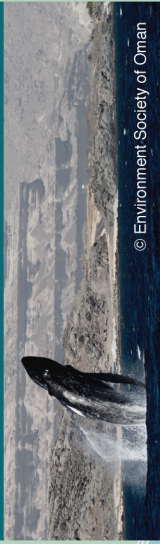


Arabian Sea humpback whales (ASHW) are **present year-round in the Arabian Sea**. Other humpbacks migrate between tropical and polar/temperate waters.



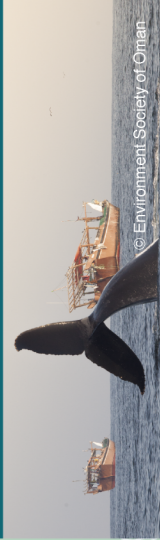
© Arno Jansen

Seasonal **upwelling of cold, nutrient rich waters** provides **food** for the whales that **also mate, calve, and nurse their young** in the Arabian Sea.



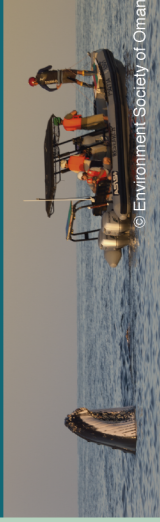
© Environment Society of Oman

ASHW became **isolated from other populations** in the Indian Ocean approximately 70,000 years ago.



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Research conducted in Oman since 2000 includes photo-ID, genetic studies, and satellite tagging. But **little is known about ASHW in other parts of the Arabian Sea**.



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# ARABIAN SEA HUMPBACK WHALES

## THREATS TO ASHW

Bycatch: 30-40% of whales photographed off Oman have scars from **entanglement in fishing gear**.

Ship strike: The region hosts many ports and some of the busiest **shipping lanes** in the world.

Underwater noise and risk of pollution from **oil and gas activities**.

Habitat degradation from **coastal development, shipping and construction noise**.



AREAS WHERE ASHW REGULARLY OBSERVED DURING RESEARCH

AREAS WHERE ASHW REPORTED BY FISHERS AND OTHERS

ASHW STRANDINGS OR ENTANGLEMENTS

RECORDINGS OF ASHW SONG

LOCATIONS OF ARABIAN SEA WHALE NETWORK MEMBER PROJECTS

## LEGEND



THE POPULATION IS DESIGNATED AS **- ENDANGERED -** IN THE IUCN REDLIST OF THREATENED SPECIES, THE IWC, CMS, CITES AND THE US ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION STUDIES INDICATE THAT ONLY **60-111 HUMPBACK WHALES** REMAIN OFF THE COAST OF OMAN

**242 HUMPBACK WHALES** WERE KILLED IN THE ARABIAN SEA BY ILLEGAL SOVIET WHALING IN THE 1960'S

THE ARABIAN SEA WHALE NETWORK IS AN INFORMAL COLLABORATION SUPPORTED BY:



## KNOWLEDGE GAPS THAT HINDER EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION:

- How far does the ASHW range extend outside of Oman, and which areas are critical for feeding and breeding?
- How many whales remain in the Arabian Sea?
- How can threats be most effectively mitigated?



ARABIAN SEA WHALE NETWORK

ARABIAN SEA WHALE NETWORK MEMBERS ARE COLLABORATING TO ADDRESS THESE KNOWLEDGE GAPS

Research methods include collection of data from fishers and other types of vessels; dedicated boat surveys with photo-identification; satellite tracking; genetic sampling and acoustic monitoring. The network aims to work with government, fisheries and industry to mitigate the threats of fishing gear entanglement, ship strike, and habitat degradation.

If you are interested in learning **HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT** these efforts, please visit our website: [arabianseawhalenetwork.org](http://arabianseawhalenetwork.org)