

## Over-fishing



# Reducing the impact of over-fishing



Over-fishing has led to the stocks of some fish, such as cod, plaice and sole, becoming dangerously low.

In Europe, the amount of fish that can be caught each year is now restricted by the European Union Fisheries Council.

As a result, the number of 'farmed' fish (those raised in enclosures or tanks) is increasing.

However, many farmed fish are given antibiotics and chemical additives to keep them healthy.



Whale-watching trips are very popular with tourists, but some species are becoming harder to find.



What has caused their numbers to decline?



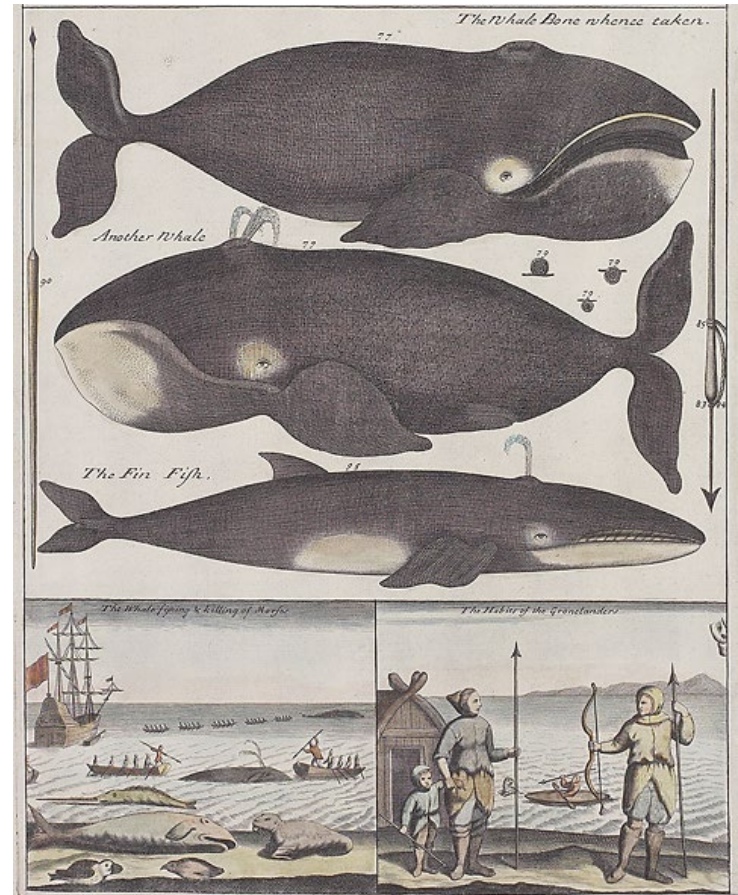


# The over-hunting of whales

Whales used to be hunted by the thousands, causing many species to become endangered.

In 1986, The International Whaling Commission banned commercial whaling to protect species that had become endangered.

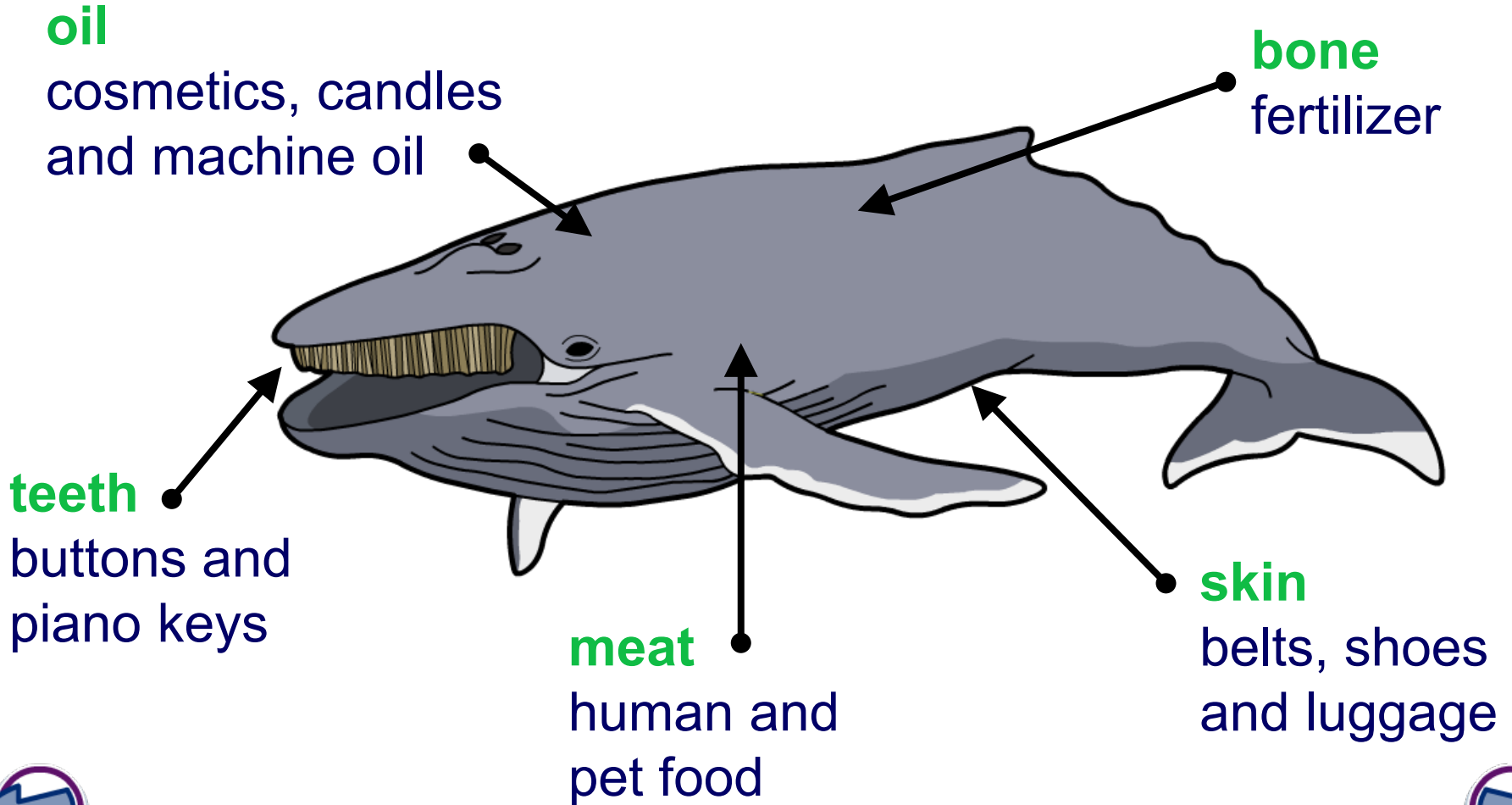
Indigenous people in Greenland and Alaska are still allowed to hunt whales as their lives depend on them for food.



Why were so many whales hunted?

# A valuable resource?

Before crude oil and plastics were available, whales were a major source of raw materials for many countries.



Despite the whaling ban, some countries continue to hunt hundreds of whales every year.



Japan and Iceland say they hunt whales for 'scientific research', and Norway refuses to accept the ban.

Scientists often study live whales to learn more about how they communicate and survive at extreme depths.

Killing whales for scientific purposes is often criticized as a smoke-screen for carrying out commercial whaling.





**Phytoplankton** are single-celled plants that grow in nutrient-rich coastal areas. They are eaten by **krill**, a tiny shrimp. Krill are the main food source for many sea creatures, including fish and whales.



Whales catch krill and small fish using a special filter in their mouth.

Are countries justified in claiming whales need to be killed to protect fish stocks?

