



## Marine Mammals

Offshore Fish Farming poses a huge threat to the lives of Marine Mammals. From Bottlenose Dolphins to Hawaiian Monk Seals to the critically endangered North Atlantic Right Whale, our Marine Mammals are at risk. Due to giant nets filled with fish and increased prey densities around fish farms, many of these predators are attracted to offshore fish farms. Marine mammals have changed their feeding behaviors, which disrupts the marine food web, and are becoming increasingly entangled with ropes and netting.

**Bottlenose Dolphins** are shown to increase their aggression towards **Spinner Dolphins** around an offshore fish farm in Hawaii. These highly social animals have also been found to be more solitary as they grow accustomed to interacting with and feeding directly from the farms. They also have been known to change their feeding patterns in favor of preying on the wild fish that often congregate around finfish farms. Since 1990, at least **24** have died from entanglement at these farms since 1990.

A ten-year-old **Hawaiian Monk Seal** died after being trapped in the nets of the NOAA-funded **Blue Ocean Mariculture** fish farm off the coast of Hawaii. These rare seals are endangered, with only about **630** mature adults left in the wild.

A **Humpback Whale** was trapped in a tuna farm for two days before being successfully released. While in 2016, **2** Humpback Whales died after being caught in an offshore fish farm in British Columbia.



A juvenile **North Atlantic Right Whale**, of which there are only **336** remaining individuals, died after being entangled in aquaculture gear in the Western North Atlantic Ocean.

There have been at least **33** documented **California Sea Lion** deaths due to entanglement in OFFs in Washington State. While in 2023, **Sea Lions** gorged on salmon in British Columbia.

**Rice's Whales**, of which only **30-50** individuals remain, are under increasing risk of entanglement thanks to the proposed **Manna Farms** fish farm in the Gulf of Mexico - right in the middle of the critically endangered species' core habitat.



The only way to protect our marine mammals is to prevent Offshore Finfish Farming. To learn more go to [DontCageOurOceans.org](https://DontCageOurOceans.org)