

The Endangerment of Right Whales

Story by Riley Swint, Lily Bailen, Abigail Lerou

Do you care about the ocean's ecosystem?

HELP SAVE THE RIGHT WHALES! The habitat of Right Whales are changing due to climate change causing them to become endangered and migrate to Cape Cod Bay during the past few years. This impacts our community because it interferes with the fishing industry and impacts the ecosystem of the ocean.

Right Whales, a popular species of whales, is now becoming endangered due to multiple reasons. Right Whales' prey is Calanus (type of crustacean) and climate change is causing the prey to move down south, causing the whales to move with them. According to Chris Vaccaro, a NOAA fisheries biologist, one thing that scientists have done to fix this issue is to set up conservation masses, but these are useless when the whales are changing their habitat. A conservation mass is a zone that is made to protect these whales from danger while migrating. Without these conservation masses, whales are more likely to be struck by ships and get entangled in fishing gear.

This is a very serious problem in our community, but if we all work together to solve it we could help save the Right Whales. If the ocean's



ecosystem begins to fall apart, we would not be able to enjoy the beach anymore. Some ways to solve this problem is to constrict where the fishing boats can go and where they can fish. We can also solve this by being cautious while on vacation in Cape Cod. When going in boats and fishing, we can make sure to clean up after ourselves and not leave behind fishing nets or trash that the whales could possibly get entangled in.

