

History and Contemporary Situations of Whaling in the World

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There are approximately 85 species of whales which include not only large ones such as humpback, grey, bowhead whales, etc. but also dolphins and porpoises such as beluga whales and so on. Although humans have used several small cetaceans and large whales more than 5000 years ago in several places on this earth, they began to hunt large whales intentionally and positively in several regions about 1000 years ago. This presentation outlines history of whale hunts in terms of three periods: 1) period of rare human use of whale resources (until the 10th century), 2) period of the active human use of whale resources (from the 10th to the late- 20th century), and 3) period of whale protection (since the late- 20th century). Then, it examines several issues concerning the current whaling activities.