

Marine Mammals in the Yellow Sea

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Lotte World Aquarium

Marine Mammal Center, United States

WWF Korea, Head of Marine Conservation Team

Adjunct Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine, Konkuk University

IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group

Bachelor's in Veterinary Medicine, Konkuk University

Master's in Marine Biology, Pukyong National University

PhD completion in Veterinary Medicine, Seoul National University

Conducted over 400 necropsies on Marine Mammals

Received the Prime Minister's Award for Contribution to Conservation of Marine Resources

Member of Committees on Marine Environment, Ocean Fisheries, Marine Debris, and Seals

EBS Invited Guest - Whale's Message of Death - Young Ran Lee (Marine Life Veterinarian)

SBS Animal Farm - 'Mass Death of 299 Animals, the Need for Coexistence with NRFPs'

KBS Environmental Special - 'Smile, Narrow-Ridged Finless Porpoise'

SBS Video Mug - 'Veterinarian Dr. Lee Discusses the Death of a Dolphin Swallowed in Plastic ft. Sea Turtle'

SBS Pyeon Sang-Wook's News Briefing - 'First Marine Veterinarian in Korea Reveals the Cause of Whale Deaths'

JoongAng Ilbo - 'Despite the Danger of Costing 30 Million Won for Disposal Alone, Veterinarians Pursue the Cause of NRFP Deaths'

YTN Science - 'Suffering Marine Life...Veterinarian Dr. Lee Young-ran Treats and Preserves'

LG Chemical Green Festival Like Green - 'Humans Should Live When Whales Live,' and numerous other media appearances.



Plan Ocean is

a Non-Profit Organization approved by the Korean Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries.

a Public Interest Cooperation designated by the Korean Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Marine Biodiversity Conservation

Expanding Sustainable Fisheries



Marine Conservation



PLAN OCEAN

Title: Incorporative Association,
Plan Ocean

Established: January 30th, 2023

Marine Mammals



Residents of the Yellow Sea



East Asian Finless Porpoise
(Neophocaena asiaeorientalis)



Northern Fur Seal
(Callorhinus ursinus)



Minke Whale
(Balaenoptera acutorostrata)

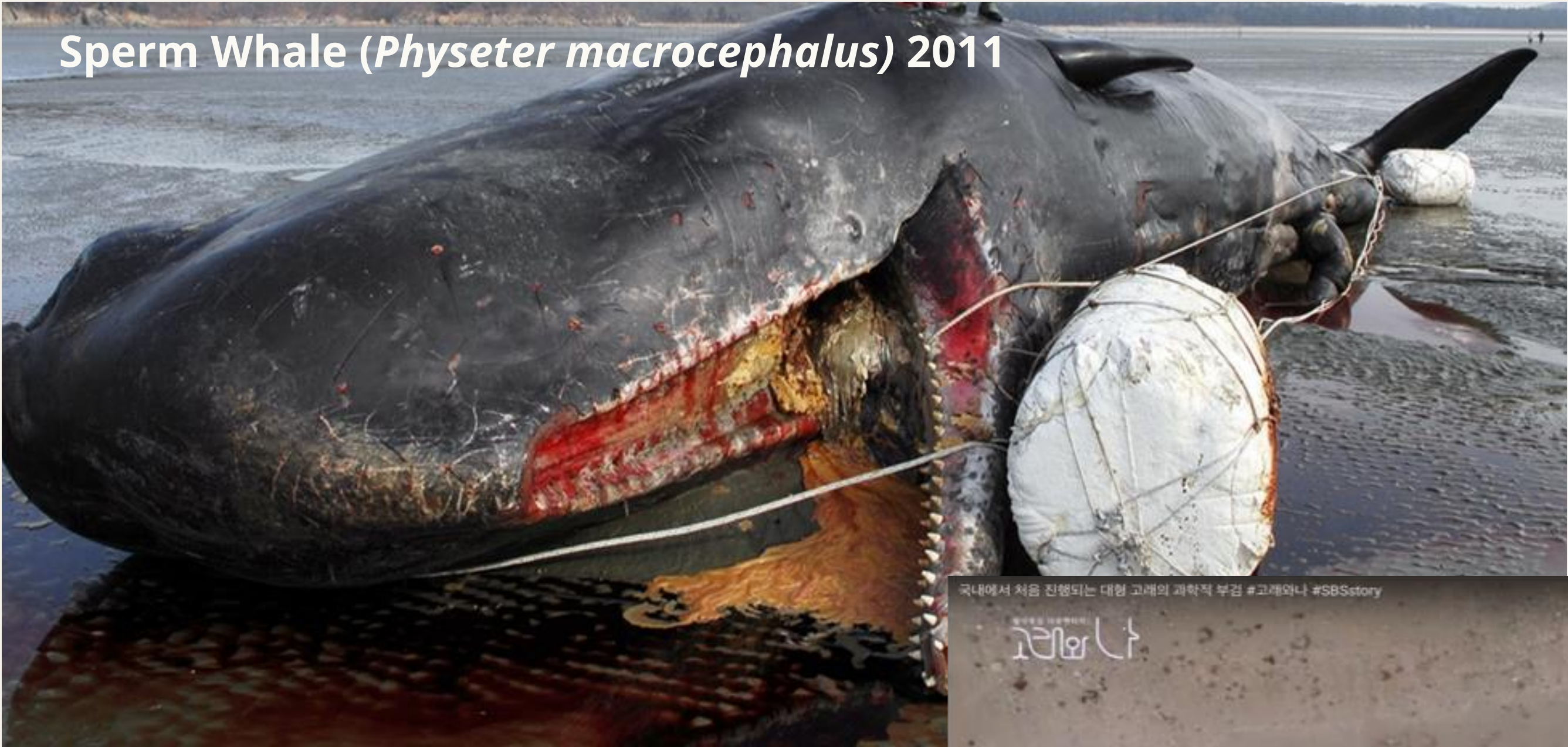


Steller Sea Lion
(Eumetopias jubatus)



Spotted Seal
(Phoca largha)

Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) 2011



Sei Whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*) 2023



First record of **Pantropical spotted dolphins** *Stenella attenuata* in the Yellow Sea, China

Biology | Published: 18 March 2015

Volume 33, pages 869–877, (2015) [Cite this article](#)

First live sighting of an **Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin** (*Sousa chinensis*) in the Yellow Sea, the northern-most record of the species range

Published online by Cambridge University Press: 14 September 2022

Article (Special Issue)

The Sea Journal of the Korean Society of Oceanography. 31 August 2019. 475-482

<https://doi.org/10.7850/jkso.2019.24.3.475>

The Study on the Whaling Reality to the **Large Baleen** Whales and their Seasonal Occurrence in the Yellow Sea during **Japanese Colonial Period**

일제강점기 황해에서의 대형 수염고래류 포경실태 및 출현 계절에 대한 고찰

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최 중기^{1*} ✉, 서 지호¹, 윤 원득²

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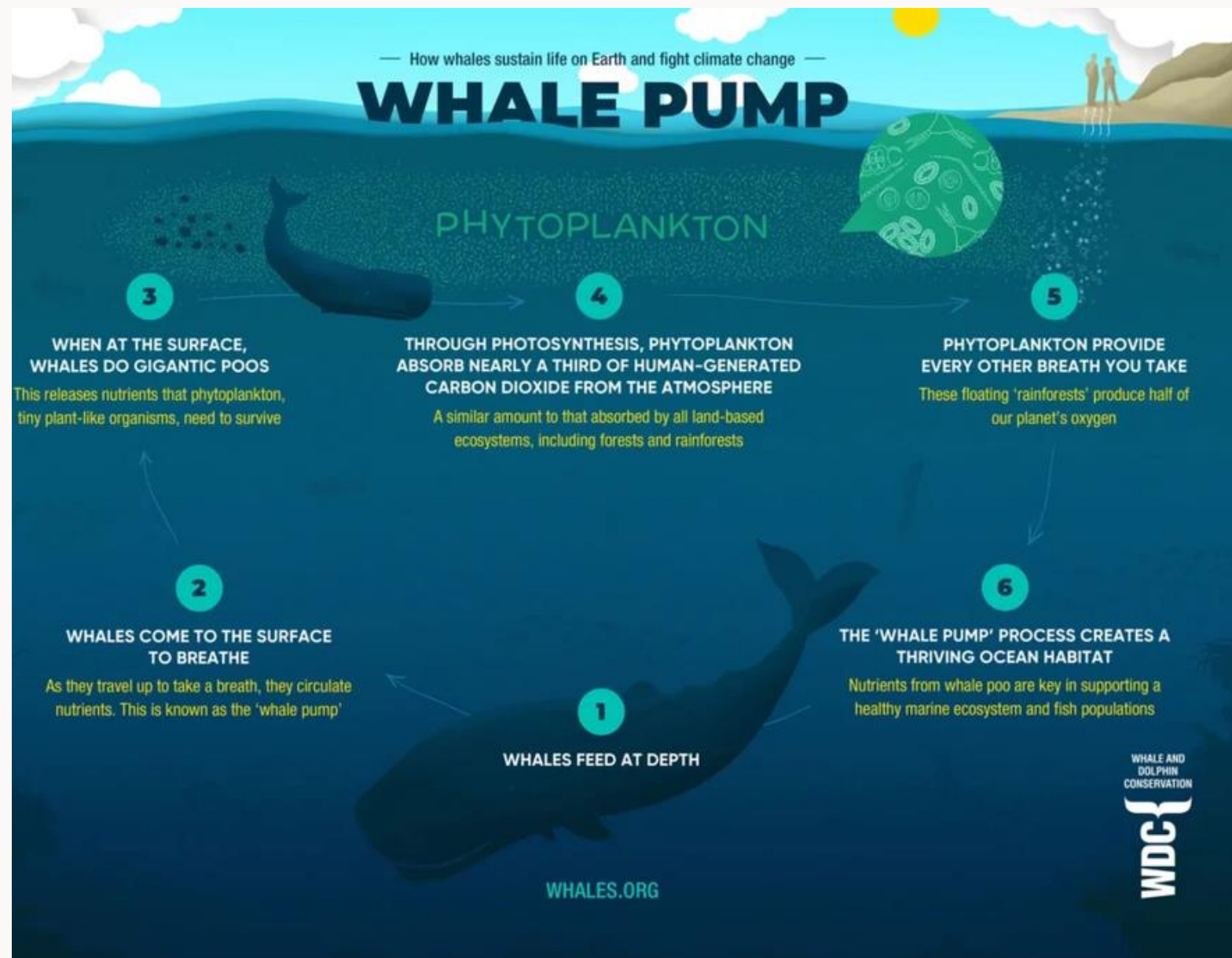
²사람과 해양연구소

Blue Whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*)
Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*)
Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)

Why Protect Marine Mammals?

Nutrient Cycling

Whale Pump, Whale Falls
→ **Biodiversity Maintenance**
→ **Climate Regulation**

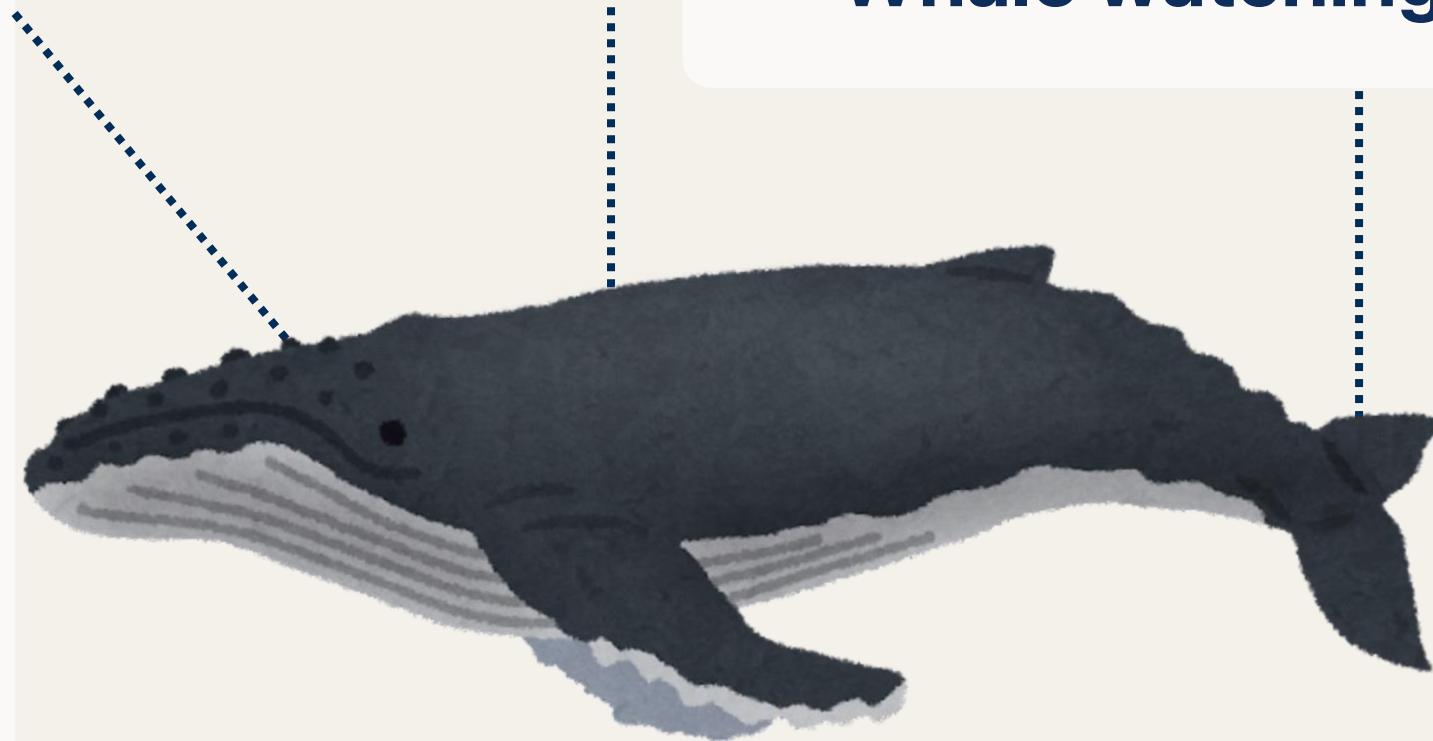


Sentinel of the Sea

Indicators of Ocean Health

Cultural and Economic Importance

Whale watching, Inspiration



What Threats Do They Face?



Fishing Activities
Entanglement, Bycatch



Pollution
Chemical, Plastic, Noise



US government signs agreement ending lawsuit
over marine mammal protections in foreign
fisheries

Nathan Strout published in Supply & Trade



The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requires foreign fisheries to implement the same protections for marine mammals as U.S. fisheries before exporting to the U.S., but the U.S. government has repeatedly pushed back enforcement | Photo courtesy of Sergey Uryadnikov/Shutterstock

What Threats Do They Face?

Habitat Disruption
Development, Wind Farm

Climate Change

Biotoxin (Domoic Acid)

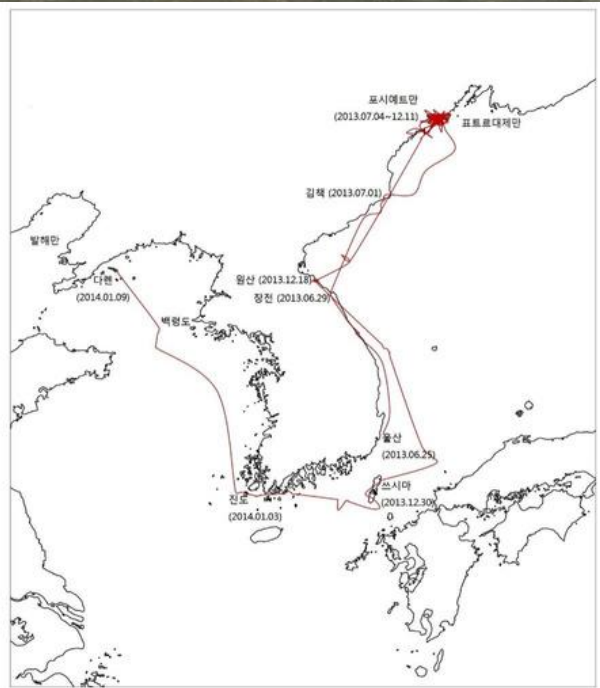
Ship Strike



What Can We Do Together?

Collaborative research
Ecology, Health, Toxin

Regional Conservation Practice
sustainable fisheries, tackling pollution,
regional center



Finless Porpoise Conservation Network

Collaborative Research Network for East Asian Finless Porpoise Conservation

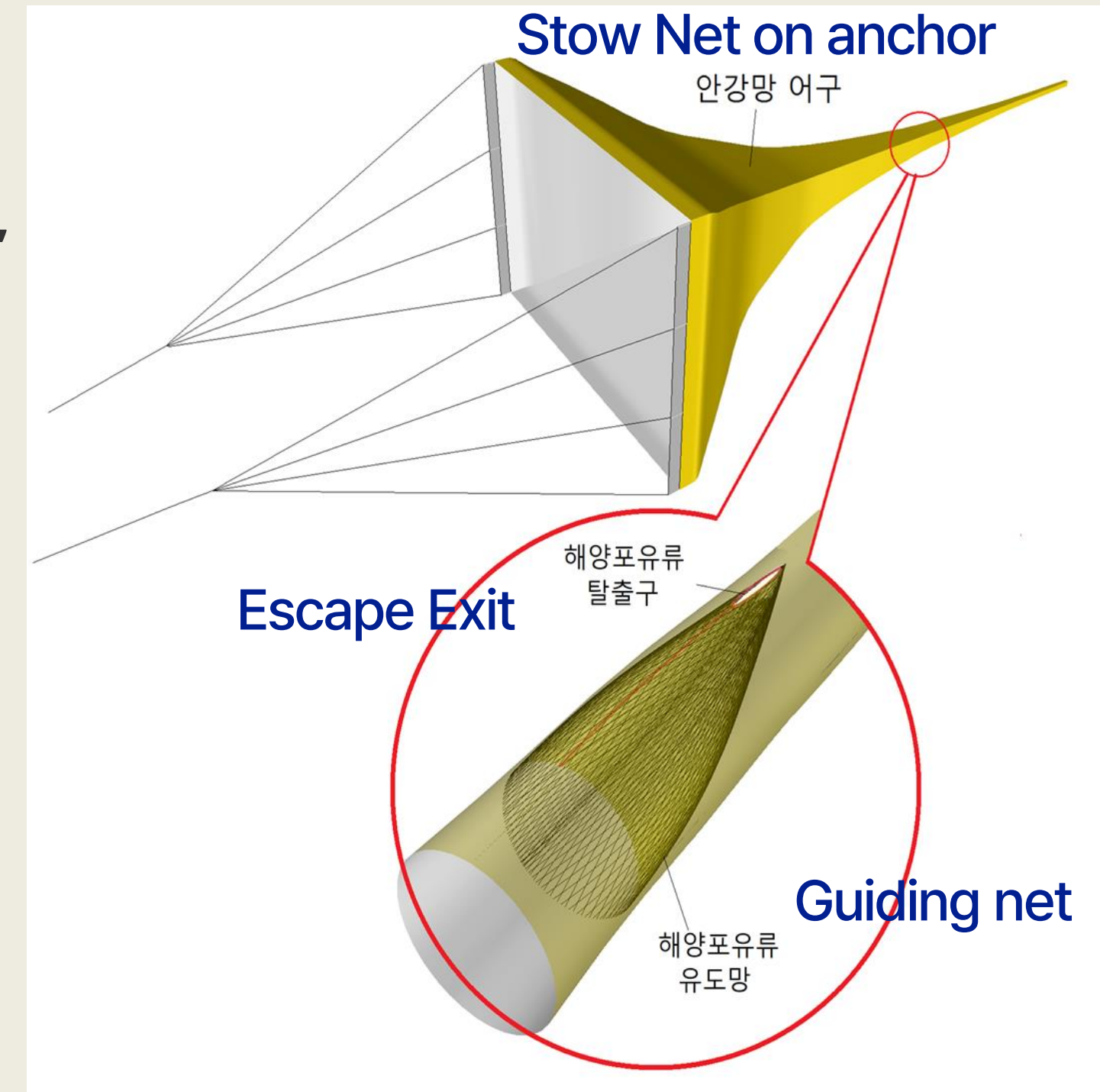


Last Refuge : Marine Protected Areas

- **Scientific monitoring** : population, migration, reproduction, feeding, behavior
- **Fishery management** : Gear modification, bycatch mitigation, seasonal fishing restrictions
- **Ocean health monitoring**: Persistent Organic Pollutants, Microplastics, biotoxin,
- **Vessel speed reduction**
- **Ocean Noise reduction**
- **Education**
- **MPA network**



Gray whale tourism in MPA in Mexico



Bycatch mitigation – excluder device for finless porpoise attaching the stow net by NIFS, Korea republic.

Thank you for your attention



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