



Making Space

THE STORY OF
IMPORTANT MARINE
MAMMAL AREAS
(IMMAs) AND HOW THEY
HELP TO PROTECT
WHALE HABITATS

ROZI HATHAWAY & ERICH HOYT



MAKING SPACE: THE STORY OF IMPORTANT MARINE MAMMAL AREAS
(IMMAS) AND HOW THEY HELP TO PROTECT WHALE HABITATS

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Making Space

A stylized illustration of a fish, possibly a salmon, swimming to the left. The fish is light green with a darker green outline. It is positioned inside a dashed, hand-drawn oval that has a yellow-orange fill. The oval is centered between the words 'Making' and 'Space'.

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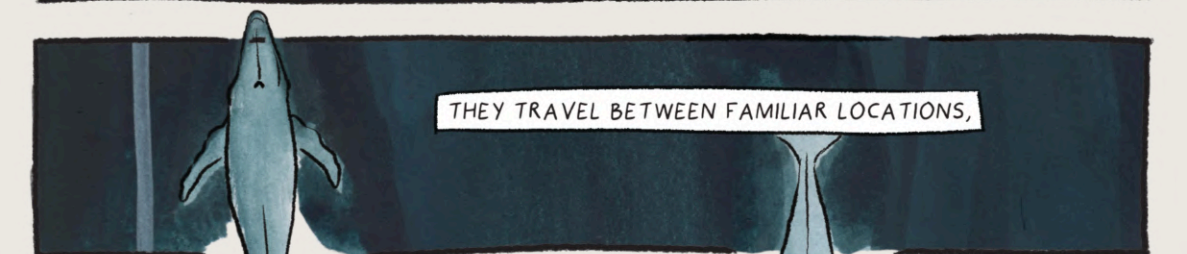
ROZI HATHAWAY & ERICH HOYT



PEOPLE USED TO THINK THAT WHALES SWAM AROUND THE WHOLE OCEAN, FREE TO ROAM WHEREVER THEY PLEASED.

BUT NOW WE KNOW THIS ISN'T TRUE.

WHALES HAVE A SENSE OF PLACE.



THEY TRAVEL BETWEEN FAMILIAR LOCATIONS,

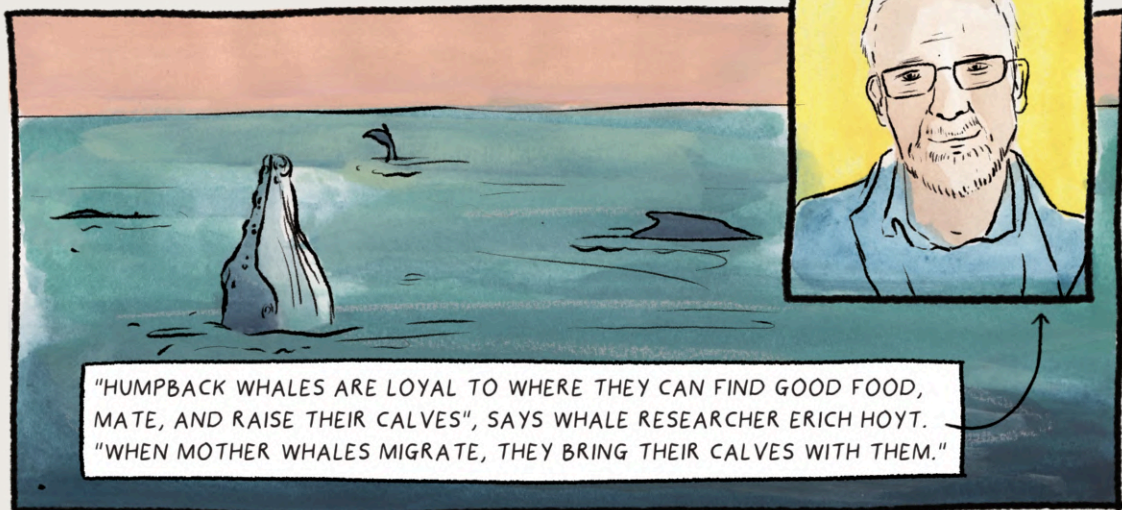
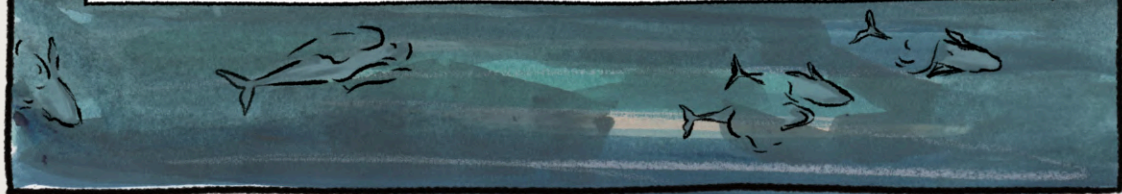


YEAR AFTER YEAR,



FOR THEIR WHOLE LIVES.

WE CAN'T FULLY UNDERSTAND HOW THEY NAVIGATE TO THEIR FAVOURITE SPOTS. BUT THEY DO - AND THESE INCREDIBLE JOURNEYS SPAN THOUSANDS OF MILES.

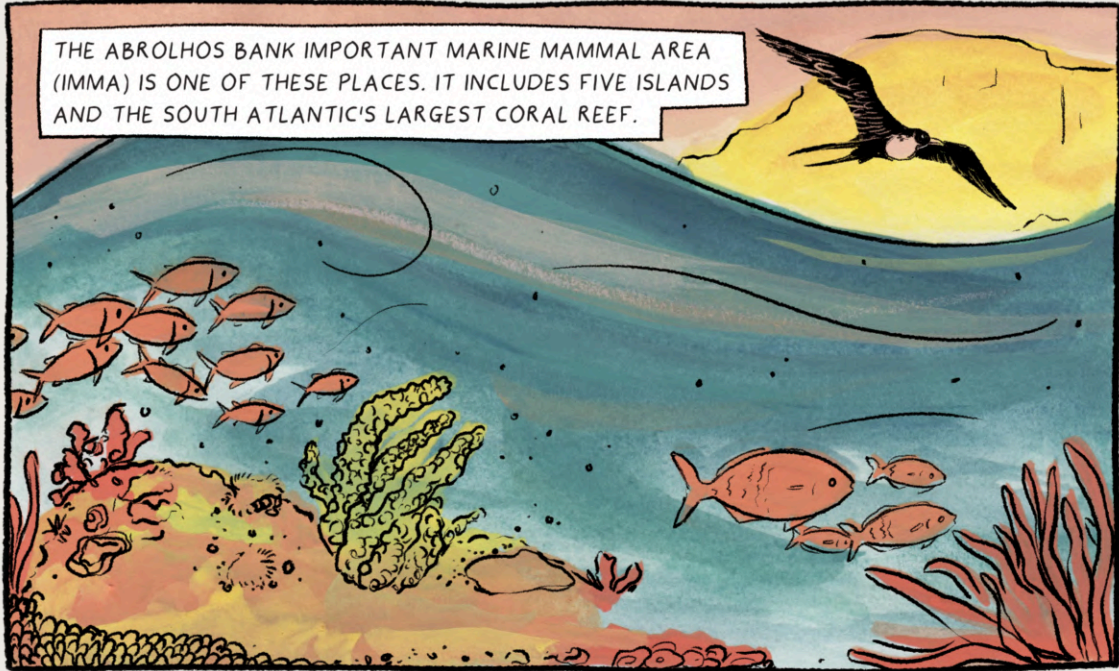


"HUMPBACK WHALES ARE LOYAL TO WHERE THEY CAN FIND GOOD FOOD, MATE, AND RAISE THEIR CALVES", SAYS WHALE RESEARCHER ERICH HOYT. "WHEN MOTHER WHALES MIGRATE, THEY BRING THEIR CALVES WITH THEM."



"AND WHEN THE CALVES GROW UP, THEY RETURN TO THE SAME PLACES"

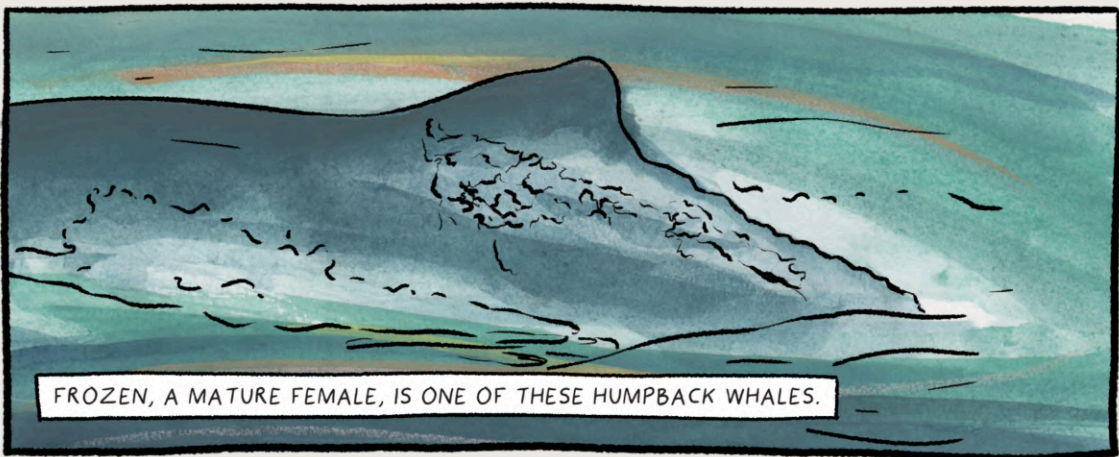
THE ABROLHOS BANK IMPORTANT MARINE MAMMAL AREA (IMMA) IS ONE OF THESE PLACES. IT INCLUDES FIVE ISLANDS AND THE SOUTH ATLANTIC'S LARGEST CORAL REEF.



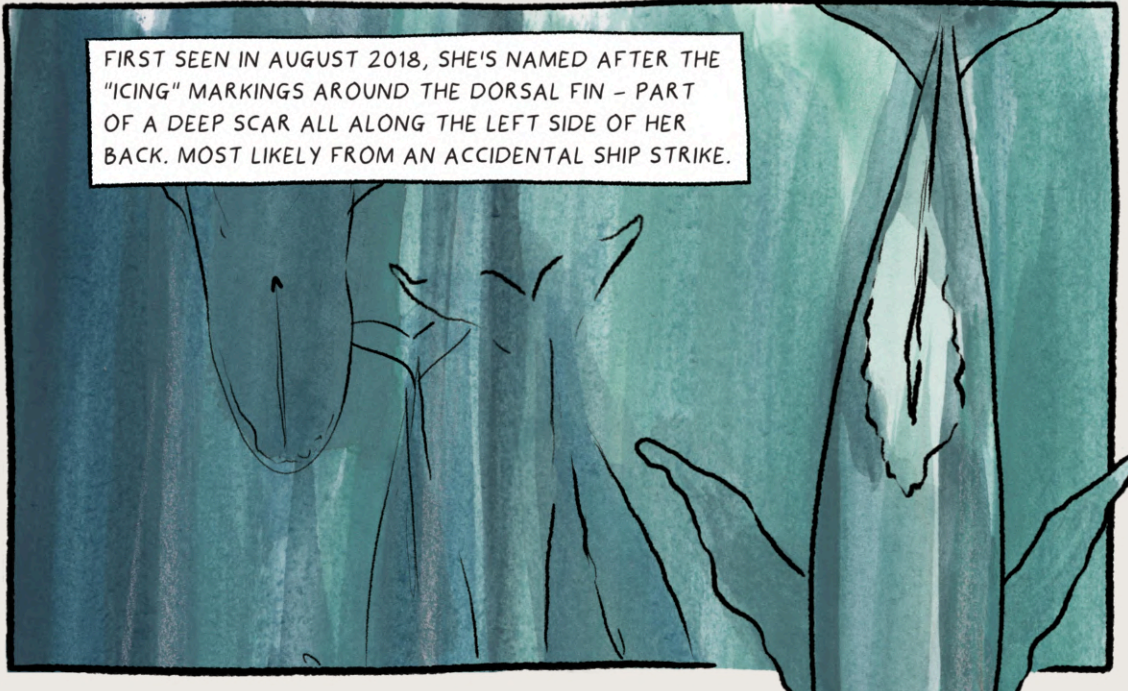
IT ALSO PROVIDES A WINTER HOME AND BREEDING GROUNDS FOR HUMPBACK WHALES.



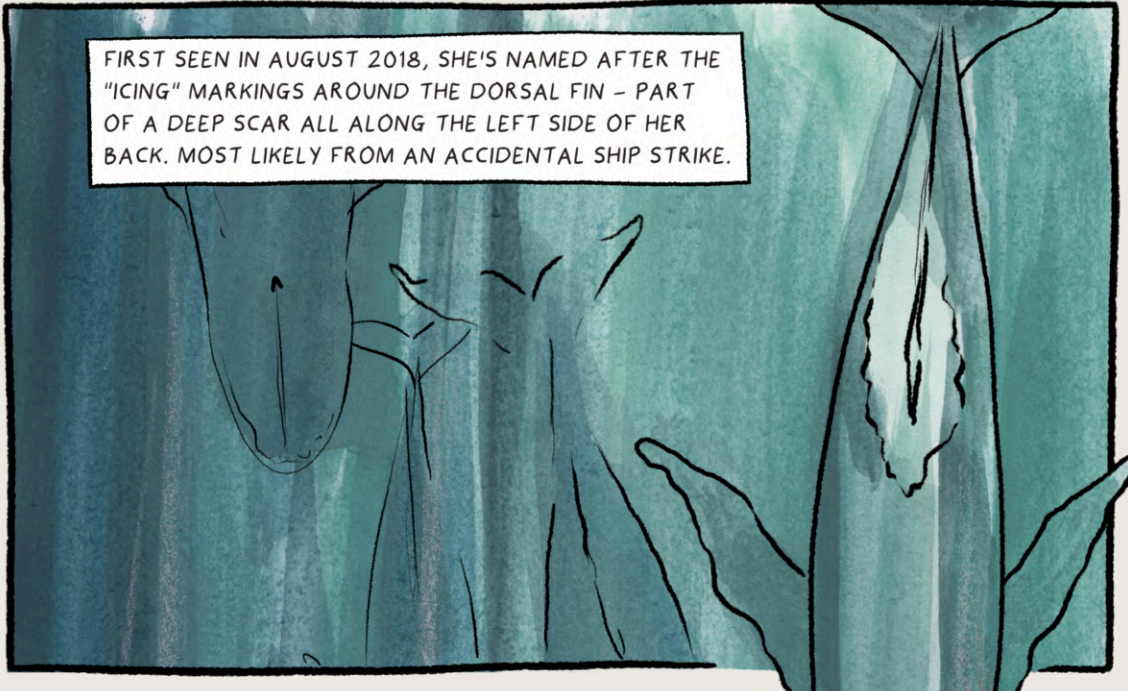
"BRAZILIAN RESEARCHERS HAVE STUDIED THE HUMPBACK WHALES HERE FOR 40 YEARS," SAYS CONSERVATIONIST JOSÉ TRUDA PALAZZO, JR.



FROZEN, A MATURE FEMALE, IS ONE OF THESE HUMPBACK WHALES.



FIRST SEEN IN AUGUST 2018, SHE'S NAMED AFTER THE "ICING" MARKINGS AROUND THE DORSAL FIN - PART OF A DEEP SCAR ALL ALONG THE LEFT SIDE OF HER BACK. MOST LIKELY FROM AN ACCIDENTAL SHIP STRIKE.



SHE'S AN ADULT, BUT THERE IS NO CALF WITH HER. HER INJURY MAY BE PAINFUL OR MAKE BREEDING DIFFICULT.



RESEARCHERS WONDER IF FROZEN WILL EVER BE ABLE TO HAVE CALVES.

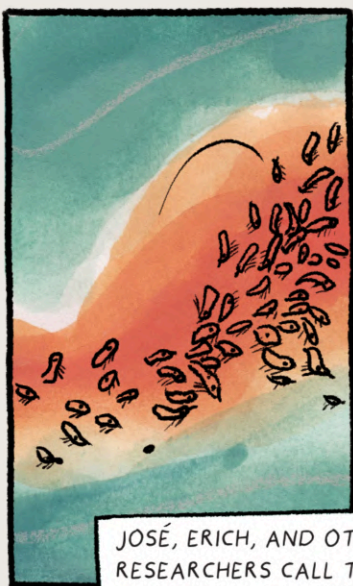
IN SPRING, HUMPBACK MOTHERS AND THEIR NEWBORNS JOURNEY FROM THE TROPICAL BREEDING GROUNDS, EITHER ON ABROLHOS BANK OR OTHER AREAS, TO THE SUMMER FEEDING GROUNDS OF THE ANTARCTIC.



HERE, THE MOTHER WILL SHOW HER YOUNG SPECIAL TECHNIQUES FOR CATCHING PLANKTON AND SMALL FISH – AND THE BEST SPOTS TO FIND THEM. THEN, SHE WILL RETURN TO THE TROPICS FOR THE WINTER, WITH THE NEW CALF FOLLOWING ON THE 5,000 KM ROUTE.



BY WHALES SHARING THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THESE AREAS THROUGH GENERATIONS, THEY'VE BECOME IMPORTANT HABITATS.



JOSÉ, ERICH, AND OTHER RESEARCHERS CALL THIS "SITE FIDELITY".



SO HOW DO WE KNOW ABOUT THESE AREAS?

U.S. G. Land - 1 M 350 (11) - 8-45

WHALES LANDED.

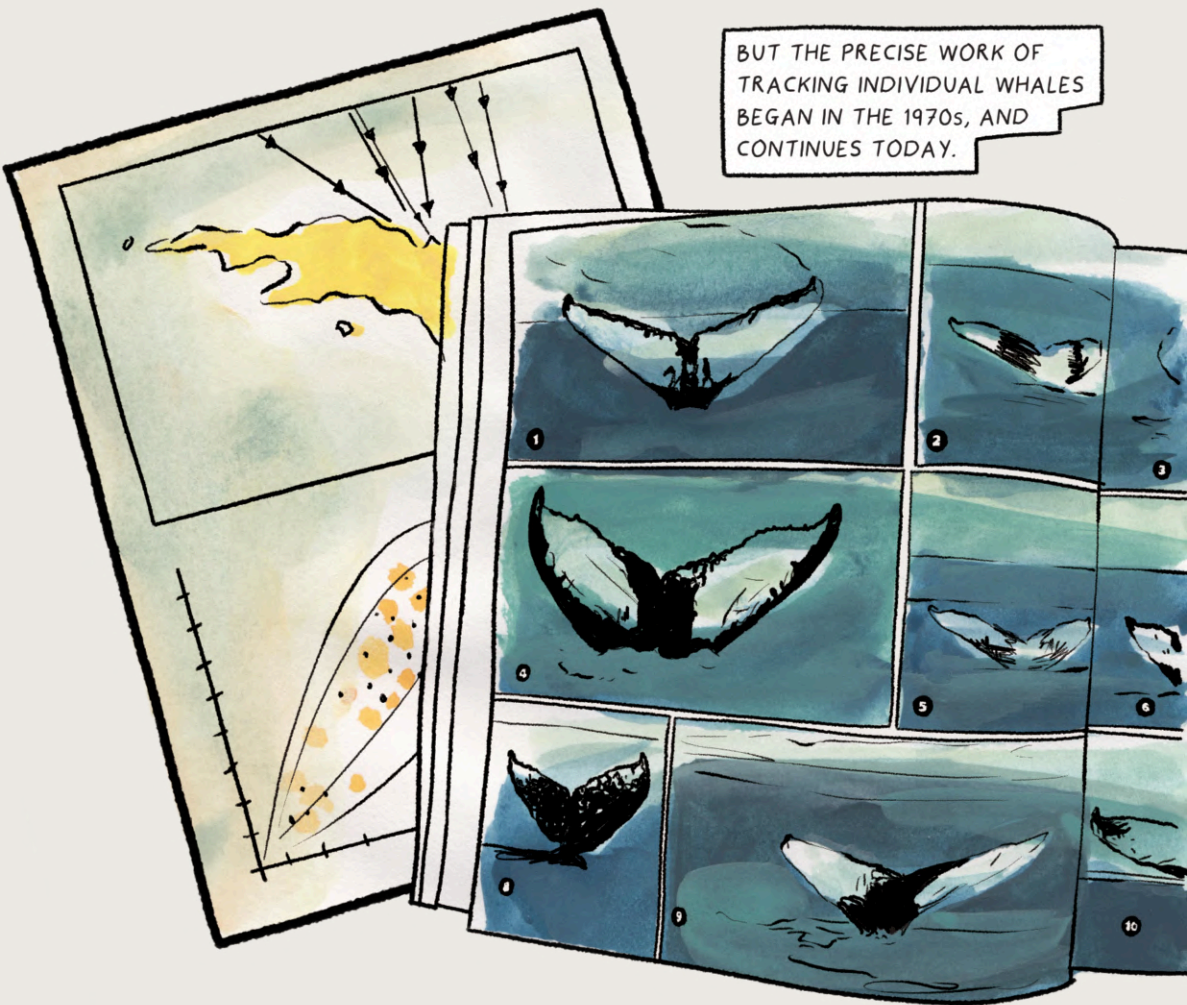
No. of Licence *25*

Narrona Whaling Station

Date of Capture	Locality of Capture	Date of Landing	Species	Sex	Length	Grth
1911						
April 4	5 miles N.N.E. Mullt. Hays	Apr 6	Finner	♀	48	16
" 8	30 " N.N.W. D	" 8	D	♀	56	18
" 26	35 " N.W. D	" 24	D	♀	50	19
May 10	65 " N.W. E D	May 11	Sci	♂	45	18
" 12	50 " N.W. B. N. Roubille	" 13	D	M.	45	15
" 13	50 " N.N.W. D					20
" 14	50 " N.W. W. Hays					26
" 18	50 " N.N.W. Roubille					
" 20	60 " N.N.W. D					24

PARTIALLY FROM RECORDS MADE DURING THE INDUSTRIAL WHALING ERA, NOTED AS THE MOST RELIABLE AREAS TO HUNT WHALES.

BUT THE PRECISE WORK OF TRACKING INDIVIDUAL WHALES BEGAN IN THE 1970s, AND CONTINUES TODAY.

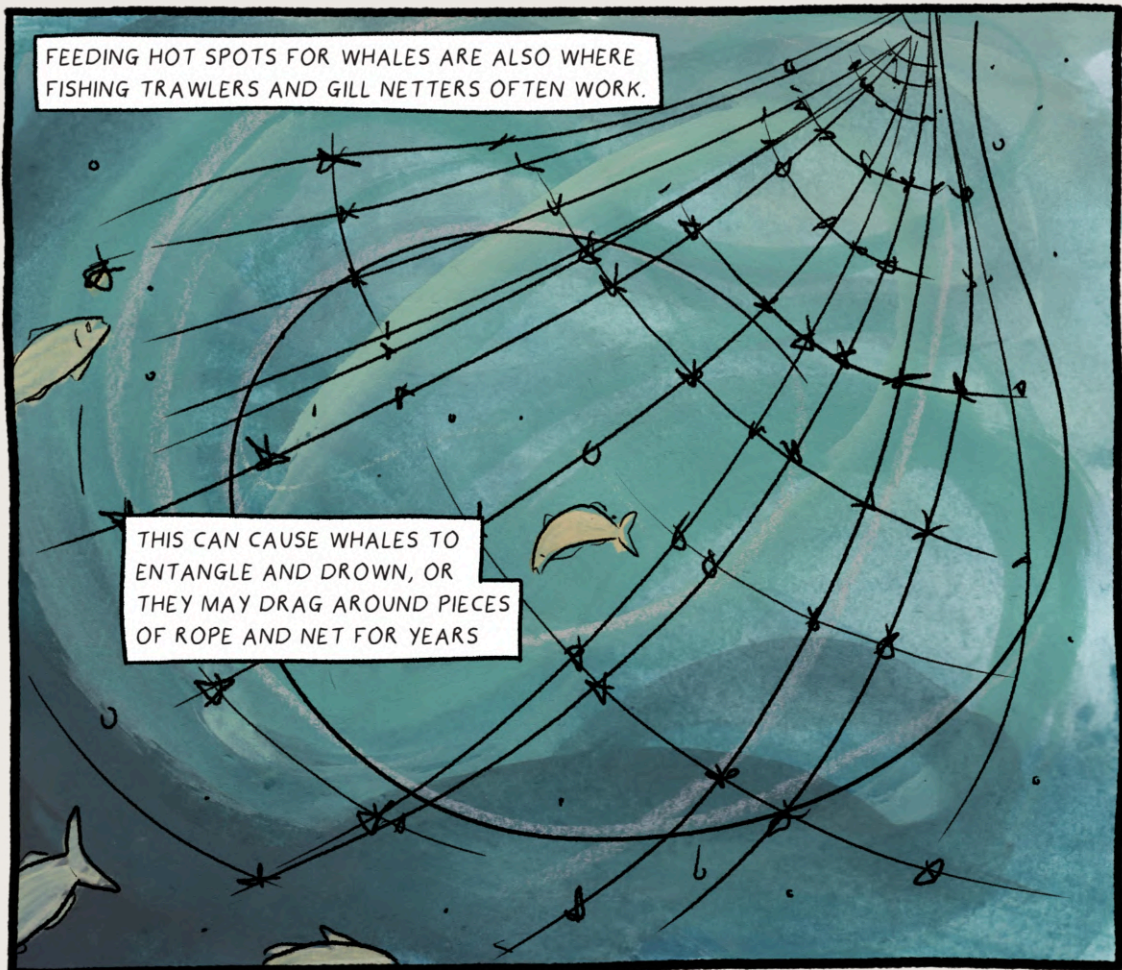




DESPITE KNOWING MANY OF THE AREAS WHERE WHALES HANG OUT, THERE ARE DANGERS.

FEEDING HOT SPOTS FOR WHALES ARE ALSO WHERE FISHING TRAWLERS AND GILL NETTERS OFTEN WORK.

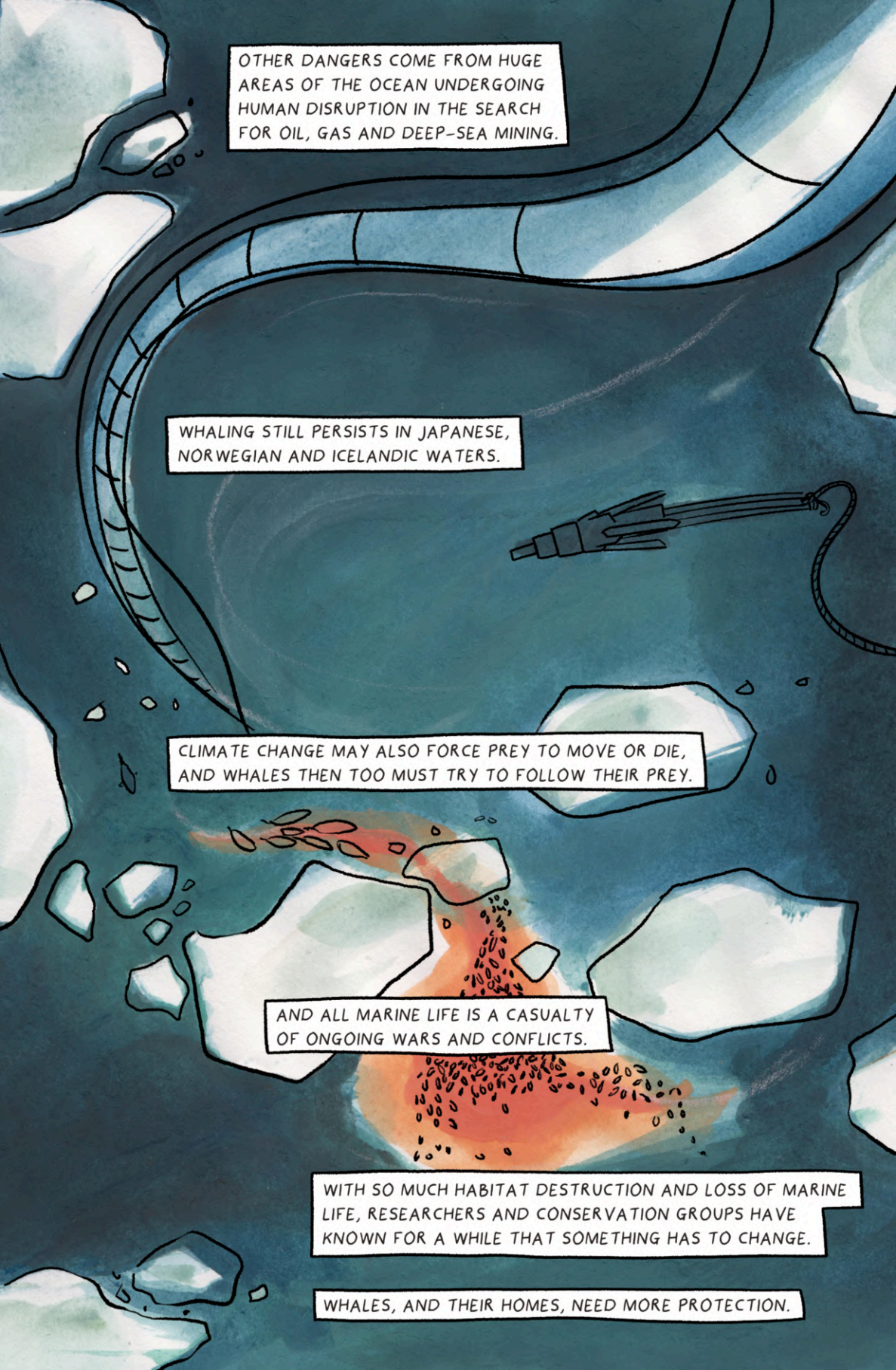
THIS CAN CAUSE WHALES TO ENTANGLE AND DROWN, OR THEY MAY DRAG AROUND PIECES OF ROPE AND NET FOR YEARS



SOME SHIPPING ROUTES PASS THROUGH WHALE HABITATS, RISKING SHIP STRIKES - LIKE THE ACCIDENT FROZEN EXPERIENCED.

SHE WAS LUCKY TO SURVIVE.





OTHER DANGERS COME FROM HUGE
AREAS OF THE OCEAN UNDERGOING
HUMAN DISRUPTION IN THE SEARCH
FOR OIL, GAS AND DEEP-SEA MINING.

WHALING STILL PERSISTS IN JAPANESE,
NORWEGIAN AND ICELANDIC WATERS.

CLIMATE CHANGE MAY ALSO FORCE PREY TO MOVE OR DIE,
AND WHALES THEN TOO MUST TRY TO FOLLOW THEIR PREY.

AND ALL MARINE LIFE IS A CASUALTY
OF ONGOING WARS AND CONFLICTS.

WITH SO MUCH HABITAT DESTRUCTION AND LOSS OF MARINE
LIFE, RESEARCHERS AND CONSERVATION GROUPS HAVE
KNOWN FOR A WHILE THAT SOMETHING HAS TO CHANGE.

WHALES, AND THEIR HOMES, NEED MORE PROTECTION.

IN 2013, ERICH HOYT AND MARINE ECOLOGIST GIUSEPPE NOTARBARTOLO DI SCIARA FORMED THE IUCN* MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTED AREAS TASK FORCE.



MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTED AREAS TASK FORCE

*INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

THEY ORIGINALLY WORKED TOGETHER IN THE 1990s, INVESTIGATING THE BENEFITS OF WHALE WATCHING AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS ON ALL MARINE MAMMALS.

THE CORE TEAM IS MADE UP OF:



CO-CHAIRS ERICH AND GIUSEPPE,



DEPUTY CHAIRS GILL BRAULIK AND SIMONE PANIGADA,



AND MEMBERS CATERINA LANFREDI, GIANNA MINTON,
MARGHERITA ZANARDELLI AND ELENA POLITI.

THEIR MAIN GOAL IS AMBITIOUS. BRING TOGETHER THE WORLD'S OCEAN SCIENTISTS TO IDENTIFY THE MOST IMPORTANT HABITATS FOR WHALES AND OTHER ANIMALS.

"WE DECIDED TO FOCUS ON ALL 135 SPECIES OF MARINE MAMMALS," SAYS GIUSEPPE. "ALL THESE SPECIES SHARE COMMON ISSUES AND OVERLAPPING HABITATS."

WITH MICHAEL J. TETLEY'S HELP, THEY CREATED A NEW ONLINE TOOL CALLED IMPORTANT MARINE MAMMAL AREAS – OR, FOR SHORT, IMMAs.



"HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE GAVE US THEIR EXPERTISE TO WORK OUT THE CRITERIA FOR IMMAs. WE DEVELOPED A STANDARDIZED WAY TO CREATE THEM," SAYS ERICH.



STARTING IN 2016, AFTER MANY MEETINGS AND A FUNDRAISING MARATHON, THEY SET UP A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS TO COVER THE WORLD'S OCEANS. THESE WORKSHOPS WERE PLANNED REGION BY REGION, EVERY 10-12 MONTHS FOR THE NEXT DECADE.



IN EACH REGION, SCIENTISTS, CITIZEN SCIENTISTS, AND WHALE WATCHERS SUGGEST IMPORTANT AREAS. IN THE WEEK-LONG WORKSHOPS, THEY MAY EXAMINE UP TO 400 POSSIBLE AREAS.



BY THE END OF THE WORKSHOPS, THEY CREATE 30-50 CANDIDATE IMMAs FOR THAT REGION, READY TO SEND TO OTHER EXPERTS FOR REVIEW.

AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS OF TRAVEL, FROZEN ARRIVES
ON THE SOUTH GEORGIA FEEDING GROUNDS –

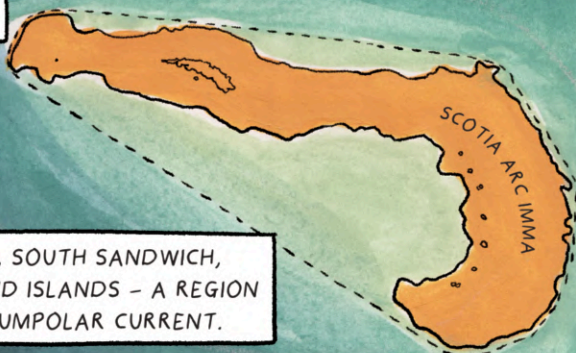
THE SCOTIA ARC IMPORTANT MARINE MAMMAL AREA (IMMA)



WHERE HER MOTHER MOST LIKELY FIRST TOOK HER TO
FEED SEVERAL YEARS EARLIER, WHEN SHE WAS A CALF.

THE SCOTIA ARC IMMA FEEDING SITE IS PART OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST MARINE PROTECTED AREAS WITH RECENTLY EXPANDED PROTECTIONS.

THE AREA INCLUDES SOUTH GEORGIA, SOUTH SANDWICH, SOUTH ORKNEY AND SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS - A REGION DOMINATED BY THE ANTARCTIC CIRCUMPOLAR CURRENT.



THE CURRENT TRANSPORTS NUTRIENTS AND FOOD FROM THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA ACROSS THE SCOTIA SEA.



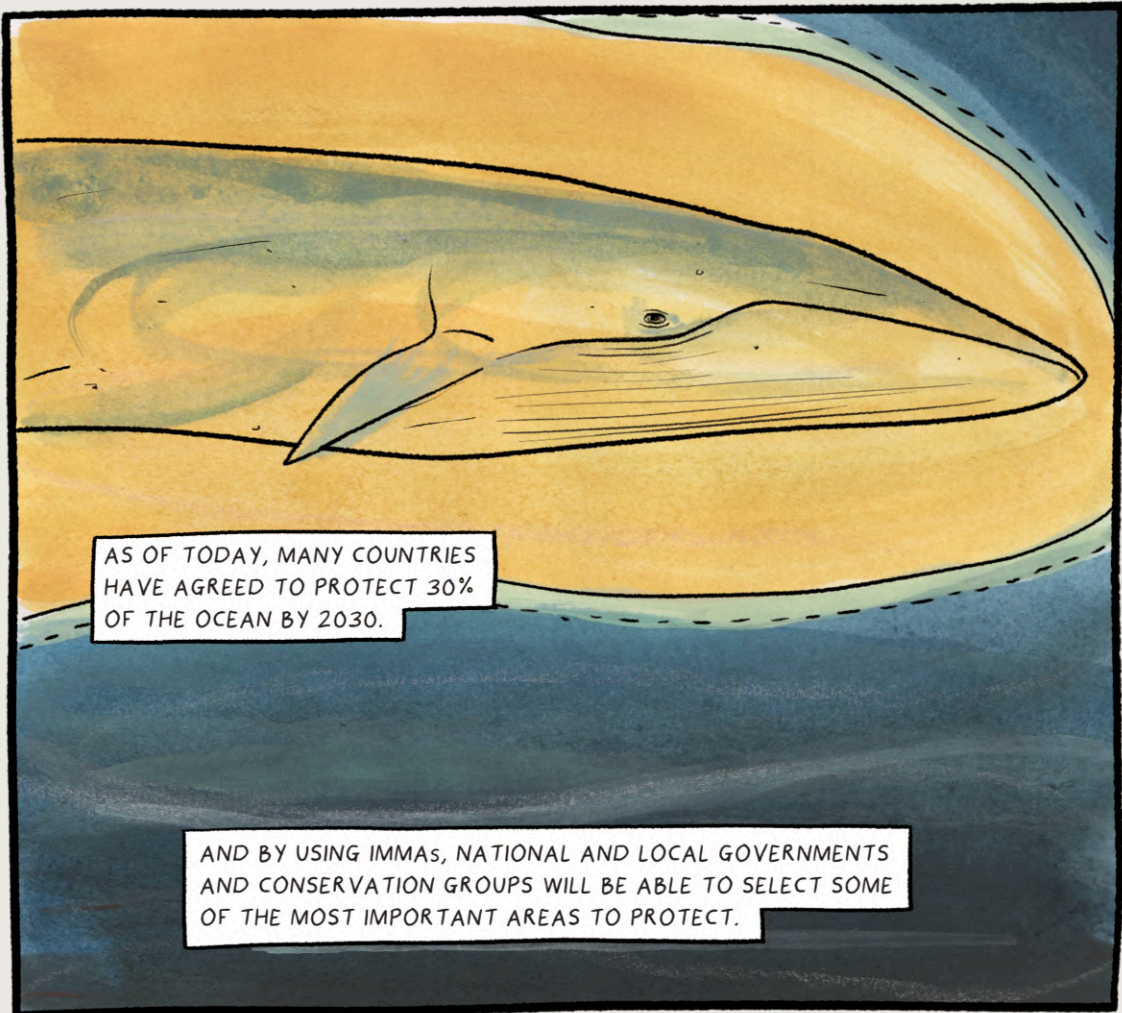
BESIDES HUMPBACKS, THE AREA IS A RICH FEEDING GROUND FOR BLUE WHALES, FIN WHALES, SEI WHALES, SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALES, AND SPERM WHALES.

ALL SPECIES ON THE IUCN RED LIST, THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION.

THE REGION SUPPORTS IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL FISHING. LARGE COLONIES OF SEALS AND SEABIRDS BREED HERE, TOO.

"THE CHALLENGE FOR US," SAYS GIUSEPPE, "IS TO ENGAGE GOVERNMENTS, COMMERCIAL FISHING, SHIPPING COMPANIES, AND CONSERVATION GROUPS ABOUT THE NEEDS OF WHALES."

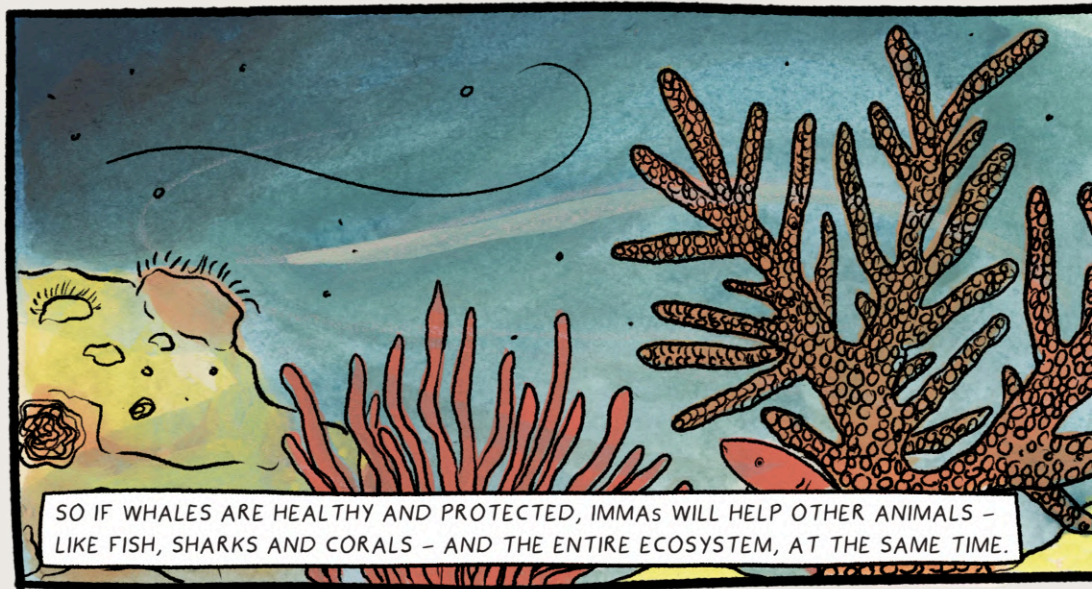
"ONCE THEY'RE ENGAGED, THEY CAN USE THE IMMA TOOL AS A GUIDELINE FOR GREATER PROTECTION OF THESE WATERS."



AS OF TODAY, MANY COUNTRIES
HAVE AGREED TO PROTECT 30%
OF THE OCEAN BY 2030.

AND BY USING IMMAs, NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
AND CONSERVATION GROUPS WILL BE ABLE TO SELECT SOME
OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AREAS TO PROTECT.

IMMAs TELL US ABOUT IMPORTANT PLACES FOR WHALES, BUT THEY
ALSO SHOW HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS FOR MANY OTHER SPECIES. AS
INDICATOR SPECIES, WHALES REVEAL THE HEALTH OF THE OCEAN.

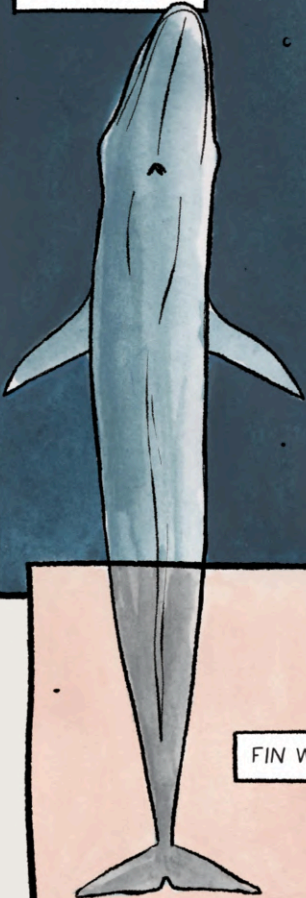


SO IF WHALES ARE HEALTHY AND PROTECTED, IMMAs WILL HELP OTHER ANIMALS –
LIKE FISH, SHARKS AND CORALS – AND THE ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM, AT THE SAME TIME.

AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, THERE ISN'T ONE SINGLE BIGGEST THREAT TO THE WORLD'S WHALE SPECIES.

BUT WE DO KNOW THAT EVERY YEAR SHIPS STRIKE MANY WHALES.

THE MAIN CASUALTIES OF SHIPSTRIKES ARE BLUE WHALES,



SPERM WHALES,



HUMPBACKS,



FIN WHALES,

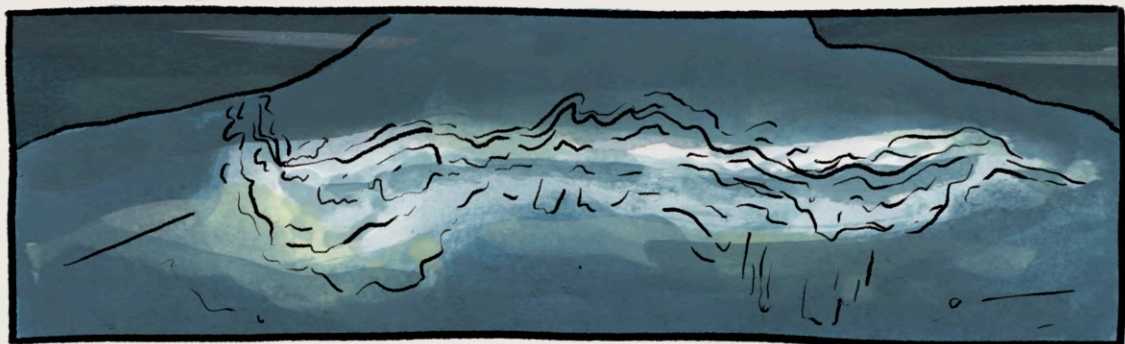


AND NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES.



NO SHIP CAPTAIN WANTS TO HIT A WHALE, BUT CONTAINER SHIPS, FERRIES, SAILBOATS AND OTHER VESSELS NEED TO SLOW DOWN WHEN THEY PASS THROUGH IMMAs – OR AVOID THE AREA WHEN WHALES ARE AROUND.

AND AS WE'VE SEEN, EVEN FROZEN COULDN'T ESCAPE BEING ANOTHER SHIPSTRIKE STATISTIC.



SO, WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE?

GOVERNMENTS CAN WORK WITH...

...THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION (IMO) TO REDUCE SHIP SPEEDS AND CHANGE SHIPPING ROUTES, ...

...LOCAL AND COMMERCIAL FISHERS TO REGULATE WHALE-SAFE FISHING GEAR, ...

...AND COMMUNITIES, TO SET UP EFFECTIVE MARINE PROTECTED AREAS, FEATURING KNOWN WHALE HABITATS.

THE OPEN OCEAN NEEDS PROTECTING, TOO -

THE 60% THAT DOESN'T 'BELONG' TO ANY COUNTRY. ALSO KNOWN AS THE HIGH SEAS.

SOON, IT'S HOPED COUNTRIES WILL
FOLLOW THE HIGH SEAS AGREEMENT,
SO CONSERVATION EFFORTS CAN
FORMALLY BEGIN.



WE'RE RELIANT ON THE OCEAN TO KEEP OUR PLANET HABITABLE,

AND IT'S UP TO US TO MAKE SURE IT WORKS.

IN 2023, RESEARCHERS FROM THE HUMPBACK WHALE INSTITUTE
WORKING ON THE BREEDING GROUNDS AROUND BRAZIL SEE FROZEN,
STILL CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE FROM HER SCARS.



BUT THIS TIME, THERE'S A SURPRISE.

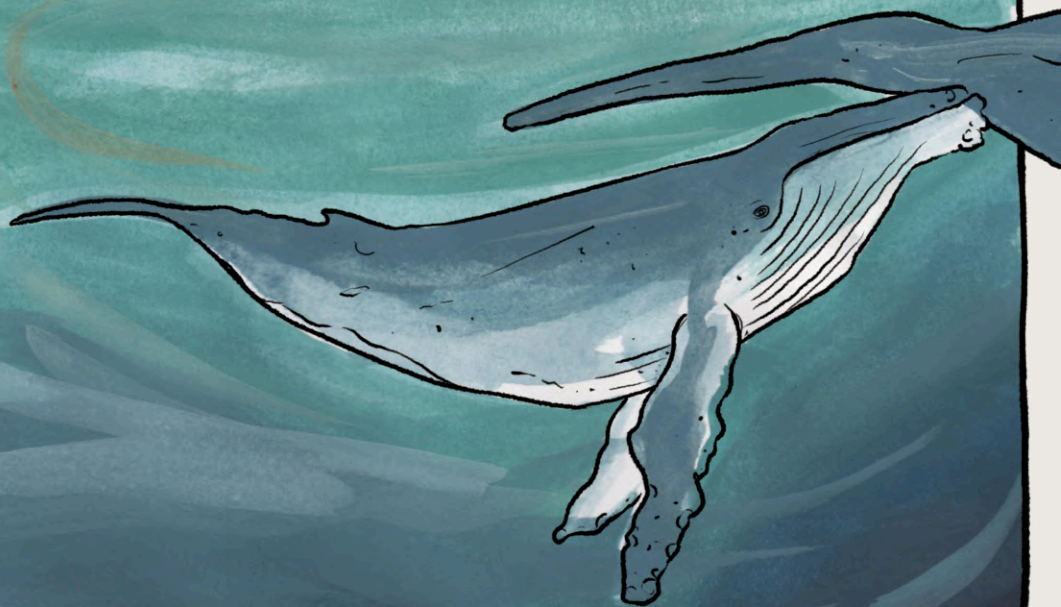


FROZEN HAS A HEALTHY CALF.

AS THE SEASON GOES ON, FROZEN
LETS HER CALF LEAVE HER SIDE AND
PLAY WITH OTHER YOUNG WHALES.



THEN THE CALF ACCOMPANIES HER MOTHER
ON THE MIGRATION TO ANTARCTICA.







IT'S NOW 2026.

AFTER EXAMINING AROUND 80% OF THE GLOBAL OCEAN, THE TEAM PUT 323 IMMAs ONTO THE GLOBAL IMMA E-ATLAS AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE TO DOWNLOAD AND USE.

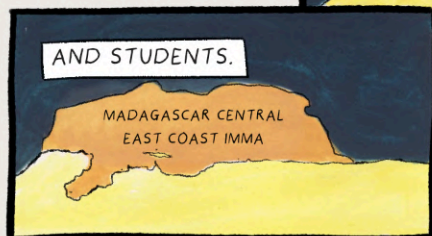
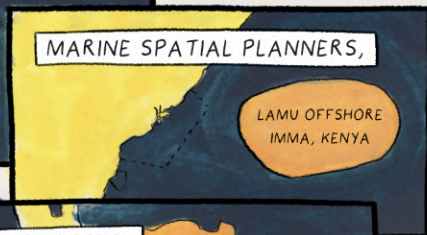
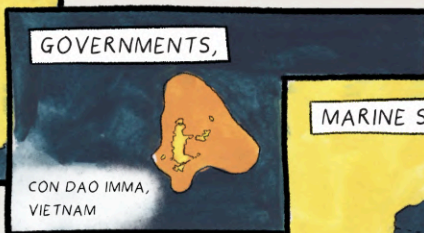


THE E-ATLAS INCLUDES MAPS, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND DETAILS ABOUT WHAT MAKES EACH OF THESE IMMAs SPECIAL.

SPECIAL AS A HOME FOR WHALES, DOLPHINS AND OTHER ANIMALS.

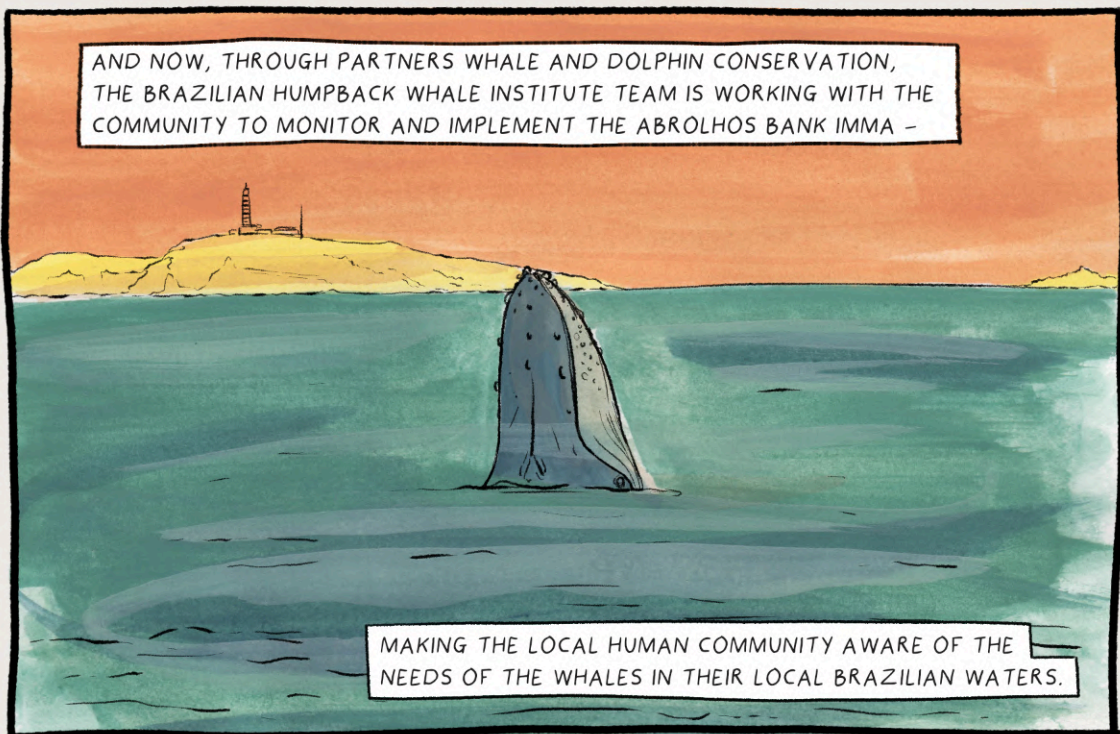


BY CHECKING THE IMMA E-ATLAS, ANYONE CAN SEE AND DOWNLOAD THE WORLD MAP OF IMMAs AND THE INFORMATION ABOUT THEM.



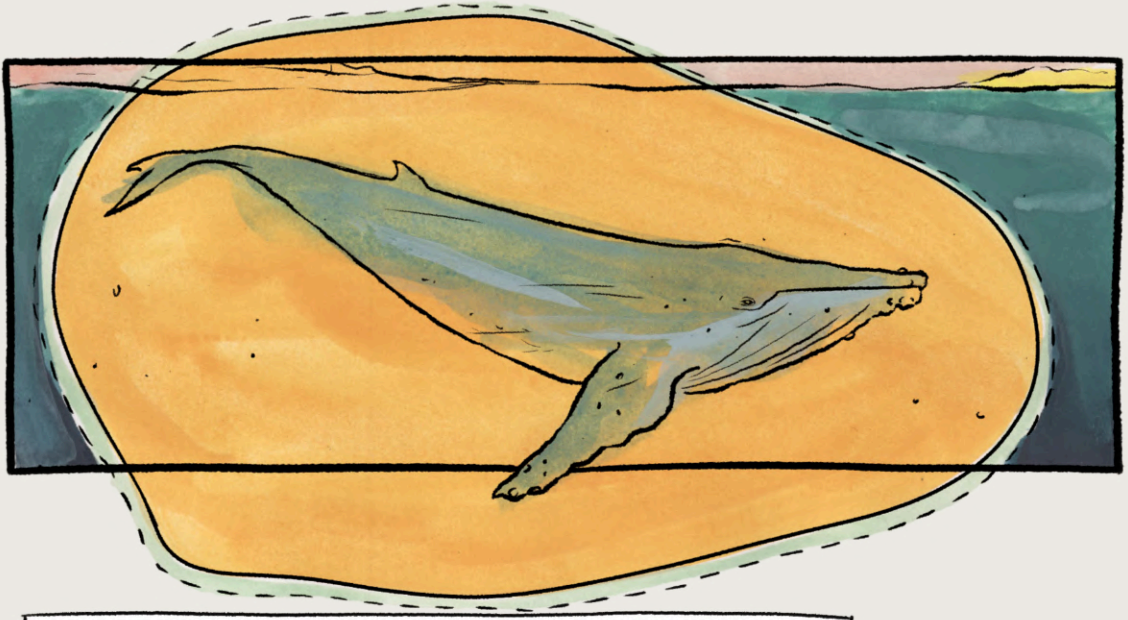
THEY CAN ALL USE THESE MAPS TO GAIN INSIGHTS,
ASSESS IMPACTS AND DRIVE CHANGE.

AND NOW, THROUGH PARTNERS WHALE AND DOLPHIN CONSERVATION,
THE BRAZILIAN HUMPBAC WHALE INSTITUTE TEAM IS WORKING WITH THE
COMMUNITY TO MONITOR AND IMPLEMENT THE ABROLHOS BANK IMMA -



MAKING THE LOCAL HUMAN COMMUNITY AWARE OF THE
NEEDS OF THE WHALES IN THEIR LOCAL BRAZILIAN WATERS.

ALL OF THE WORK THE IMMA TASK FORCE HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH HAS BEEN DONE TO PROTECT WHALES LIKE FROZEN AND THEIR FUTURE GENERATIONS.



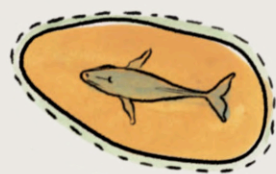
FROZEN'S CALF IS INDEPENDENT NOW, MAKING HER OWN WAY IN LIFE.

TRAVELLING BETWEEN ABROLHOS BANK AND ANTARCTICA,
SHE'LL BE RETRACING HER MOTHER'S ROUTE,

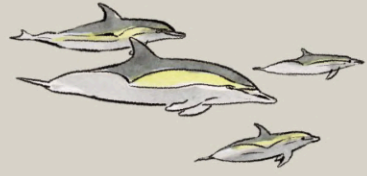
YEAR AFTER YEAR,

LIKE THE GENERATIONS BEFORE HER.

AND HOPEFULLY, IN A FEW YEARS, SHE'LL HAVE HER OWN
CALF, BETTER PROTECTED, WITH A LONG LIFE AHEAD.



Afterword



TELLING OUR STORY AND HOPING
THE WHALES WILL ONE DAY NOTICE

IN THE EARLY 2000s, SOME OF US WORKING WITH WHALES STARTED
REALIZING THAT WHALES AND DOLPHINS WERE BEING MISSED OUT WHEN
IT CAME TO PROTECTING THEIR HABITAT.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, WE WONDERED, IF WE COULD ASK THE 135
SPECIES OF MARINE MAMMALS – THE WHALES, DOLPHINS, PORPOISES,
SEALS, MANATEES, DUGONG, SEA OTTERS AND THE POLAR BEAR – TO
GIVE US DETAILS ABOUT WHERE THEY LIVED IN THE OCEAN AND WHAT
THEY NEEDED TO SURVIVE?

WE HAD TO DO THE NEXT BEST THING: ASK THE SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE
SPENT YEARS IN THE FIELD. UNCOVERING PUBLISHED AND UNPUBLISHED
DATA SOURCES, THESE FIELD SCIENTISTS HAVE MADE A START TOWARD
UNDERSTANDING HABITAT NEEDS. WE WANTED TO PUT THESE HABITATS
ON THE MAP TO GIVE WHALES AND DOLPHINS A FAIR SHOT WHEN IT
CAME TO LOOKING AFTER THEIR HOMES IN THE SEA. WE NEEDED TO
CREATE A TOOL THAT COULD INFORM ALL OCEAN USERS – FISHERS, SHIP
OWNERS, TOURISM COMPANIES, COASTAL COMMUNITIES – TO BE
CAREFUL IN THESE SPECIAL PLACES, IN EFFECT TO MAKE SPACE FOR
MARINE MAMMALS.

TWO OF US WORKING ON THIS QUICKLY BECAME THREE AND THEN IT
BECAME EIGHT WITH A SUPPORTING CAST OF HUNDREDS OF SCIENTISTS.
AND NOW WE HAVE BEEN WORKING SOLIDLY FOR ABOUT 10 YEARS, AND

THE GLOBAL OCEAN IS ACCUMULATING THESE EVIDENCE-BASED, PEER-REVIEWED TOOLS WE CALL IMPORTANT MARINE MAMMAL AREAS, OR IMMAs. THERE ARE MORE THAN 300 OF THESE IMMAs AROUND THE WORLD, COVERING ALMOST ONE FIFTH OF THE OCEAN SURFACE.

NO MATTER THE GROWING OCEAN-SPANNING EXTENT OF IMMAs, MANY PEOPLE STILL DON'T KNOW ABOUT THEM. WITH THIS IN MIND, IN EARLY 2024, I TOLD OUR STORY TO COMICS ARTIST ROZI HATHAWAY, AND SHE SAW THE POSSIBILITIES. SHE PUT IT INTO HER OWN IMAGES AND WORDS AND MADE WHAT YOU HOLD HERE IN YOUR HANDS. THINK OF IT AS THE STORYBOARD OF A NARRATIVE DOCUMENTARY FILM TELLING HOW WE GOT HERE AND WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT TO PROTECT THESE SPECIAL PLACES.

WILL THE WHALES AND OTHER MARINE MAMMALS REALIZE RESULTS FROM OUR EFFORTS? WILL THEY NOTICE THAT THEIR FAVOURITE HABITATS ARE CLEANER, QUIETER, WITH FEWER ENTANGLING NETS AND FAST-MOVING SHIPS, AND THAT THEY HAVE MORE PREY ON OFFER? THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS COULD TELL US WHETHER WE AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. PROTECTING HABITAT IS NOT THE WHOLE STORY, BUT IT COULD HINT AT WHETHER WHALES, AS WELL AS HUMANS, WILL IN FUTURE HAVE A CHANCE TO ENJOY THE LIFE-GIVING OCEAN ON OUR SHARED PLANET.



ERICH HOYT

ERICH.HOYT@ME.COM 

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Afterword

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED DRAWING AND WRITING STORIES. IF YOU'D HAVE TOLD 10-YEAR-OLD ME THAT I'D GROW UP TO BE MAKING COMICS ABOUT WHALES, I WOULD'VE LOST MY TINY MIND. ADULTS HAD NORMAL, SENSIBLE JOBS, RIGHT..?

FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS, I'VE DEDICATED MY FREE TIME TO WRITING COMICS ABOUT WHALES, AND HOW INCREDIBLE THEY ARE. I FIRST MET ERICH IN 2022 WHEN I WAS WORKING ON A SHORT COMIC ABOUT SATO'S BEAKED WHALES. HE OFFERED HIS HELP IMMEDIATELY, AND SINCE THEN WE'VE STAYED IN TOUCH TALKING WHALES, RESEARCH PAPERS, BASEBALL AND LIFE. I CHERISH OUR FRIENDSHIP, SO WHEN ERICH ASKED IF I'D WORK WITH HIM ON A PIECE ABOUT IMMAs, I IMMEDIATELY SAID YES.

COMICS ARE THE PERFECT MEDIUM FOR TALKING THROUGH COMPLEX, SCIENTIFIC IDEAS. THEY'RE ACCESSIBLE FOR ANYONE WHO CAN'T READ WALLS OF TEXT, THEY OFFER IMMEDIATE VISUAL SURROUNDINGS, AND CAN TRANSPORT YOU INTO A WORLD YOU MAY NOT KNOW EXISTED. COMICS CAN REACH MORE PEOPLE – PEOPLE WHO WOULDN'T TYPICALLY PICK UP A SCIENCE JOURNAL. AND WE NEED EVERYONE ON BOARD TO GIVE THESE INCREDIBLE ANIMALS A CHANCE.

IMMAs ARE CRUCIAL FOR WHALES. BUT THIS ISN'T THE END.

MARINE MAMMALS – AND ALL LIFE ON EARTH – NEED OUR HELP. AND THIS IS WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO. THE LATE NIGHTS, THE RESEARCH, THE ROUNDS OF EDITS. WE DO IT TO SHOW THAT EVERY SINGLE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WE CAN ALL PUSH THOSE IN POWER TO MAKE CRUCIAL CHANGE – YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A SCIENTIST OR A RESEARCHER. YOU CAN JUST BE A BIG KID WHO LOVES DRAWING.



SELF-PORTRAIT, 2022

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 ➡ ROZIHATHAWAY.COM

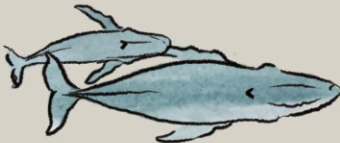


Acknowledgements

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE IMMA SECRETARIAT FOR THEIR INSPIRATION AND IDEAS. IN OCTOBER 2026, THE TASK FORCE BECAME THE IUCN IMPORTANT MARINE MAMMAL AREAS SPECIALIST GROUP IN HONOUR OF ITS ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE.

THE IMMA SECRETARIAT IS THE CORE TEAM RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- ORGANISING AND RUNNING THE IMMA WORKSHOPS
- PREPARING THE CANDIDATE IMMAs FOR REVIEW
- PUTTING THE FINAL IMMAs ON THE E-ATLAS
- ORGANIZING THE SUMMARIES AND BROCHURES FOR EACH IMMA
- HANDLING THE REQUESTS FOR THE SHAPEFILES
- FOLLOWING UP TO ANSWER THE MANY QUESTIONS THAT ARISE

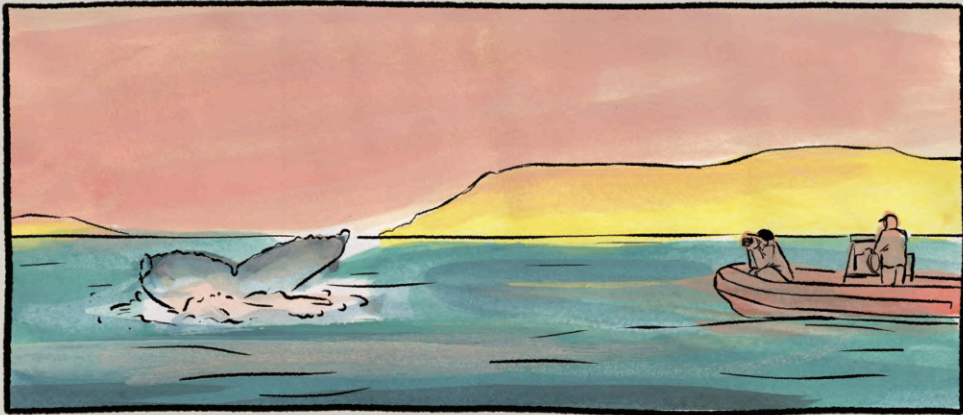


A SPECIAL THANKS GO TO JOSÉ TRUDA PALAZZO JR. AND COLLEAGUES VICTOR LIBARDI AND BIANCA RIGHI FROM THE BRAZILIAN HUMPBAC WHALE INSTITUTE – INSTITUTO BALEIA JUBARTE. BRAZILIAN RESEARCHER MILTON MARCONDES HELPED US WITH THE STORY OF THE HUMPBAC WHALE, FROZEN.

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SHORTLY BEFORE WE WENT TO PRESS, JOSÉ OFFERED TO HELP PRODUCE A PORTUGUESE VERSION FOR DISTRIBUTION IN THE VARIOUS WHALE WATCHING AND OTHER COASTAL COMMUNITIES WATCHING OVER THE IMMAs IN BRAZILIAN WATERS.



Further details

YOU CAN ACCESS THE IMMA E-ATLAS BY
SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW:



OR, VISIT [HTTPS://MARINEMAMMALHABITAT.ORG/IMMA-EATLAS](https://marinemammalhabitat.org/imma-eatlas)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT IMMAs:
[HTTPS://MARINEMAMMALHABITAT.ORG/](https://marinemammalhabitat.org/)



FUTURE MOVEMENTS AND SIGHTINGS OF FROZEN CAN BE
FOLLOWED BY SEARCHING FOR FROZEN ON [HAPPYWHALE.COM](https://happywhale.com)



WHALES AND THEIR HOMES NEED MORE PROTECTION.
LIKE FROZEN – A HUMPBACK LEFT PERMANENTLY
SCARRED AFTER SURVIVING A SHIP STRIKE.

BUT WHERE IN THE OCEAN NEEDS PROTECTING?
HOW CAN WE MAKE LASTING, EFFECTIVE CHANGE?

IN 2013, A SPECIAL TASK FORCE WAS SET UP TO
ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM. BEFORE LONG, HUNDREDS
OF SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS JOINED TO HELP.

IN AN INCREDIBLE FEAT OF TEAMWORK, THE
IMPORTANT MARINE MAMMAL AREA (IMMA) E-ATLAS
WAS CREATED TO DRIVE CHANGE.

HERE IS THE STORY OF HOW THIS CAME TO BE – AND
HOW WE CAN ALL USE IT TO MAKE A HEALTHIER
OCEAN FOR WHALES AND HUMANS.