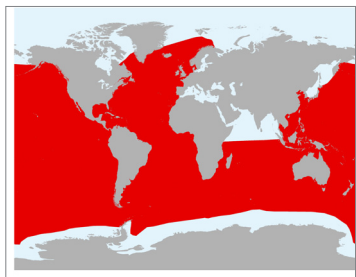




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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Sei Whale

The **Sei Whale**, *Balaenoptera borealis*, is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. The third largest whale after the Blue Whale and the Fin Whale, this oceanic giant has a long, slender, streamlined body. It is found in temperate waters of all oceans, feeding on zooplankton, schooling fish and sometimes even squid.

Although initially not a target of the whaling industry, the Sei Whale began to be exploited heavily only after the Blue, Fin and Humpback Whale stocks had been depleted. It was relentlessly hunted from the late 1950s to the mid-1970s, causing most stocks to crash. Such exploitation had ceased by the time the international moratorium on commercial whaling came into effect in 1986 although, since 2004, Japan has taken 100 Sei Whales annually under a self-awarded scientific permit.

There has been very little research effort to assess the status of Sei Whales in all major oceans and there is evidence that some populations have not recovered.

www.iucnredlist.org
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