new generations are less capable of adapting to new climates, and it reduces their chance of survival.

Small populations and restricted range are a big danger for 'Bryde's whales' as they only have one calf every 2-3 years. This means that their population will grow slowly in numbers anyway.

MY OPINION:

Many of us don't care or think about what effects their actions have on marine creatures. It might just be one chip packet that you let fly away with the wind, but later in that day a sea creature could eat that same chip packet and die.

I strongly believe that we should be more careful about what we do. Take a little more time and just put your rubbish in the bin. We should always look after our ocean wildlife so that one day the generations that come after us can enjoy seeing them as much as we do.

THE CAUSE:

For many years the 'Bryde's whale' has been mistakenly hunted for other baleen whale species. Recently there have been Bryde's whales being hunted in Indonesia, the Philippines, and some in Japan under their scientific research whaling program. However, that's not the main cause anymore. Nowadays 'Bryde's whales' are caught in fishing nets, killed by oil spills or vessel strikes.

'Bryde's whales' are very sensitive to noise. Low-frequency underwater noise pollution can affect their ability to navigate, choose a mate, find food, and avoid predators.

As for natural predators, there isn't much that can kill the 'Bryde's whale'. Only the 'Killer Whale' is big enough and strong enough to do so.



Beached 'Bryde's Whale' on Northland beach.

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