

# Vloga kitov in delfinov pri blaženju podnebnih sprememb

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doc. dr. Tilen Genov

- 1) Morigenos – slovensko društvo za morske sesalce
- 2) Oddelek za biodiverziteto, FAMNIT, Univerza na Primorskem

Laško, 16. in 17. april 2025

8. konferenca učiteljev/-ic  
naravoslovnih predmetov –  
NAK 2025



R-REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
MINISTRSTVO ZA VZGOJO IN IZOBRAŽEVANJE



Sofinancira  
Evropska unija



**MORIGENOS**

# Vloga kitov in delfinov pri blaženju podnebnih sprememb



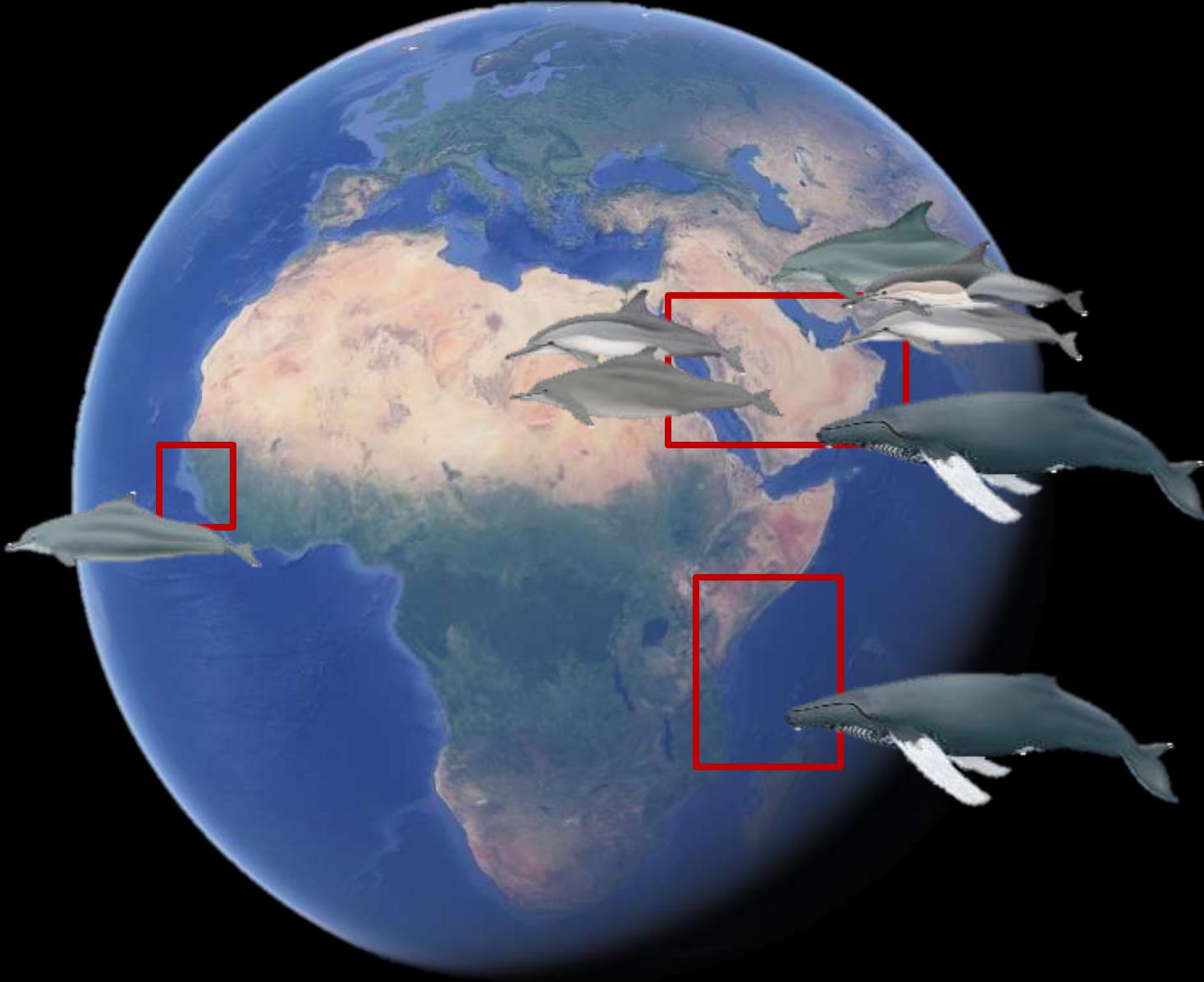
doc. dr. Tilen Genov

1. Morigenos - slovensko društvo za morske sesalce
2. Oddelek za biodiverziteto, UP FAMNIT





MORIGENOS







# Kiti (Cetacea)

zakaj preučevati

KITE IN DELFINE?



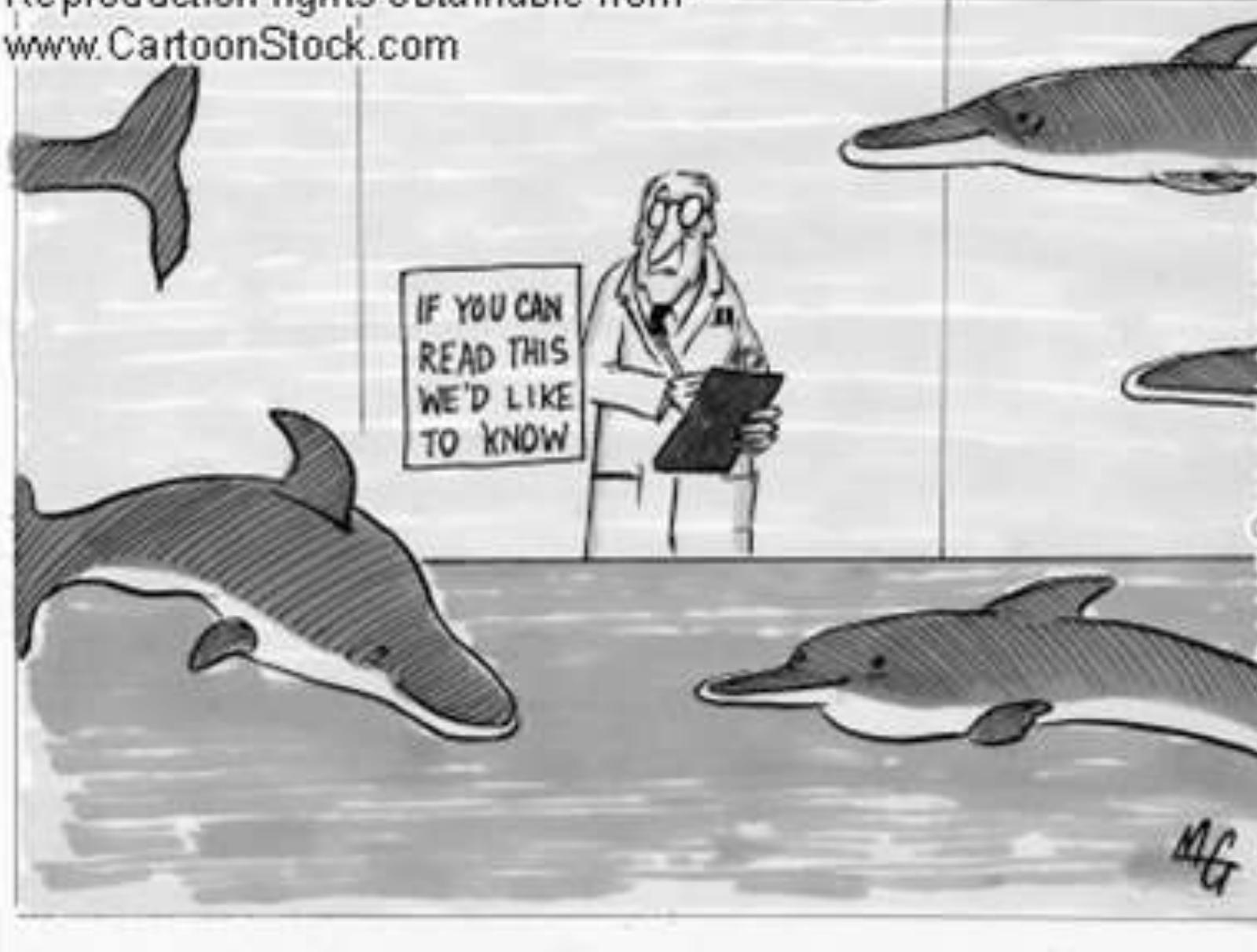




foto: Tilen Genov

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MORIGENOS



RIBIŠTVO



TURIZEM



PROMET



AKVAKULTURA



MORIGENOS





foto: Tilen Genov

**SAVE THE  
PLANET**



**PLANT TREES**



# ***Nature's Solution*** TO CLIMATE CHANGE

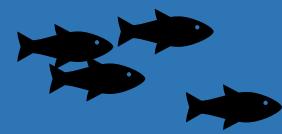
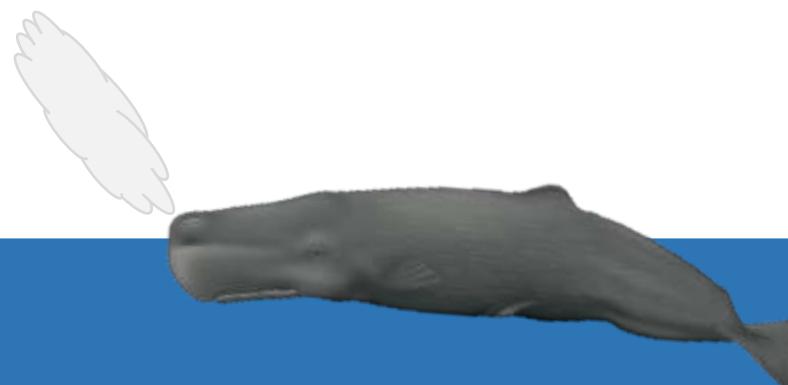
A strategy to protect whales can limit greenhouse gases and global warming

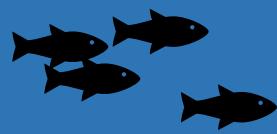
Ralph Chami, Thomas Cosimano, Connel Fullenkamp, and Sena Oztosun

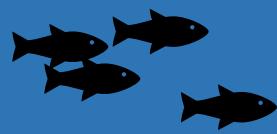
Kit glavač

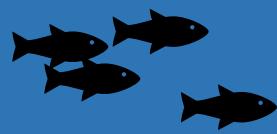
*Physeter macrocephalus*

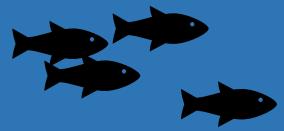


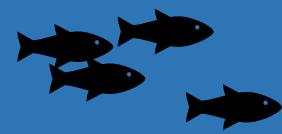


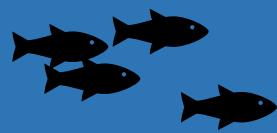


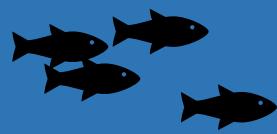


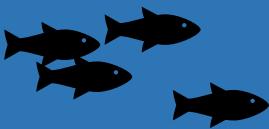


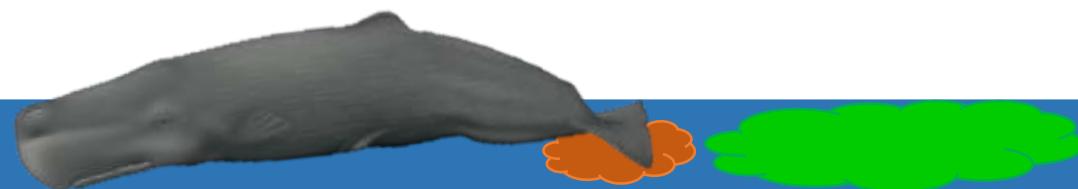


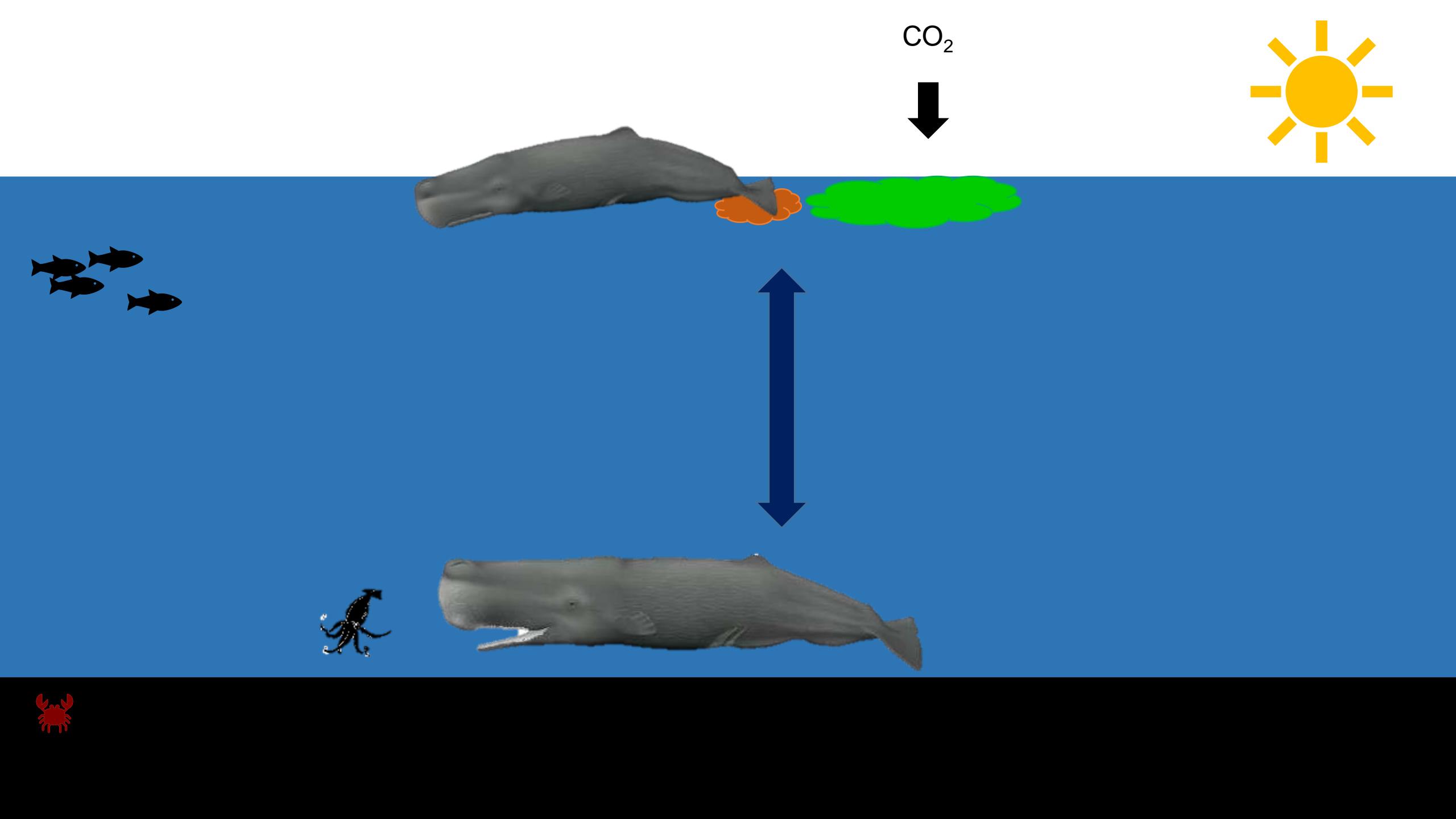












# The Whale Pump: Marine Mammals Enhance Primary Productivity in a Coastal Basin

**Joe Roman<sup>1\*</sup>, James J. McCarthy<sup>2</sup>**

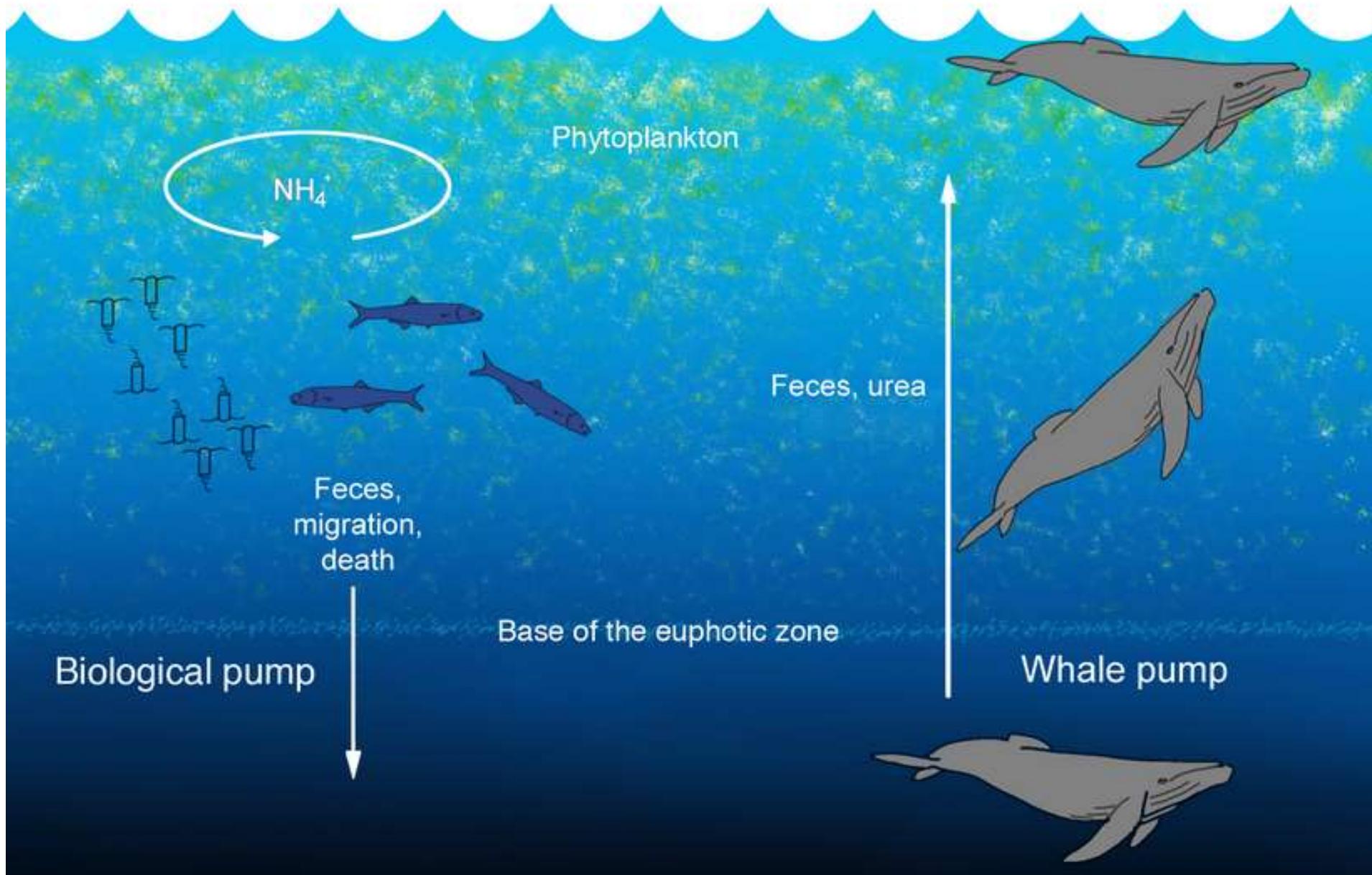
**1** Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, United States of America, **2** Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States of America

## Abstract

It is well known that microbes, zooplankton, and fish are important sources of recycled nitrogen in coastal waters, yet marine mammals have largely been ignored or dismissed in this cycle. Using field measurements and population data, we find that marine mammals can enhance primary productivity in their feeding areas by concentrating nitrogen near the surface through the release of flocculent fecal plumes. Whales and seals may be responsible for replenishing  $2.3 \times 10^4$  metric tons of N per year in the Gulf of Maine's euphotic zone, more than the input of all rivers combined. This upward "whale pump" played a much larger role before commercial harvest, when marine mammal recycling of nitrogen was likely more than three times atmospheric N input. Even with reduced populations, marine mammals provide an important ecosystem service by sustaining productivity in regions where they occur in high densities.

Zooplankton, Fish

Marine Mammals



# The Whale Pump: Marine Mammals Enhance Primary Productivity in a Coastal Basin

**Joe Roman<sup>1\*</sup>, James J. McCarthy<sup>2</sup>**

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## Abstract

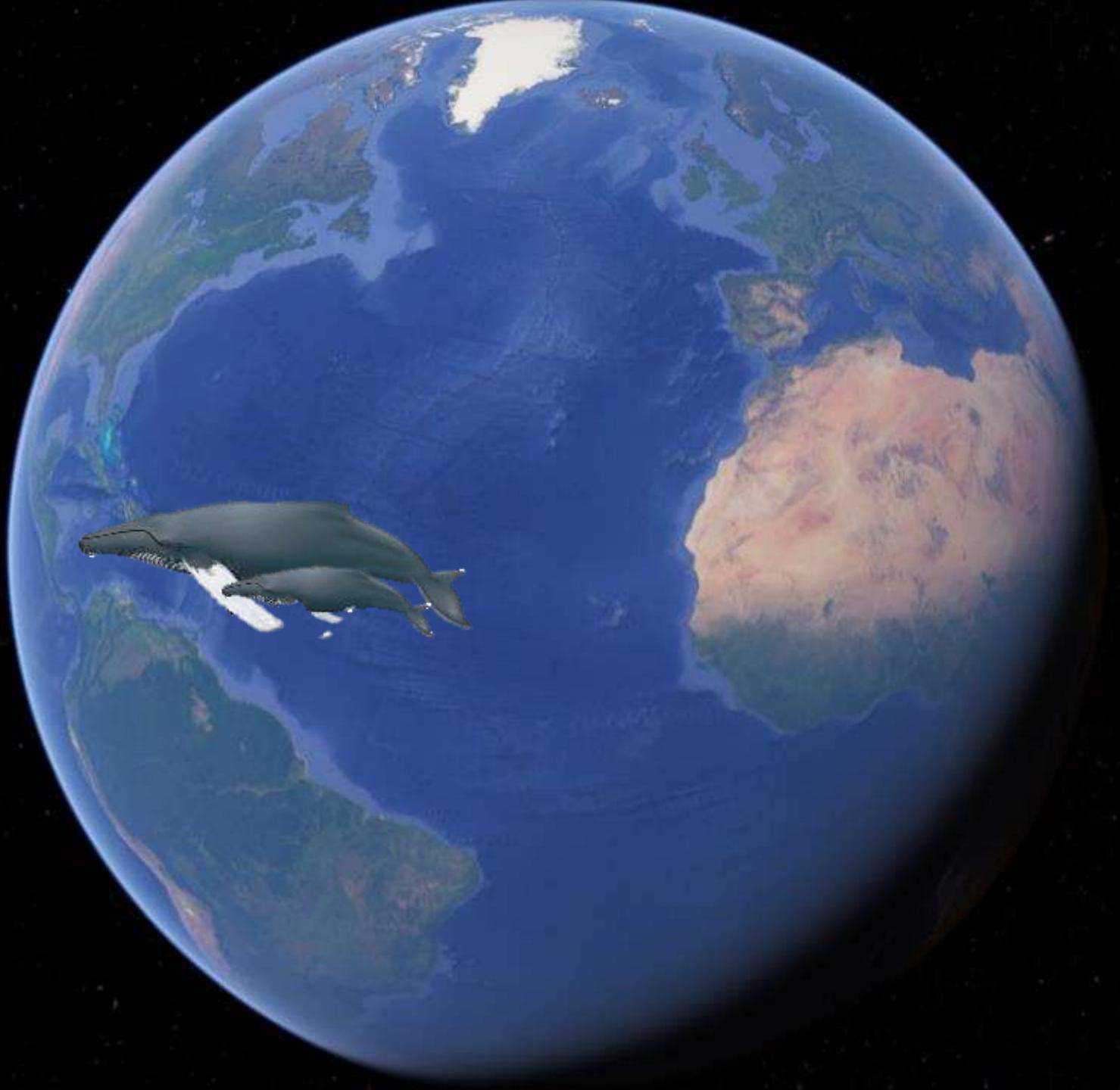
It is well known that microbes, zooplankton, and fish are important sources of recycled nitrogen in coastal waters, yet marine mammals have largely been ignored or dismissed in this cycle. Using field measurements and population data, we find that marine mammals can enhance primary productivity in their feeding areas by concentrating nitrogen near the surface through the release of flocculent fecal plumes. Whales and seals may be responsible for replenishing  $2.3 \times 10^4$  metric tons of N per year in the Gulf of Maine's euphotic zone, **more than the input of all rivers combined.** This upward "whale pump" played a much larger role before commercial harvest, when marine mammal recycling of nitrogen was likely more than three times atmospheric N input. Even with reduced populations, marine mammals provide an important ecosystem service by sustaining productivity in regions where they occur in high densities.

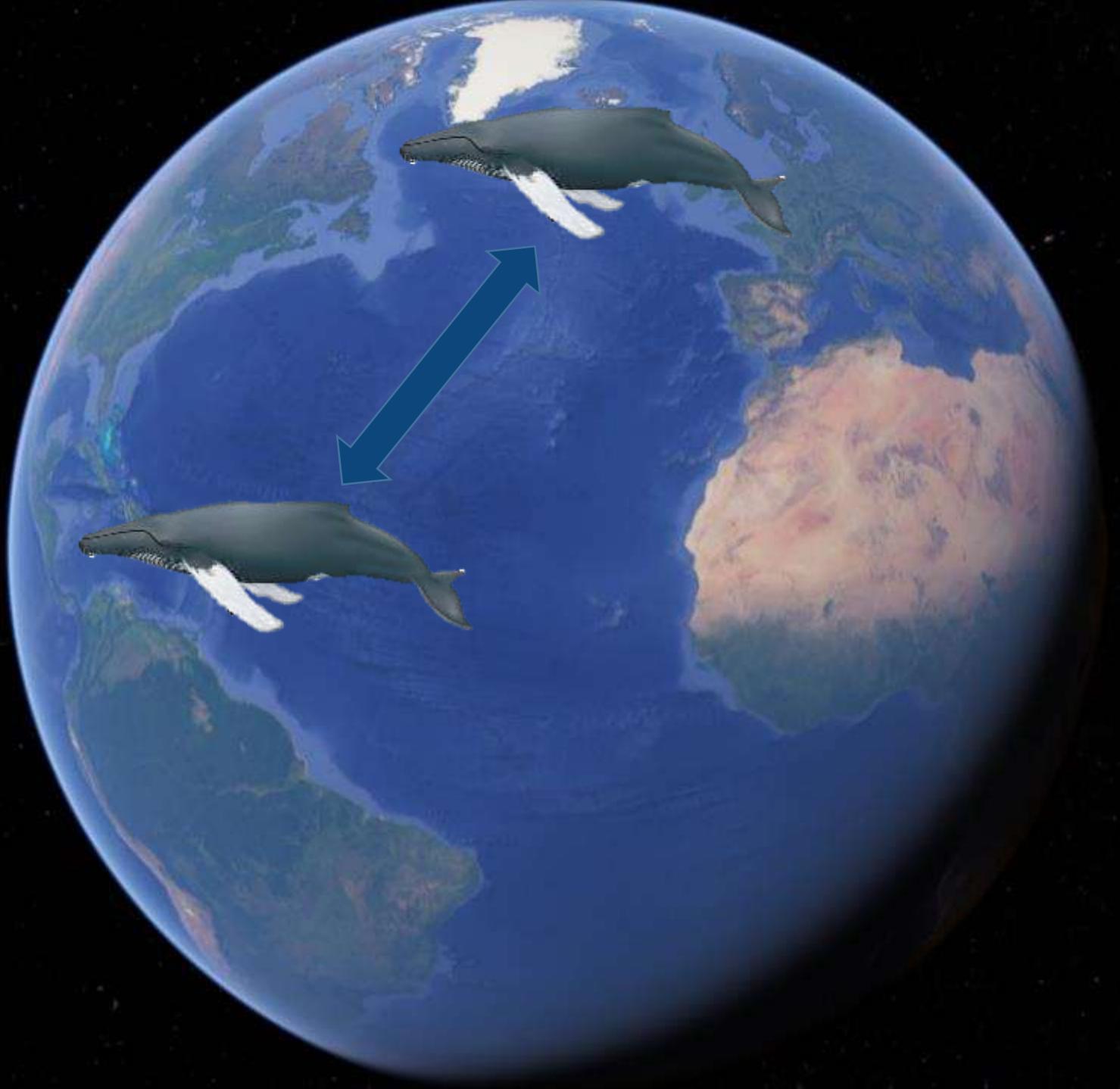
Kit grbavec  
*Megaptera novaeangliae*

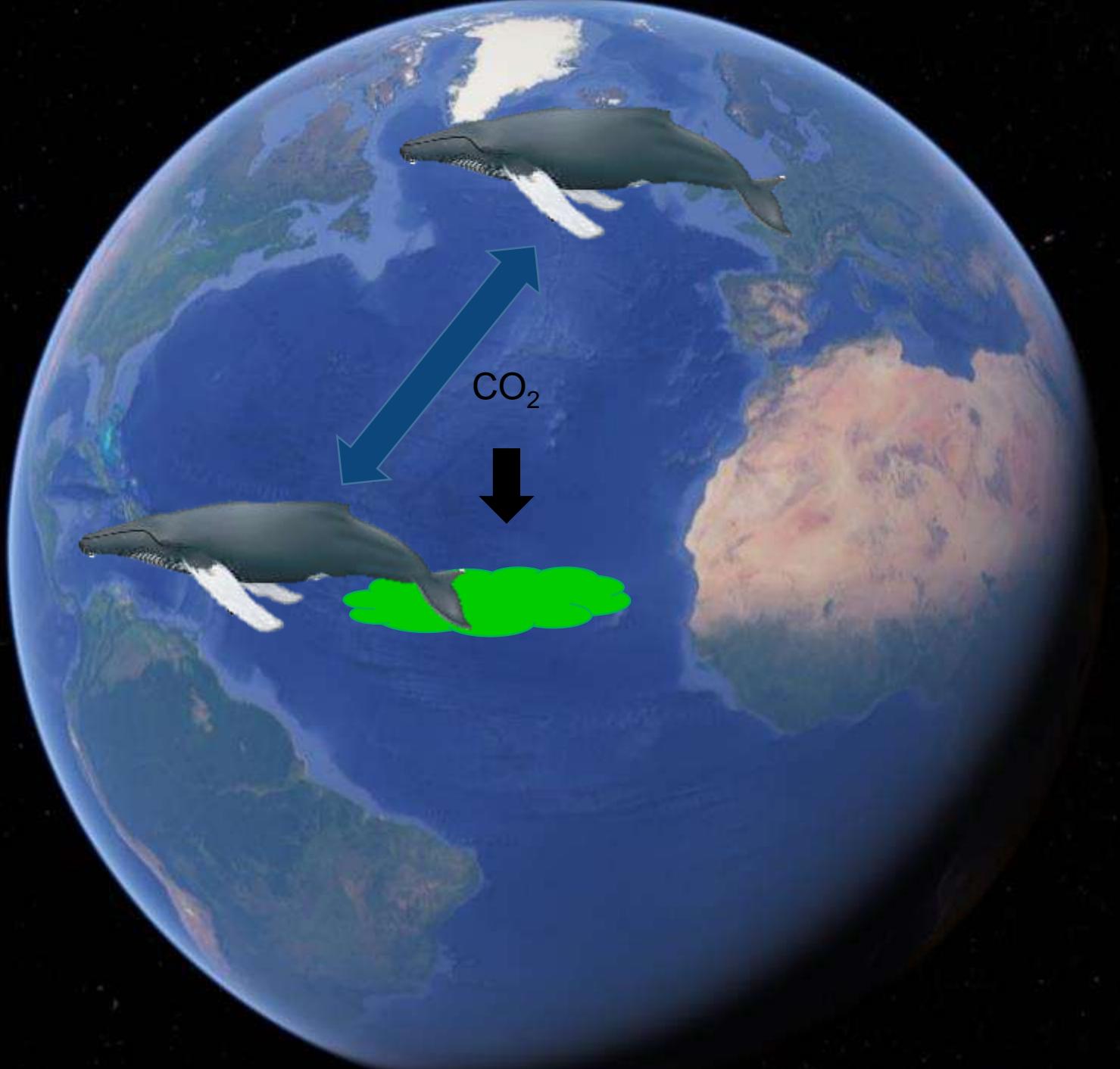


foto: Tilen Genov











# Migrating baleen whales transport high-latitude nutrients to tropical and subtropical ecosystems

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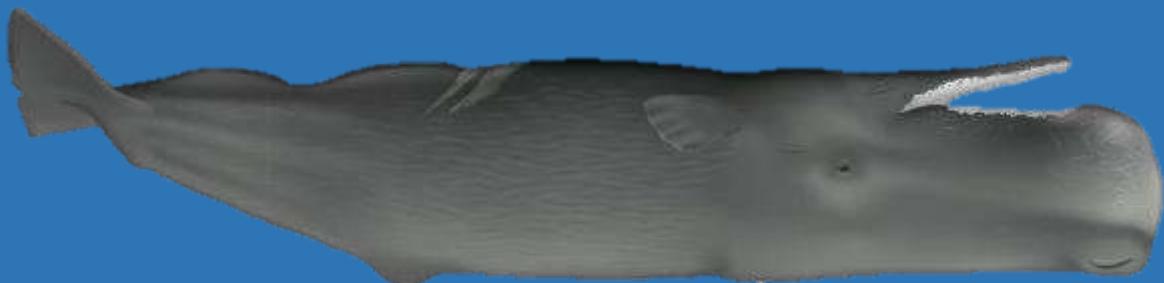
Check for updates

Joe Roman<sup>①</sup>✉, Andrew J. Abraham<sup>2</sup>, Jeremy J. Kiszka<sup>③</sup>, Daniel P. Costa<sup>④</sup>, Christopher E. Doughty<sup>⑤</sup>, Ari Friedlaender<sup>④</sup>, Luis A. Hückstädt<sup>⑥</sup>, Milton Marcondes<sup>⑦</sup>, Emma Wetsel<sup>⑧</sup> & Andrew J. Pershing<sup>⑨</sup>

Baleen whales migrate from productive high-latitude feeding grounds to usually oligotrophic tropical and subtropical reproductive winter grounds, translocating limiting nutrients across ecosystem boundaries in their bodies. Here, we estimate the latitudinal movement of nutrients through carcasses, placentas, and urea for four species of baleen whales that exhibit clear annual migration, relying on spatial data from publicly available databases, present and past populations, and measurements of protein catabolism and other sources of nitrogen from baleen whales and other marine mammals. Migrating gray, humpback, and North Atlantic and southern right whales convey an estimated 3784 tons N yr<sup>-1</sup> and 46,512 tons of biomass yr<sup>-1</sup> to winter grounds, a flux also known as the “great whale conveyor belt”; these numbers might have been three times higher before commercial whaling. We discuss how species recovery might help restore nutrient movement by whales in global oceans and increase the resilience and adaptative capacity of recipient ecosystems.



$\text{CO}_2$





Opinion

## Whales in the carbon cycle: can recovery remove carbon dioxide?

Heidi C. Pearson  <sup>1,\*</sup>,<sup>10</sup> Matthew S. Savoca, <sup>2,\*</sup> Daniel P. Costa, <sup>3</sup> Michael W. Lomas, <sup>4</sup>  
Renato Molina, <sup>5</sup> Andrew J. Pershing, <sup>6,\*</sup> Craig R. Smith, <sup>7</sup> Juan Carlos Villaseñor-Derbez, <sup>2,8</sup>  
Stephen R. Wing, <sup>9</sup> and Joe Roman <sup>10</sup>

 frontiers | Frontiers in Marine Science

## Do whales really increase the oceanic removal of atmospheric carbon?

!

Jan-Olaf Meynecke <sup>1,2,3,4\*</sup>, Saumik Samanta <sup>5</sup>, Jasper de Bie <sup>1,2,3,4</sup>,  
Elisa Seyboth <sup>6</sup>, Subhra Prakash Dey <sup>7,8</sup>, Giles Fearon <sup>7,8</sup>,  
Marcello Vichi <sup>7,8</sup>, Ken Findlay <sup>6</sup>, Alakendra Roychoudhury <sup>5</sup>  
and Brendan Mackey <sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Whales & Climate Research Program, Griffith University, Gold Coast, QLD, Australia, <sup>2</sup>Griffith Climate Change Response Program, Griffith University, Gold Coast, QLD, Australia, <sup>3</sup>Coastal and Marine Research Centre, Griffith University, Gold Coast, QLD, Australia, <sup>4</sup>Cities Research Institute, Griffith University, Gold Coast, QLD, Australia, <sup>5</sup>Department of Earth Sciences, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa, <sup>6</sup>Mammal Research Institute Whale Unit, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria, Hermanus, South Africa, <sup>7</sup>Marine and Antarctic Research Centre for Innovation and Sustainability (MARIS), University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa, <sup>8</sup>Department of Oceanography, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa



# Composition of cetacean communities worldwide shapes their contribution to ocean nutrient cycling

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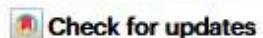
Received: 16 February 2023

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Accepted: 7 September 2023

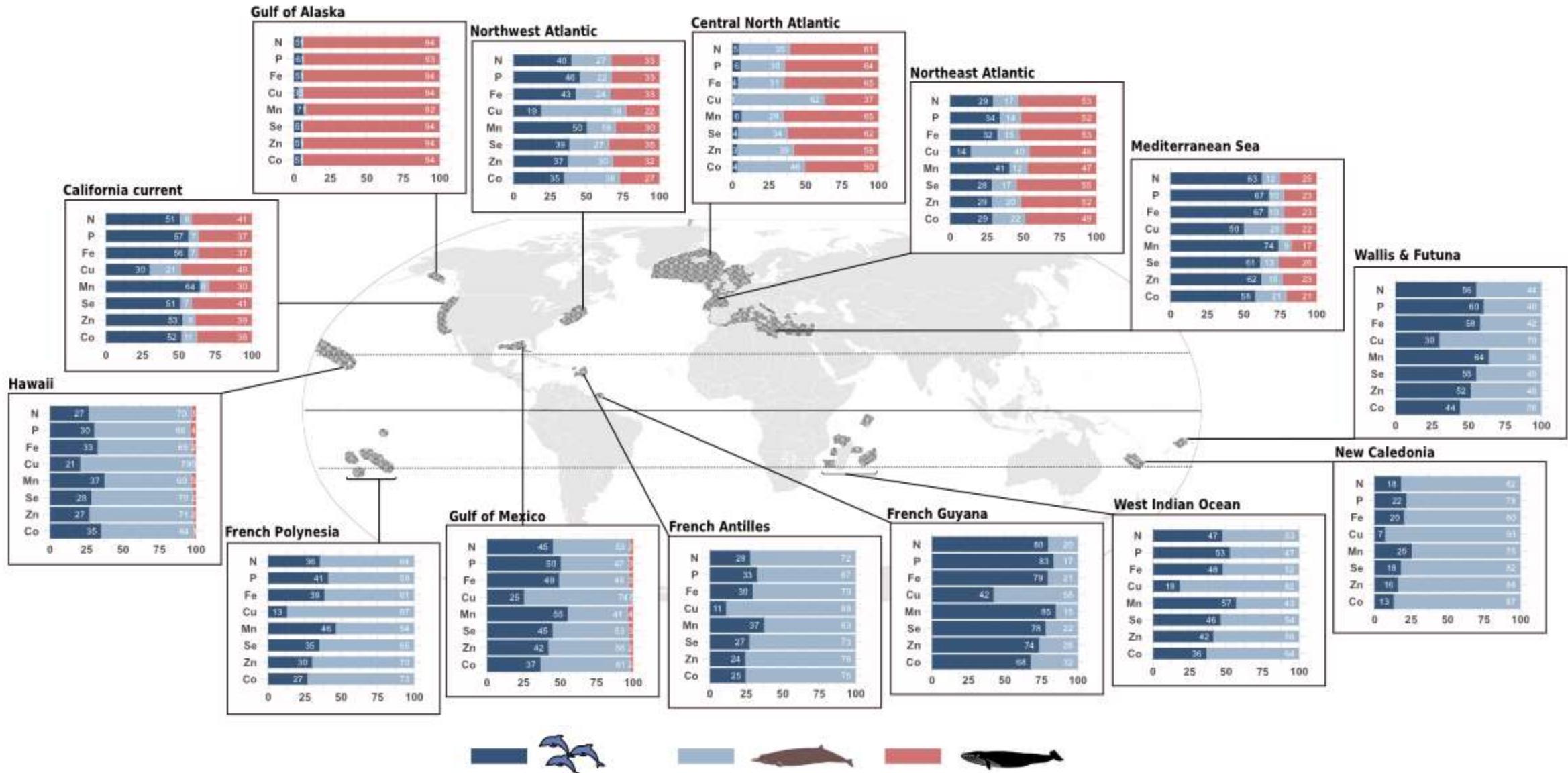
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Published online: 19 September 2023



Lola Gilbert <sup>1,2</sup>, Tiphaine Jeanniard-du-Dot<sup>1</sup>, Matthieu Authier<sup>2</sup>,  
Tiphaine Chouvelon <sup>2,3</sup> & Jérôme Spitz <sup>1,2</sup>

Defecation by large whales is known to fertilise oceans with nutrients, stimulating phytoplankton and ecosystem productivity. However, our current understanding of these processes is limited to a few species, nutrients and ecosystems. Here, we investigate the role of cetacean communities in the worldwide biological cycling of two major nutrients and six trace nutrients. We show that cetaceans release more nutrients in mesotrophic to eutrophic temperate waters than in oligotrophic tropical waters, mirroring patterns of ecosystem productivity. The released nutrient cocktails also vary geographically, driven by the composition of cetacean communities. The roles of small cetaceans, deep diving cetaceans and baleen whales differ quantitatively and functionally, with contributions of small cetaceans and deep divers exceeding those of large whales in some areas. The functional diversity of cetacean communities expands beyond their role as top predators to include their role as active nutrient vectors, which might be equally important to local ecosystem dynamics.





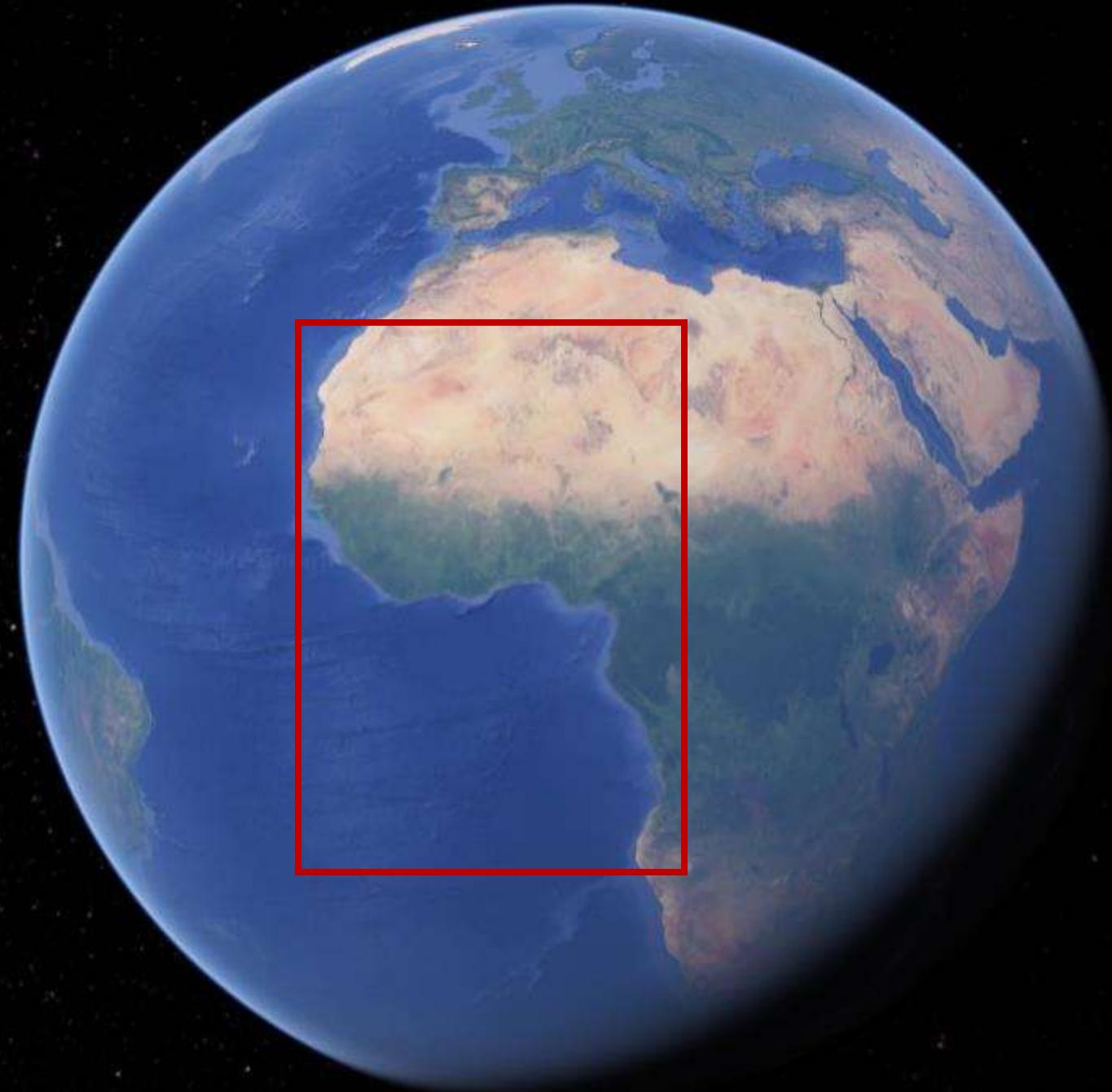
# Atlantski beli delfin

*Sousa teuszii*



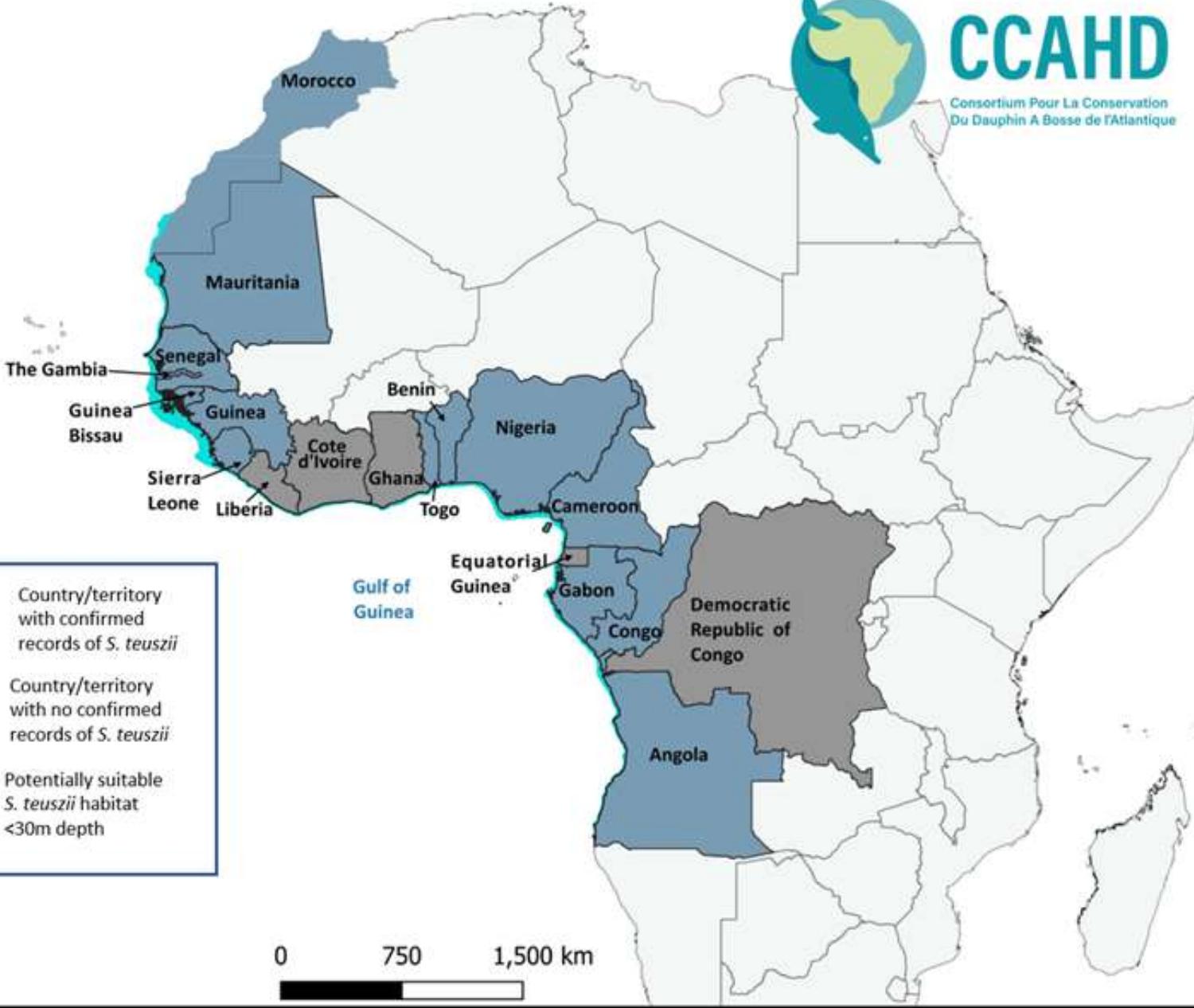
CRITICALLY  
ENDANGERED  
CR

foto: Tilen Genov, CCAHD





Atlantic  
Ocean



- Country/territory with confirmed records of *S. teuszii*
- Country/territory with no confirmed records of *S. teuszii*
- Potentially suitable *S. teuszii* habitat <30m depth

0      750      1,500 km

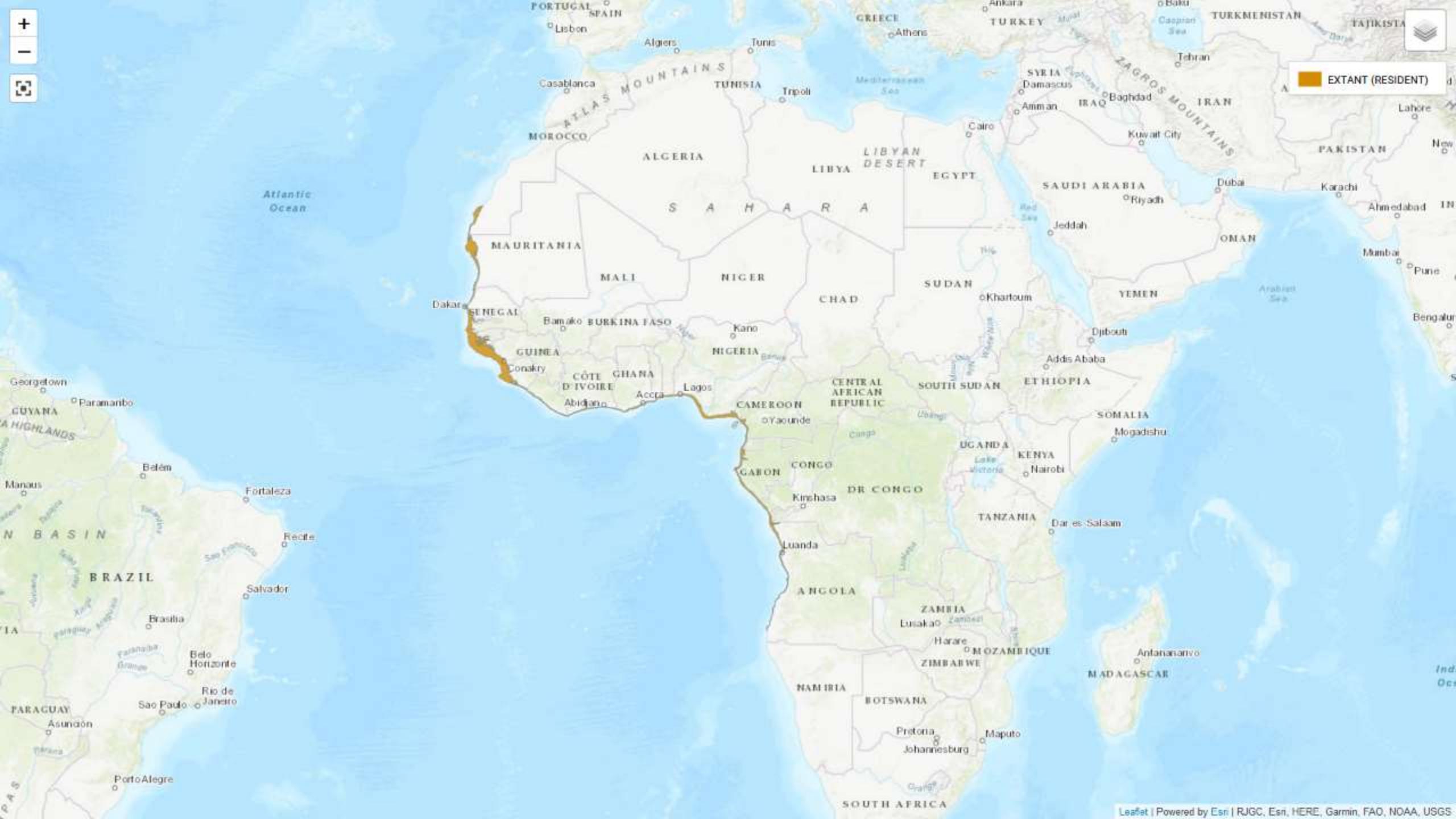




foto: Tim Collins, WCS



foto: Gianna Minton, CCAHD



foto: Tilen Genov, CCAHD



foto: Tilen Genov, CCAHD



foto: Tilen Genov, CCAHD



foto: Tilen Genov, CCAHD



foto: Tilen Genov, CCAHD



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PRILOV

foto: Tim Collins, WCS

*Obalni*  
—  
RAZVOJ



foto: Tilen Genov



*Ladijski*

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PROMET

foto: Aurore Malapert, Biotope



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*Ladijski*  
PROMET

foto: Tilen Genov, CCAHD



foto: Tim Collins, WCS



foto: Tilen Genov, CCAHD



NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX



< 3000 osebkov

foto: Tim Collins, WCS



# VABLJENI V CENTER O DELFINIH



MORIGENOS

CENTER O DELFINIH CENTRO DEI Delfini THE DOLPHIN CENTRE

CHARACTERISTICS AND VARIATION IN THE DENTITIONS OF THE BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

#### 四、本章小结





# OGLAŠANJE DELFINOV

VOCALIZZAZIONE DEL DELFINO / DOLPHIN VOCALISATION

## KAKO DELFINI PROIZVAJAJU ZVOK?

Delfini zvake proizvodejo s pomočjo delujejo zelo podobno kot uporabljajo potisnik v zračne prostore – ustvari vibracije foničnih uzvodov ustvarjajo različne zvoke. Vsač od drugega, zato lahko iz sporazumevanju (zvizeg) in:

## VSAK ZVOK IMA SVOJ

Tako kot ptice, ljudje življenja naučijo proizvajati sporazumevanje. Ti pa imate klicov in zvizegov. Pred prepoznavanja, vzdrževanja in znotrajanja socialnih vsak delfin razvije posredovanju svojih prav zato pomembno življenje skozi njene podpisne zvake.

## EKOLOGIJA

Ekočlovek je zvokom, ki ga uporablja, Terniški Kras (m) od narejene uradne do evropskega

## IN ČEM MODO I DLFINI PROIZVODNO I SUDNI

Delfini proizvodejo i zvoki, zato imajo podobne delujejo zelo podobno kot uporabljajo potisnik v zračne prostore – ustvari vibracije foničnih uzvodov ustvarjajo različne zvoke. Vsač od drugega, zato lahko iz sporazumevanju (zvizeg) in:

## HOW DO DOLPHINS PRODUCE SOUND?

Dolphins produce sounds using their lungs, which have very similar to the vocal folds in humans. As they sing to communicate, they open their larynx, the vocal folds, the air pressure then creates a vibration of the pharynx and by using the diaphragm dolphin produces different sounds. Just as all other animals independently of their size or sex can independently produce sounds for communication (including non-penultimate), dolphins also have communication (through the language).

## ZVOK NA LA PROPRIA STORIA

Per le loro storie, gli animali usano e gli altri delfini imparano per tutto la vita a creare diversi strumenti per comunicare con le loro compagnie e i loro compagni. E a molti rappresentano una parte fondamentale dell'identità del gruppo sociale. Durante il giorno, delfini esplorano il proprio territorio, comunicano la loro identità e si incontrano con i vari delfini importanti nella loro storia. Per questo è così importante che i delfini siano sempre in contatto con i loro compagni e i diversi delfini dovrebbero riconoscere chi sono vicini.

## EACH SOUND HAS ITS OWN STORY

Just like birds, dolphins learn to communicate during their lifetime, dolphins learn to produce a number of sounds which they use to communicate. These consist of various combinations of song, clicks and whistles. They play a very important role when it comes to recognizing their identity, maintaining relationships, and communicating within social groups. In the first few months of life, each dolphin develops its own unique signature whistle. They are used to naming their identity to other dolphins in the group and say therefore important for researchers. These whistles hardly change during their lifetime. Dolphins, with their 54 resonance whistles, unique signatures and identity, and this nothing is very specific.

## ECHOLOCATION

Echolocation, or bio sonar, is an adaptation many animals use when sound and hearing are insufficient to obtain information about their environment. It's based on emitting sounds and listening their corresponding echoes. A short, medium, or high frequency sound is directed through the mouth or nose of dolphin tissue or through the lower jawbone, which then travels directly through the water, reflects off objects and returns as an echo. In a dolphin, instead of passing through its ears, the echo travels through the lower jaw, so the brain can hear those vibrations. Thanks to the brain, which the dolphin's brain is specialized to, it can distinguish the different frequencies of its communication signals. Using echolocation, dolphins are able to determine with a high degree of accuracy the size and position of different objects, or even an environment where visibility is limited to just a few meters.



# IZOBRAŽEVALNI PROGRAMI



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# Hvala!

[www.morigenos.org](http://www.morigenos.org)

