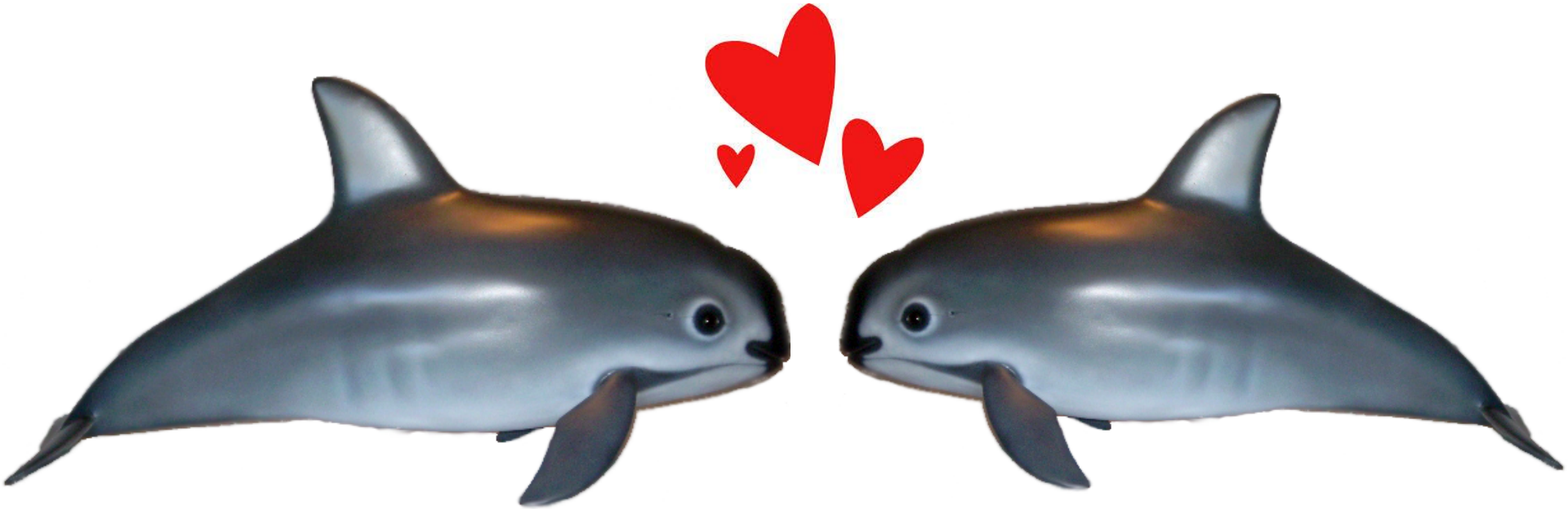


Vaquita Porpoise

Emily, Brenda, Josh, Mykaela, Alex, Mikayla



What is Bycatch?

Hint:



A common term in fishing.

What do you think it means?

What is Bycatch?

Vaquitas are constantly caught as ***bycatch*** in fishermen's nets.



What is the Vaquita Porpoise?

- The smallest Cetacean in the world
- Lives near the shores of the Gulf of Mexico
- About 4-5ft. in length
- Weigh around 90-120lbs
- Lifespan is up to 21 years
- Has black rings around its eyes and black lips



Vaquita Life

- They are very shy creatures
- They live in shallow waters
- Eat small fish and little squids
- Travel alone or in small groups



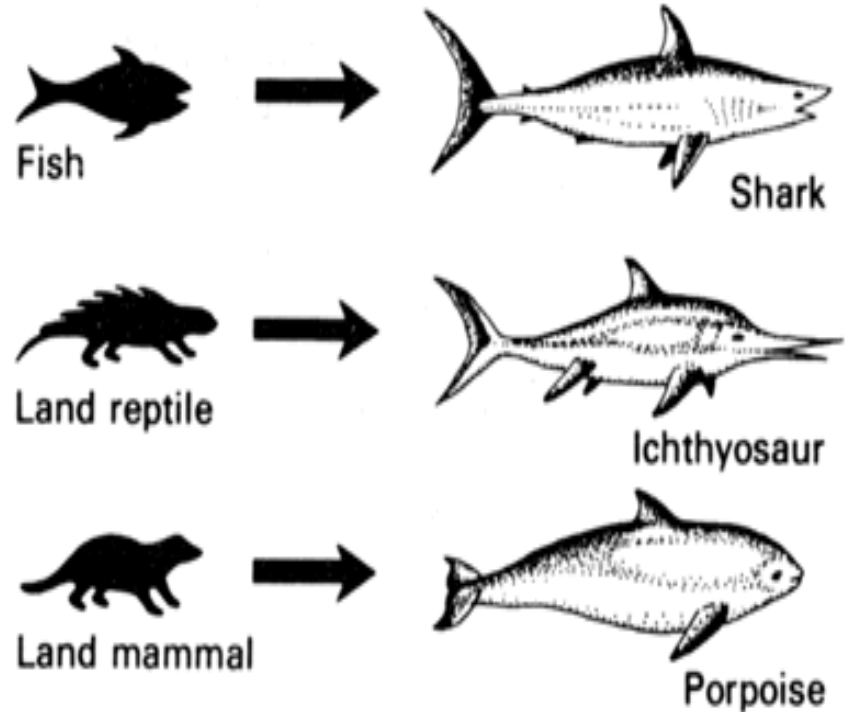
What is Biological Complexity?

- However complex an organism is
- Evolution effects biological complexity overall
- Low and High complexity are good



What is Evolution?

- Changing to the surrounding environment
- Small modifications at the genetic level
- Also known as Natural Selection
- Physical evolution takes a long time

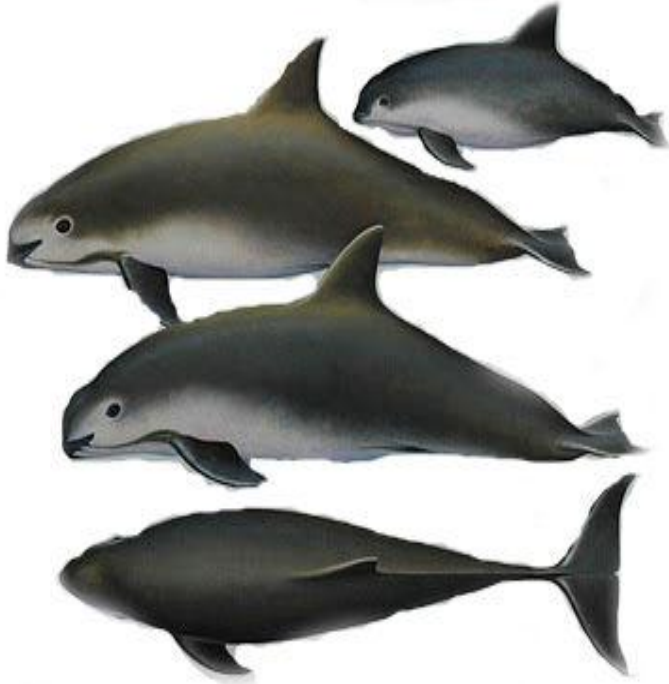


Evolution: Where did the Vaquita start? How is it related to other porpoises?

- Used to live south of Peru about 2.5 million years ago.
- Believed to have Evolved from The Burmeister Porpoise



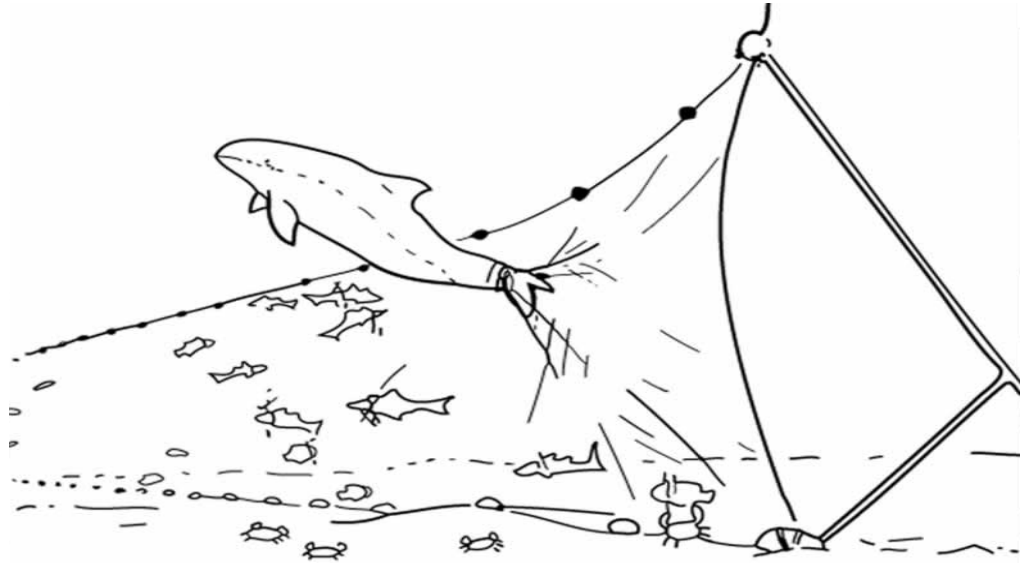
Evolution: How has evolution affected specific traits of the Vaquita? How did it adapt?



- Only porpoise adapted to living in warm water.
- Most porpoises: 68°F water
- Vaquitas live in water as warm as 57°F-97°F.

Threats to the Vaquita

- Fisheries bycatch
- Habitat loss
- Pesticide pollution
- Natural factors



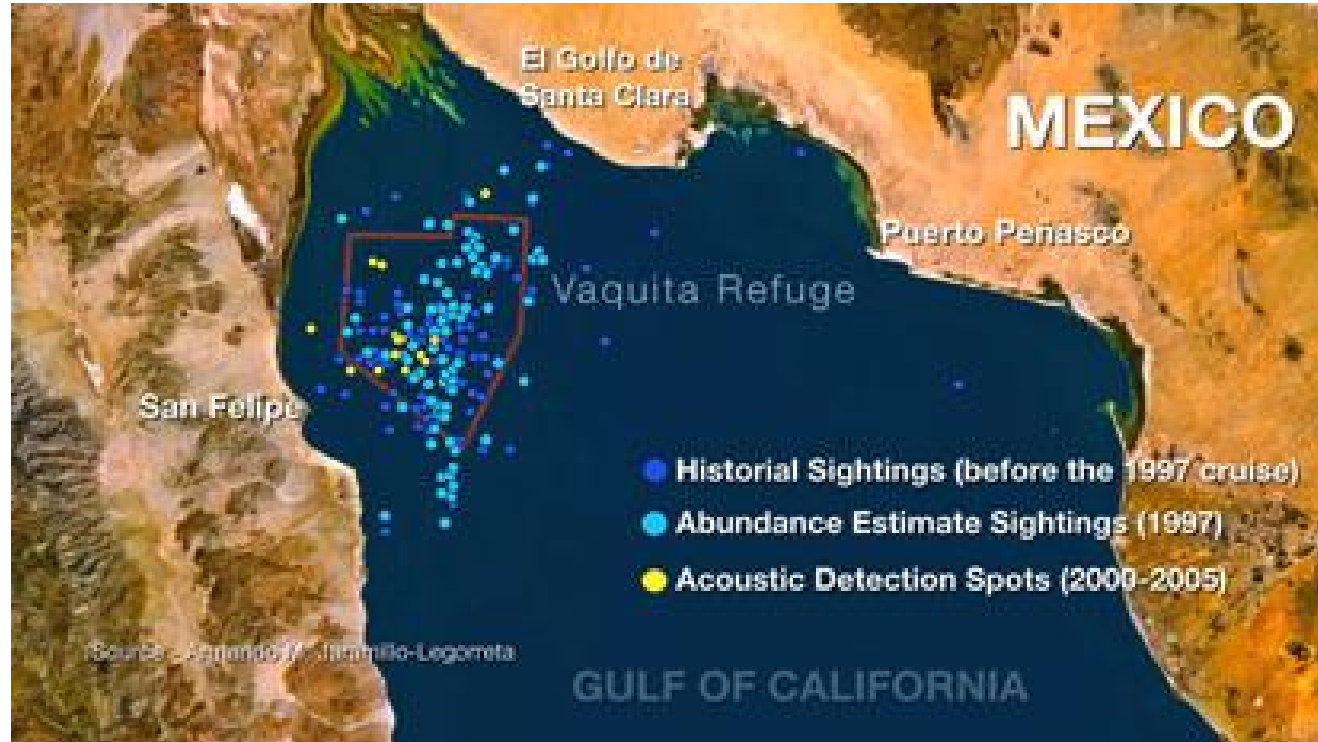
Why is the Vaquita Endangered?

- Endangered since 1986
- Less than 200 left
- 40 Vaquitas die of bycatch per year



Vaquita Habitat

Red: Zone where net fishing is not allowed.



Why do we **NEED** to save the vaquita?

- Warning
- Biodiversity
- Values



History of Conservation Efforts

- International Committee for the Recovery of the Vaquita
- Refuge in San Felipe
- Mexico established new conservation efforts in 2012
- \$30 million for fishermen to find other ways to fish



Conservation Plan

- *What is conservation?*
- Eliminate gill nets
- Keep our ocean & beaches clean
- Reduce uses of pesticides that drains to the ocean

How YOU Can Help

- Buy seafood MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) certified
- Tell your friends and family!



Marine Stewardship Council
Certified sustainable seafood

Activity

Now we will conduct an
activity so that you can
help the Vaquita!

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