



Fin Whale

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Recently, **Japan** has expanded its commercial whaling to include **fin whales**, one of the largest animal species on the Earth.

- Japan also withdrew from the [International Whaling Commission \(IWC\)](#) and resumed commercial whale hunting in July 2019.
- **Fin Whale:**
- **Scientific Name:** *Balaenoptera physalus*.
- **IUCN Red List status:** Endangered (2018-2021 assessments).
- **Potential Threats: Commercial Whaling**, Large Commercial Vessels, Shipping Noise And Disturbance, [Seismic Activities](#), Pollution ([Persistent Organic Pollutants](#)), and [Changes in Climate](#) and [Ocean Acidification](#).
 - Japan, one of only three countries that hunt whales commercially (along with **Norway and Iceland**).
- **Whale Conservation Efforts:**
- The [Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary](#) is an area of 50 million sq km surrounding the entire continent of [Antarctica](#) where the **IWC** has banned all types of commercial whaling.
- Despite a ban on all whaling in the **Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary, Japan's Whale Research Program** continues to hunt **Minke whales** in the Sanctuary.

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