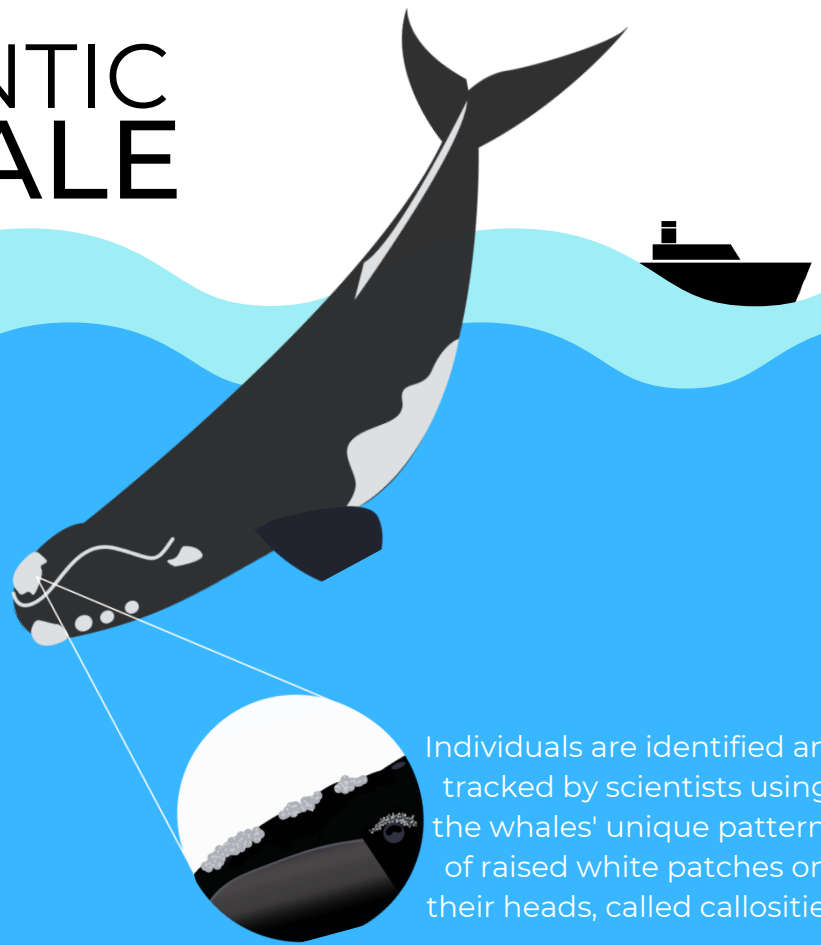


# NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE

North Atlantic right whales inhabit coastal waters from Florida to Atlantic Canada. Right whales have a lifespan of 70 years, but this has decreased to 40 years due to human caused threats.

It is estimated there are fewer than 400 right whales left, putting them at dangerous risk of extinction.



Individuals are identified and tracked by scientists using the whales' unique patterns of raised white patches on their heads, called callosities.



**How did they get to this point?**  
By the 1800s, right whales were hunted to the brink of extinction for products used in oil lamps and corset bones. In 1935, the International Whaling Commission agreed to stop hunting right whales and there has not been substantial recovery in the last 90 years. Leading causes of death for right whales are accidental entanglements in fishing gear and ship strikes.

**Will climate change affect right whales? Yes, in fact, it already has.**

Rising temperatures are causing right whales to search for their primary food source, small planktonic crustaceans, farther north in Atlantic Canada. Moving further north increases the distance they migrate, making them use more energy, and exposing them to more risk of entanglements and ship strikes.

# WHAT IS BEING DONE TO HELP THEM?

The National Marine Fishing Service (NMFS) has declared the coast of New England and the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida as federally designated critical habitat for right whales.

The governments of the US and Canada are enforcing speed limits for sea vessels, especially along crowded coastal shipping lanes.

Scientists are working with fishers to test new fishing gear technology which would leave less rope in the water and reduce the risk of a right whale accidentally becoming entangled.



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We must all work together to ensure a future for right whales.

### **DO YOUR PART AND...**

1. Ask your Congress representatives to cosponsor the SAVE Right Whales Act that would fund solutions to help right whales recover.
2. Report all right whale sightings to the NOAA hotline: (866) 755-6622.