

Vaquita porpoise faces imminent extinction

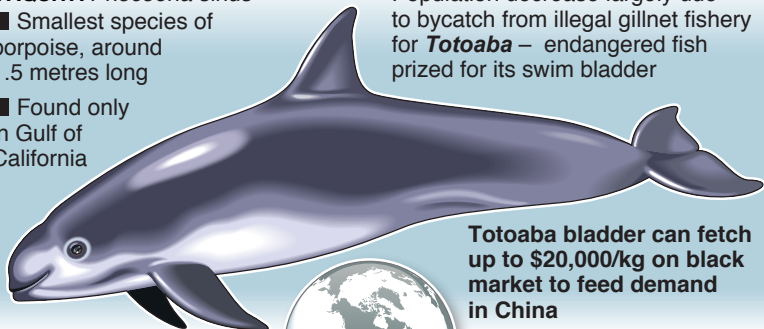
One of the world's rarest animals could be extinct within months unless a fishing ban is extended immediately. Campaigners say only 30 vaquita porpoises are left, their population having plummeted by 90 percent since 2011

VAQUITA *Phocoena sinus*

■ Smallest species of porpoise, around 1.5 metres long

■ Found only in Gulf of California

Population decrease largely due to bycatch from illegal gillnet fishery for **Totoaba** – endangered fish prized for its swim bladder



Totoaba bladder can fetch up to \$20,000/kg on black market to feed demand in China

Range of Vaquita

Alto Golfo de California Biosphere Reserve

Vaquita refuge:
No fishing

BAJA CALIFORNIA

Gillnet exclusion zone

SONORA

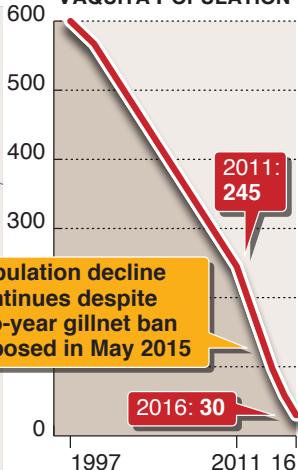
Gulf of California

PACIFIC OCEAN

50km
30 miles



VAQUITA POPULATION



Population decline continues despite two-year gillnet ban imposed in May 2015