

Arctic species under threat

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Narwhal or “unicorn of the sea”

Scientific name

Monodon monoceros

Status

Listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and of Least Concern by IUCN. Lack of recent stock assessments, and changes to its sea ice habitat make population evaluation difficult.

Impacts

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Threats

- ✓ Pollution
- ✓ Sea ice loss
- ✓ Predation
- ✓ Underwater noise
- ✓ Loss of food source
- ✓ Ship strikes

- ✓ Commercial fishing
- ✓ Oil & Gas activities
- ✓ Shipping
- ✓ Climate change

This and other Arctic species are of great importance to the Indigenous People of the Arctic, as a food and materials source, and for cultural practices.

Did you know that...

...narwhals are unique to the Arctic, and directly at risk from climate change, as their food becomes scarce and unpredictable sea ice changes is making it hard for them to adapt. Their distinctive tusk also makes them vulnerable to international traffic.

Working to protect the Arctic from the impacts of shipping,
for the benefit of its wildlife, its People, and the planet.



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