

## In desperate need of help:

The Vaquita is the rarest marine mammal in the world with an estimate of 10 individuals remaining. This species' population has been significantly decreased due to the persistent use of illegal gillnets within the Vaquita's territory. Vaquitas get caught in the gillnets and drown, drastically decreasing their population.

### At a Glance:

**Lifespan:** 21 years

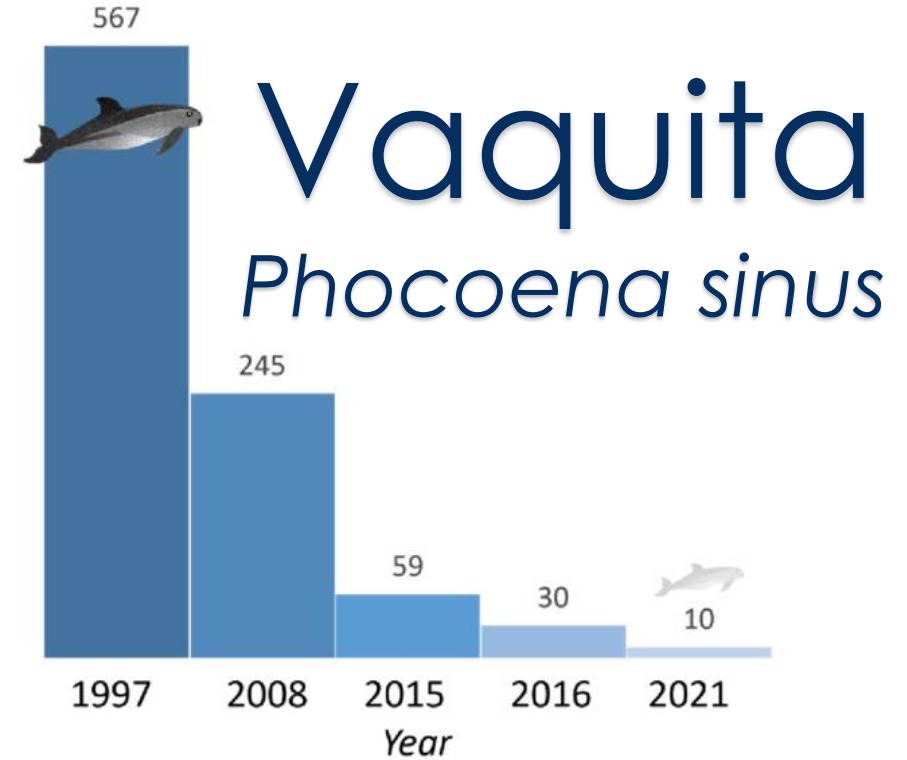
**Size:** Up to 5 feet in length  
Up to 120 pounds

**Habitat:** Only found in Northern Gulf of California

**Population:** Estimated 10 individuals

**Status:** Critically Endangered

Vaquita population over time



The home of vaquitas

Gulf of California

Mexico

ocean

### How you can help:

Share this information and make the Vaquita's decline aware

Sign a petition to increase conservation efforts

Buy sustainable seafood

Support the Gulf of California to make it a tourist destination and discourage the fishing market

Donate to Vaquita conservation efforts

- ▶ The intended audience is guests visiting an aquarium or marine biology facility. The purpose is to educate guests on a species that can not be held in captivity but needs public awareness and support. By sharing information about the Vaquita, there is a better chance at protecting the species and improving its chances for survival. This is a species that is most likely unheard of by most people due to its minimal population size, which is why it is important to bring its existence to people's attention.

## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

- ▶ Vaquita Graph: Vaquita population estimates over time (based on information from Crosta and others, 2018, and Rojas and Bracho, 2021)
- ▶ Henry L. 2023. Vaquita | Species | WWF. World Wildlife Fund. <https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/vaquita>.
- ▶ Vaquita | What You Can Do to Help The Vaquita — Porpoise Conservation Society. 2017. Porpoise Conservation Society. <https://porpoise.org/knowledge-base/can-save-vaquita-porpoise/>.
- ▶ Map Image: Generation O. 2023 Jul 25. Facts about the vaquita: The most endangered marine mammal in the world. Ocean Generation. <https://oceangeneration.org/facts-about-vaquitas/>.
- ▶ Vaquita Image: Magazine S, Gamillo E. 2022 May 11. The Population of Vaquita Porpoises Has Dwindled to Ten, but a Rebound Isn't Out of the Question. Smithsonian Magazine. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/population-vaquita-porpoises-has-dwindled-to-ten-but-rebound-isnt-out-of-question-180980068/>.

## CITATIONS