



National Policy and Legal Framework for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in Japan

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Self-introduction

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Sea of JAPAN



Hokkaido

Sakhalin

Sea of Okhotsk

320km

320km

Erimo

Nemuro

• Hamanaka

Akkeshi

Pacific ocean

I want to get
"Anywhere Door"



Domestic Laws related to Cetacea and Sirenia in Japan

target animals		domestic law
Cetacea	Whales and dolphins (excluding the finless porpoise)	Act on the Protection of Fishery Resources (Act No. 313 of 1951) Act for Ensuring Sustainable Use of Whales (Act No. 76 of 2017)
	Finless porpoise	Act on the Protection of Fishery Resources (Act No. 313 of 1951) <u>Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora</u> (Act No. 85 of 1992)
Sirenia	Dugongs	<u>Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora</u> (Act No. 85 of 1992) Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties (Act No. 214 of 1950)

Domestic Laws related to Marine Carnivora in Japan

target animals			domestic law
Carnivora	Phocidae	seals	Act on the Protection and Management of Wildlife, and the Optimization of Hunting (Act No. 88 of 2002)
	Otariidae	Steller sea lion	Act on the Protection of Marine Resources (Act No. 313 of 1951)
		Northern fur seal	Act on the Protection of Marine Resources (Act No. 313 of 1951)
	Mustelidae	sea otter	Sea Otters and Fur Seals Hunting Control Act (Act No. 21 of 1912)

Problems of Domestic laws related to Marine mammals in JAPAN

- Different species or taxonomic groups are managed by different government agencies
- Most domestic laws fall under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Fisheries Agency), focusing on resource use or reducing fishery damage
 - ☞ Whales and dolphins or Steller sea lion
- Protective laws under the Ministry of the Environment apply only to species classified as **Critically Endangered (Category I)** or **Endangered (Category II)**
 - ☞ Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Finless porpoise



- Listed as Endangered IB (EN) in Japan's Red List
- Domestic laws

Act on the Protection of Fishery Resources

(Act No. 313 of 1951)

☞ Reducing Bycatch by Enhancing Fishing Techniques and Enforcing Gear Regulations

Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

(Act No. 85 of 1992)

☞ Promoting Habitat Conservation in Coastal and Estuarine Regions for Finless Porpoises

Act on the Protection of Fishery Resources

- Designated as a protected species under Japanese Fisheries Law
- **Capture is prohibited** without prior permission from the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Fisheries Agency)
- **Illegal capture or trade** is subject to penalties
 - ☞ No penalty is imposed for the bycatch of finless porpoises (× Not "Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants")

Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (ACES)

Red List Status

- Listed as Endangered (EN) in Japan's Red List
- However, not designated as a “Domestic Endangered Species” under ACES
→ Therefore, **not fully covered by strict protective regulations** under this law

Basic Policy and Habitat Conservation

- ACES allows the government to create Conservation Programs and designate Natural Habitat Conservation Areas
- For finless porpoises, no specific area has been designated under this law
→ Conservation actions are mostly voluntary or research-based

Spotted seals

- Listed as **Vulnerable (VU)** in Japan's Red List
- Domestic law

Act on the Protection and Management of Wildlife, and the Optimization of Hunting

(Act No. 88 of 2002)

With the aim of mitigating fishery damage while promoting coexistence with spotted seals

☞ the Type II Designated Wildlife Management Plan by Hokkaido

Management Capture

Nuisance Wildlife Control



A humpback whale is captured in the middle of a breach, its massive body arched out of the dark blue ocean. The whale's head is at the front, with its mouth slightly open, and its long, dark pectoral fin is visible. The most striking feature is the series of white, wavy stripes running along the side of its dark body. A large, energetic splash of white water is trailing behind the whale's head. The text "Thank you for your attention." is overlaid in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font across the lower half of the image.

Thank you for your attention.