

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910796806503321
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Titolo	Vaquita : science, politics, and crime in the Sea of Cortez // Brooke Bessesen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington District of Columbia ; ; Covelo ; ; London : , : Island Press, , [2018] ©2018
ISBN	1-61091-932-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (317 pages)
Disciplina	333.9522
Soggetti	Wildlife conservation - Mexico - California, Gulf of Wildlife conservation - Economic aspects - Mexico - California, Gulf of Wildlife conservation - Social aspects - Mexico - California, Gulf of NATURE / Animals / Marine Life NATURE / Endangered Species NATURE / Environmental Conservation & Protection Totoaba fisheries - Mexico - California, Gulf of Rare mammals - Mexico - California, Gulf of Poaching - Mexico - California, Gulf of Phocoena sinus - Conservation - Social aspects Phocoena sinus - Conservation - Economic aspects Endangered species - Mexico - California, Gulf of Endangered ecosystems - Mexico - California, Gulf of Phocoena sinus California, Gulf of (Mexico) Commerce California, Gulf of (Mexico) Environmental conditions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"Foreword by Carl Safina"--Dust jacket.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 265-283) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Foreword -- "Goodbye Baiji" -- Prologue -- The dead girl -- Resource extraction -- Chasing a myth -- Tangled agendas -- Death, drugs, and accountability -- Pirates on patrol -- Searching for Vaquita -- Hearing is believing -- Science in the sea -- Witnessing extinction -- Saving Bigfoot -- Sending out an SOS -- Meet the totoaba -- Last-ditch effort

-- Hope is a life raft (with a persistent leak) -- Epilogue.

Sommario/riassunto

"In 2006, the last of China's Yangtze river dolphins--baiji--succumbed to extinction, and la vaquita marina, a diminutive porpoise endemic to the Upper Gulf of California, quietly and without fanfare inherited the title of world's most endangered marine mammal. Unlike many other critically endangered species, the vaquita is not hunted. Nor is its habitat disappearing or degraded. The species is even protected by law. Why then have its numbers plummeted to near extinction when few humans have seen it live in the wild? The answer lies in a shadowy mix of international cartels, fishermen entrapped by politics and culture, and an unlikely fish called the totoaba. In this haunting story, Brooke Bessesen sets out to Mexico's Upper Gulf region to untangle the intricacies of the biology, acoustical science, and international intrigues behind the vaquita's decline. She interviews townspeople, fishermen, politicians, scientists, and activists, teasing apart a complex story filled with villains and heroes, a story whose outcome is unclear. When diplomatic and political efforts to save the little porpoise fail, Bessesen follows a team of veterinary experts in a binational effort to capture the last remaining vaquitas and breed them in captivity--the best hope for their survival"--
