

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910784417803321
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Titolo	Whales, whaling, and ocean ecosystems // edited by James A. Estes [et al.]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, Calif. ; ; London : , : University of California Press, , 2006 ©2006
ISBN	0-520-93419-9 1-281-75246-0 9786611752460 0-520-93320-6 1-4337-0132-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xvi, 402 pages) : illustrations, maps
Collana	California World History Library
Altri autori (Persone)	EstesJ. A <1945-> (James A.)
Disciplina	333.9595
Soggetti	Whaling - Environmental aspects Marine ecology Whales - Ecology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- List Of Contributors -- List Of Tables -- List Of Figures -- Preface -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Whales, Interaction Webs, And Zero-Sum Ecology -- 3. Lessons From Land Present And Past Signs Of Ecological Decay And The Overture To Earth's Sixth Mass Extinction -- 4. When Ecological Pyramids Were Upside Down -- 5. Pelagic Ecosystem Response To A Century Of Commercial Fishing And Whaling -- 6 Evidence For Bottom-Up Control Of Upper-Trophic-Level Marine Populations Is It Scale-Dependent? -- 7. Evolutionary Patterns In Cetacea Fishing Up Prey Size Through Deep Time -- 8. A Taxonomy Of World Whaling Operations And Eras -- 9. The History Of Whales Read From DNA -- 10. Changes In Marine Mammal Biomass In The Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands Region Before And After The Period Of Commercial Whaling -- 11. Industrial Whaling In The North Pacific Ocean 1952-1978 Spatial Patterns Of Harvest And Decline -- 12. Worldwide Distribution And Abundance Of Killer Whales -- 13. The Natural History And Ecology Of Killer Whales -- 14. Killer Whales As

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### Sommario/riassunto

This unprecedented volume presents a sweeping picture of what we know about the natural history, biology, and ecology of whales in the broad context of the dynamics of ocean ecosystems. Innovative and comprehensive, the volume encompasses multiple points of view to consider the total ecological impact of industrial whaling on the world's oceans. Combining empirical research, ecological theory and modeling, and historical data, its chapters present perspectives from ecology, population biology, physiology, genetics, evolutionary history, ocean biogeography, economics, culture, and law, among other disciplines. Throughout, contributors investigate how whaling fundamentally disrupted ocean ecosystems, examine the various roles whales play in food webs, and discuss the continuing ecological chain reactions to the depletion of these large animals. In addition to reviewing what is known of the current and historic whale populations, *Whales, Whaling, and Ocean Ecosystems* considers how this knowledge will bear on scientific approaches to conservation and whaling in the future and provocatively asks whether it is possible to restore ocean ecosystems to their pre-whaling condition.

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