

Oceans can be restored by 2050

The recent recovery of whales, seals and other marine species have allowed scientists to formulate a plan showing how the glory of the world's oceans could be restored within a generation

RECOVERY TRENDS OF MARINE POPULATIONS

Number of individuals*

Northern elephant seal
(births)
West U.S.



Guadalupe fur seal
Mexico



Baltic Sea grey seal



Baltic Sea cormorant
(pairs)



Humpback whale
East Australia



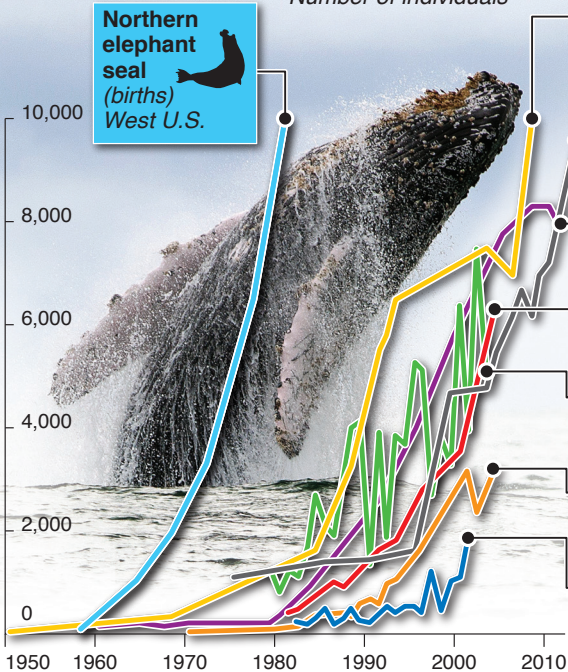
Green turtle
Japan



Sea otter
West Canada



Leatherback turtle
Virgin Islands



► Proportion of marine species assessed as threatened with global extinction by IUCN† down from 18% in 2000 to 11.4% in 2019

► Protection of habitats, sustainable fishing and pollution controls are essential for success

► Climate change, which is raising sea levels and making waters more acidic, is major hurdle

► Plan estimated to cost \$10-20bn per year to rebuild marine life by 2050. But each dollar invested expected to return \$10

*Units adjusted to common scale, †International Union for Conservation of Nature

Sources: Nature, Carlos M. Duarte

Picture: Getty Images

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