

Elephant seal: lessons about species hunted to extinction



Early extinctions: relentless hunting of easy prey

Great auk, extinct 1844

Largest north Atlantic seabird



Early extinctions: relentless hunting of easy prey

Caribbean monk seal, extinct 1952

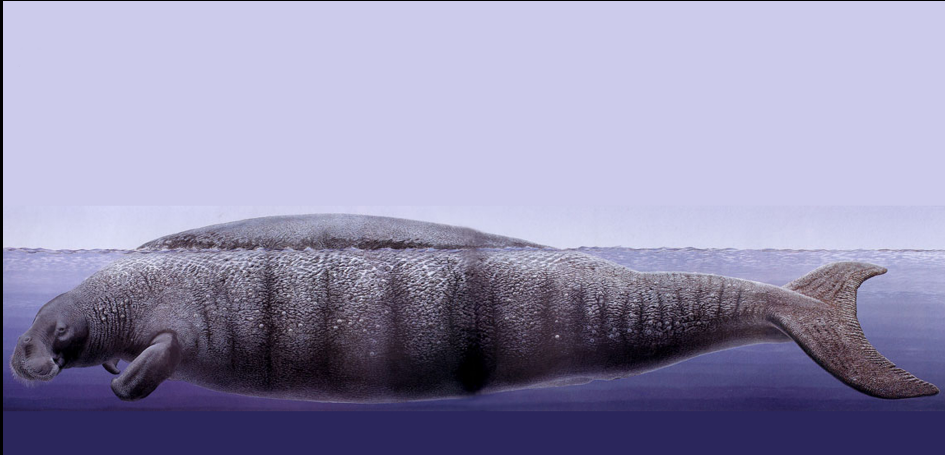
Only Caribbean seal



Early extinctions: relentless hunting of easy prey

Steller's sea cow, extinct 1768

A giant, the only arctic manatee





Commander Is.

Elephant seal breeding colonies







Hunted for oil to near-extinction by 1865

1865-1880: few seen at Guadalupe I., always killed



Hunted for oil to near-extinction by 1865

1880: colony discovered mainland Baja, all 300+ killed by 1884



Hunted for oil to near-extinction by 1865

1883: 80 seen at Guadalupe, all killed



Hunted for oil to near-extinction by 1865

1892: 9 seen at Guadalupe, 7 collected for scientific specimens

1904: 4 at Guadalupe, all collected for museums



Hunted for oil to near-extinction by 1865

1907: 40 at Guadalupe, 14 killed for specimens

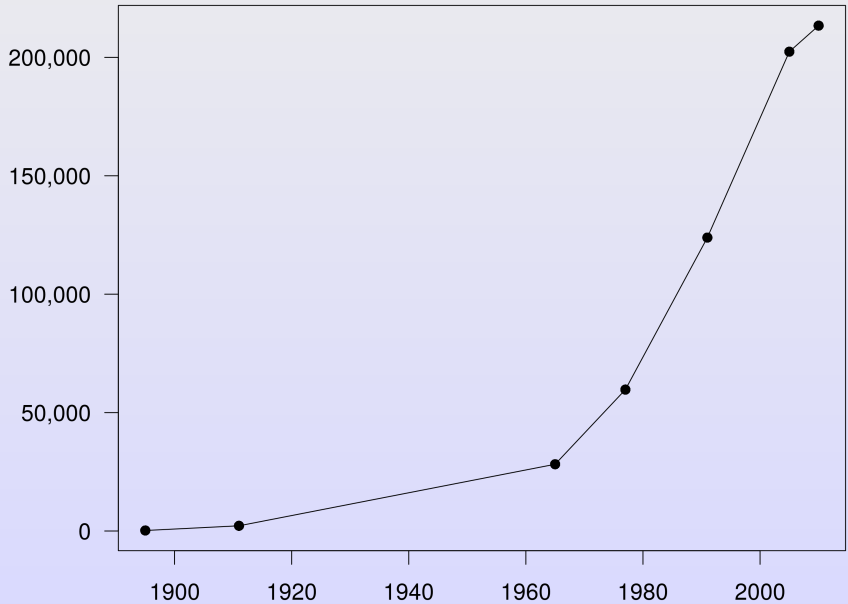
1911: 125 at Guadalupe, 10 killed



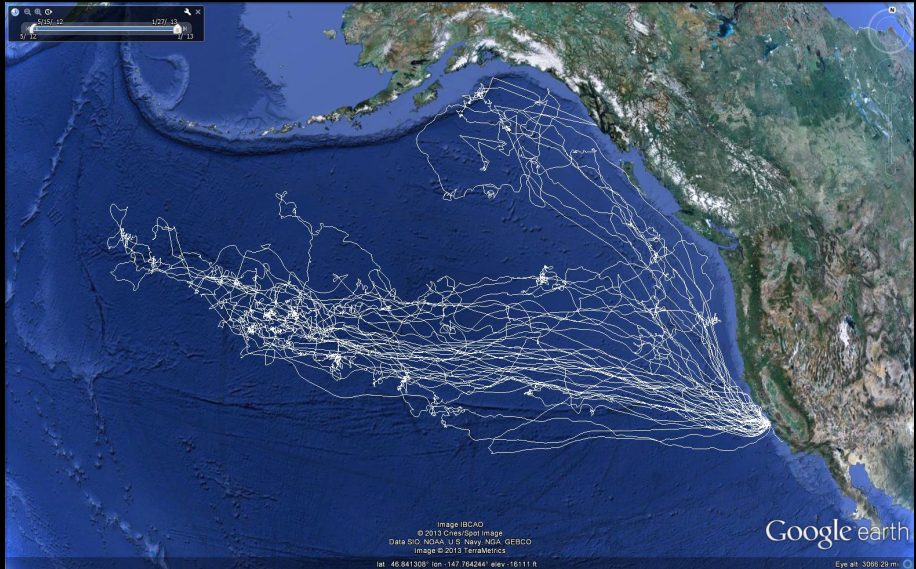
Hunted for oil to near-extinction by 1865

1922: 264 counted, Mexico declared Guadalupe a reserve

Elephant seal population recovery



Elephant seal feeding migration



Species subject to unlimited hunting yet not exterminated

California gray whale (recovered)



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Bowhead, blue, fin, humpback (very slow recoveries)

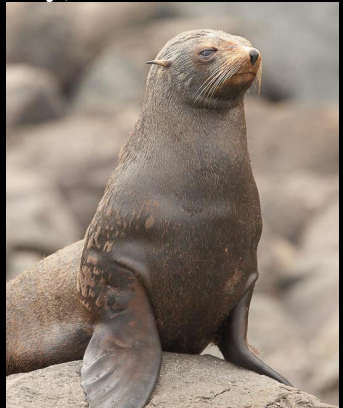


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California gray whale (recovered)

Bowhead, blue, fin, humpback (very slow recoveries)

Guadalupe fur seal (very slow recovery)



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N. Atlantic right whale (not recovering)



Species subject to unlimited hunting yet not exterminated

California gray whale (recovered)

Bowhead, blue, fin, humpback (very slow recoveries)

Guadalupe fur seal (very slow recovery)

N. Atlantic right whale (not recovering)

Hawaiian, Mediterranean monk seals (not recovering)



Species subject to unlimited hunting yet not exterminated

Ducks (recovered)

Hérons (recovered)



Hunting is not the primary cause
Far higher human populations
So much habitat loss



On the other hand
Legal and ethical advances
Captive breeding
Genetics

