



**JOIN US IN DEFENDING
ENDANGERED SPECIES,
INCLUDING 50 REMAINING
RICE'S WHALES, THE WORLD'S
MOST ENDANGERED WHALE**



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About the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act:

For over 50 years, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) have been cornerstone laws of ocean conservation in the United States. Both laws were passed in response to overwhelming public support.



The landmark MMPA law has safeguarded dolphins, whales, porpoises, manatees, seals, sea lions, otters and polar bears. Thanks to the MMPA, not a single marine mammal species has gone extinct in U.S. waters, despite increasing ocean use. It has also helped keep our oceans healthy and created the world's largest wildlife-watching industry.



Equally as important is the ESA. The ESA protects 743 endangered animals from Snails to Blue Whales! Thanks to the ESA, this law has prevented the extinction of 99% of listed species, helping save icons like the bald eagle and grizzly bear in the United States. The ESA protects not only species but also millions of acres of habitat: forests, beaches, rivers, and wetlands that species rely on to survive and recover.

What is happening to the MMPA and ESA?

In January 2025, the Trump administration began attacking the Endangered Species Act in unprecedented ways since the passage of our nation's landmark conservation law.

In July 2025, Congressman Nick Begich (R-AK) introduced a draft amendment to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). This amendment prioritizes oil, gas, and industrial fishing interests over the health of our oceans and the survival of marine mammals. It would undo the very protections that have made the MMPA one of the most successful conservation laws in history.



Why defend the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act?

The Marine Mammal Protection Act has proven to be one of the most successful conservation laws in history. And at this time of increased threats to marine mammals, the MMPA is critical to their survival.

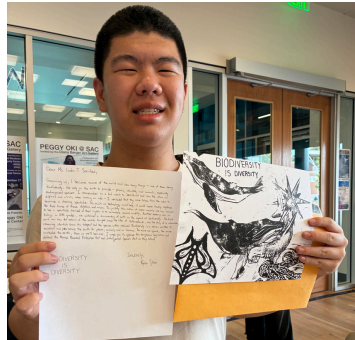
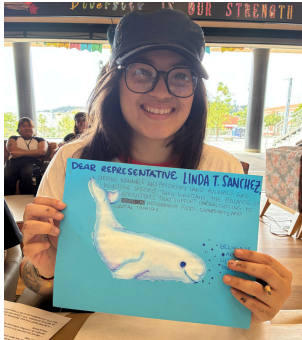
Between 80% and 90% of people in the U.S. strongly support the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This landmark piece of federal legislation, which protects threatened and endangered wildlife, fish, plants, and their habitats, has been “credited with saving 99% of listed species from extinction



ACT NOW to stop the attack on marine mammals and endangered species!

If you live in the United States:

Send a handwritten letter to your member of Congress and both Senators because it's one of the most powerful and personal ways to make your voice heard. We strongly advocate for the inclusion of creative expression to help your message resonate on a deeper level. Handwritten letters stand out, they show thought, care, and genuine concern, making them more likely to catch the attention of decision-makers.



- 1** Find your favorite Endangered Species to create from. You can find a [list here](#).
- 2** Create a piece of artwork with your letter. Whether it's a drawing, painting, photograph, poem, or digital creation, art has a unique ability to move people and communicate what words alone sometimes can't.
- 3** Find Suggested talking points to include in your letter [here](#).
- 4^a** Write to your US Congressperson: The first attack by the current administration's Endangered Species Committee (aka "The God Squad") was to exempt all protections of the ESA in the Gulf of Mexico.

If allowed to proceed, the Endangered Species Committee will not stop there. All coastal habitat under US jurisdiction must be protected from oil & gas and minerals extraction industries. Please co-sponsor H.R. 8919 - To nullify the decision and order of the Endangered Species Committee with respect to certain oil and gas activities, and for other purposes.

- 4^b** Write to your two US Senators: Please support the letter written by Ranking Senate Member Sheldon Whitehouse, signed additionally by 26 members (see below) of the US Senate, requesting immediate withdrawal of the Endangered Species Committee (aka God Squad) exemption, in addition to documents and information related to the decision to exempt Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections in the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition to Ranking Member Whitehouse, the letter was signed by Senators Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Chris Coons (D-DE), Ruben Gallego (D-AZ), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Mark Kelly (D-AZ), Andy Kim (D-NJ), Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Ed Markey (D-MA), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Patty Murray (D-WA), Alex Padilla (D-CA), Jack Reed (D-RI), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Adam Schiff (D-CA), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Ron Wyden (D-OR).

If your Senator (there will be two for your district) signed Ranking Member Whitehouse's letter, let's show our support with a note thanking them for this and urging them to continue protecting marine mammals and all endangered species.

-  It's important to strongly urge your U.S. Congressperson and both Senators to oppose amendments that would weaken the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act. Please ensure that both laws, 50 years of standing will remain intact.
-  If parental permission is granted, please email photos of your students' art & letters (be sure to conceal any last name & address information) to us so that we can share to inspire others! Email to: teamcetacean@gmail.com
-  Mail your messages individually, including your name and return address, as soon as possible to your U.S. Representative (Congressperson). You can find your representative [here](#).

**Thank you for making a
difference to defend
endangered species!**

