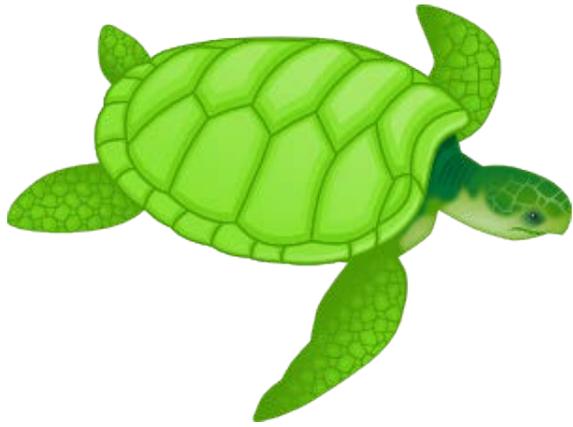


Grade 3 Unit 5

Why Humpback Whales Migrate from Alaska to Hawaii

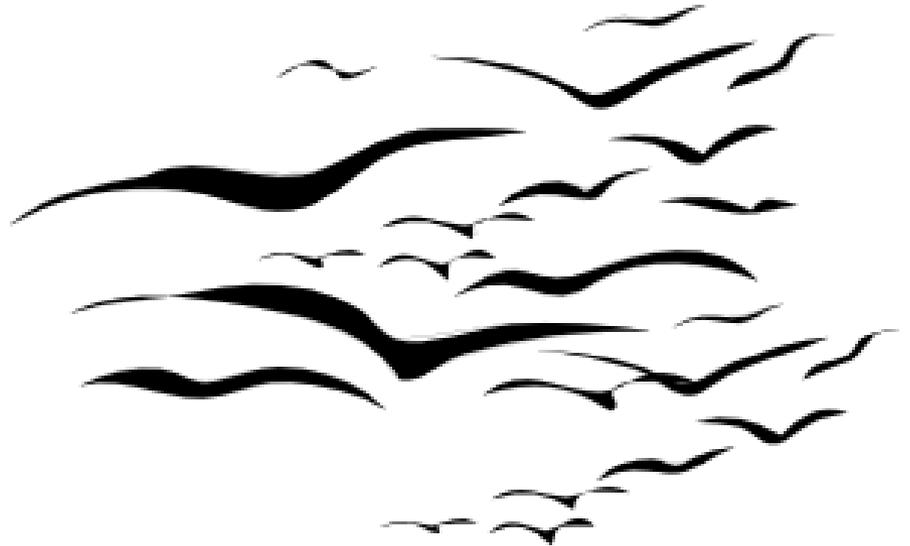


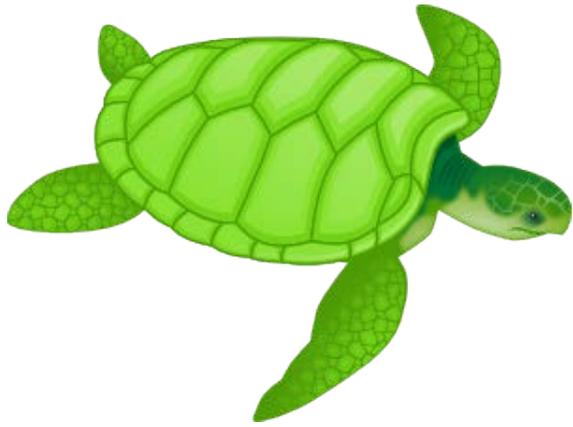
“A Whale of a Tale”



What is migration?

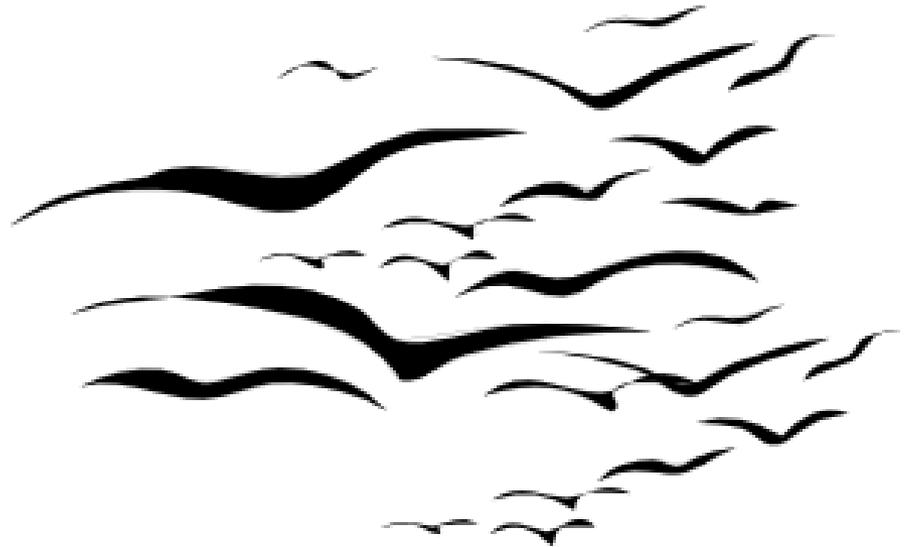
The seasonal movement of a complete population of animals from one area to another.





What is migration?

Migration is usually a response to changes in temperature or food supply and is often undertaken for the purpose of breeding.



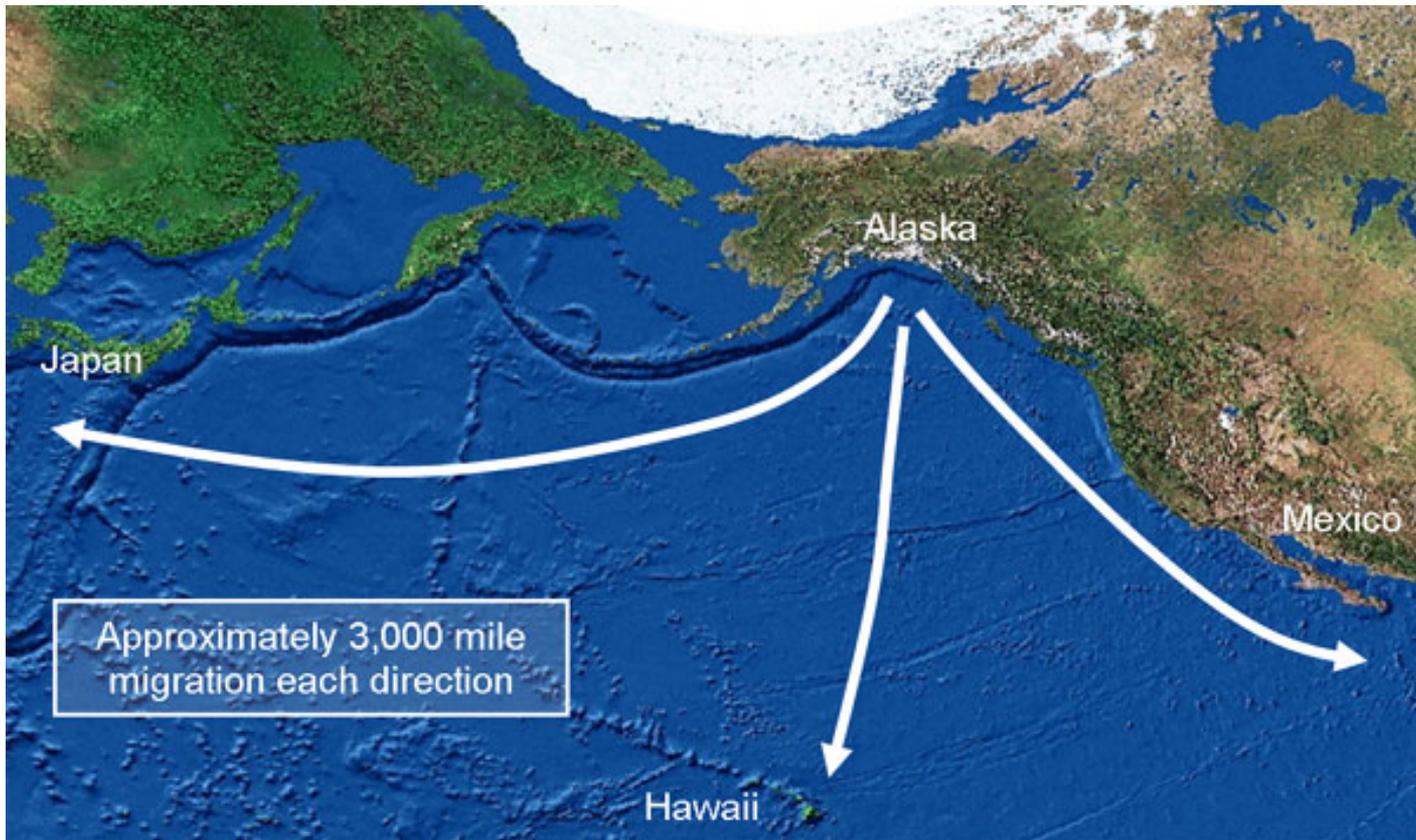


Photo: NOAA Juneau Humpback Whale Web-Catalog

Humpback whales are migratory animals, traveling up to 3,000 miles from their feeding grounds in the cold waters of the Polar regions, to their breeding grounds in the warmer waters of tropical regions.

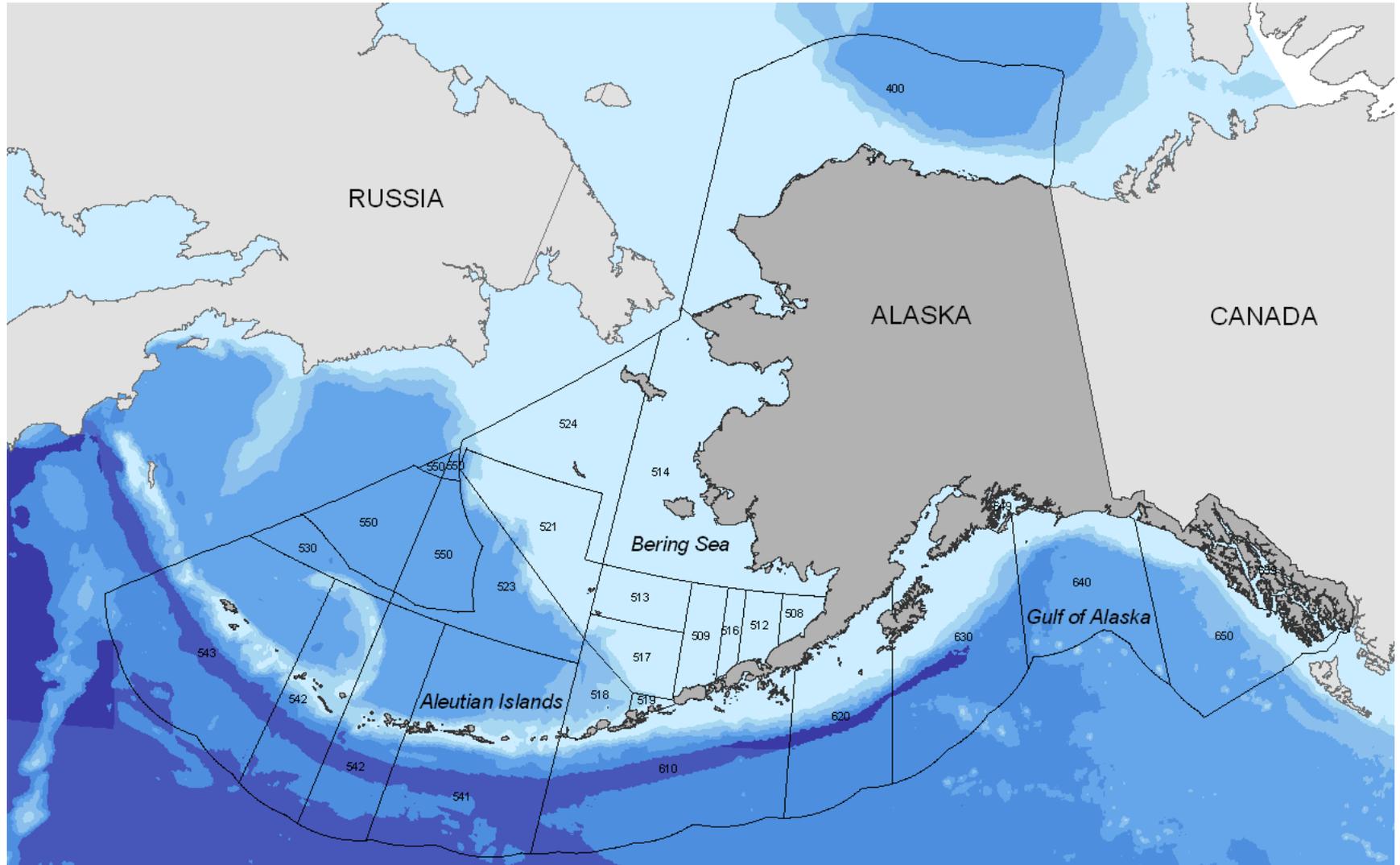
When do humpback whales migrate?



Humpbacks follow a general seasonal pattern of migration.



During the **summer season** in the Northern Pacific Ocean, humpbacks can be found in their feeding grounds in the waters of British Columbia, Alaska and eastern Russia.



Due to the mild weather during the **summer season** these Polar areas produce an abundance of food including krill, plankton, and small fish for the whales to feed on.



“Humpback whale feeding — straining water out to trap krill in baleen.” Photo by Commander Richard Behn, NOAA

Question and Answer Time

1.) What is migration?



Question and Answer Time

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Answer: The seasonal movement of a complete population of animals from one area to another.



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2.) Where do humpbacks migrate for the summer season?

- a.) Australia
- b.) Polar region
- c.) Tropical region
- D.) None of these



Question and Answer Time

1.) What is migration?

Answer: The seasonal movement of a complete population of animals from one area to another.

2.) Where do humpbacks migrate for the summer season?

a.) Australia

b.) Polar region

c.) Tropical region

D.) None of these

Answer: b.) Polar regions like Alaska, British Columbia and Russia.



Question and Answer Time

3.) Why do the humpback whales spend the summer season in the Polar regions?



Question and Answer Time

3.) Why do the humpback whales spend the summer season in the Polar regions?

Answer: Due to the mild weather during the summer season the Polar regions produce an abundance of food including krill, plankton, and small fish for the whales to feed on.



Here comes the *COLD!!!!*



When the **winter months** set-in the waters of the Polar regions become too cold and harsh causing the humpbacks food source to become scarce.



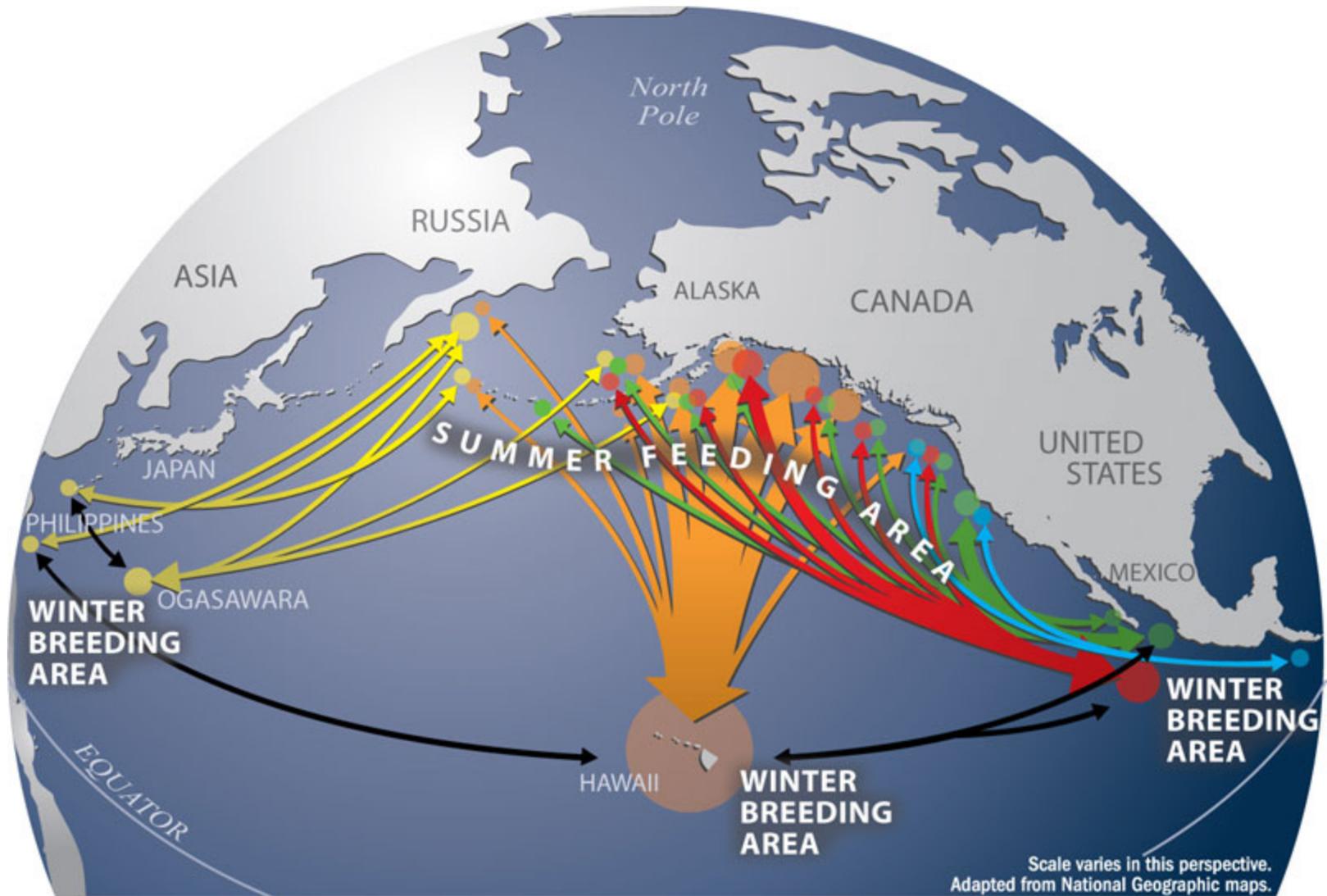
Humpbacks then travel to the warm protected waters of the tropics during these harsh **winter months.**



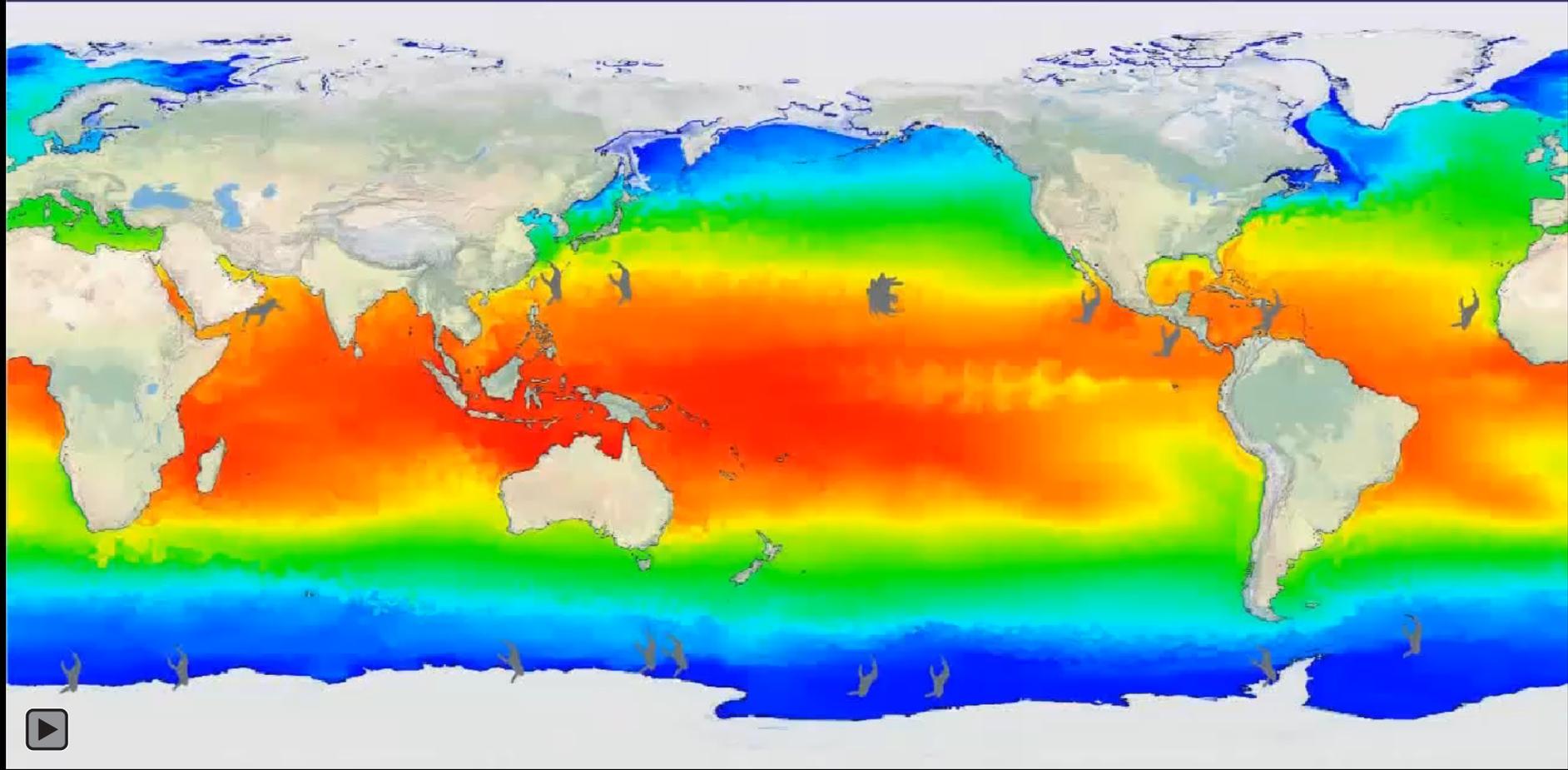


Tropical waters tend to have much less food available to the whales. The main reason humpbacks travel to these warmer locations is not to feed, but to begin the breeding process.

Humpback whale breeding grounds can be found in Hawaii, Central America, Mexico or Asia.



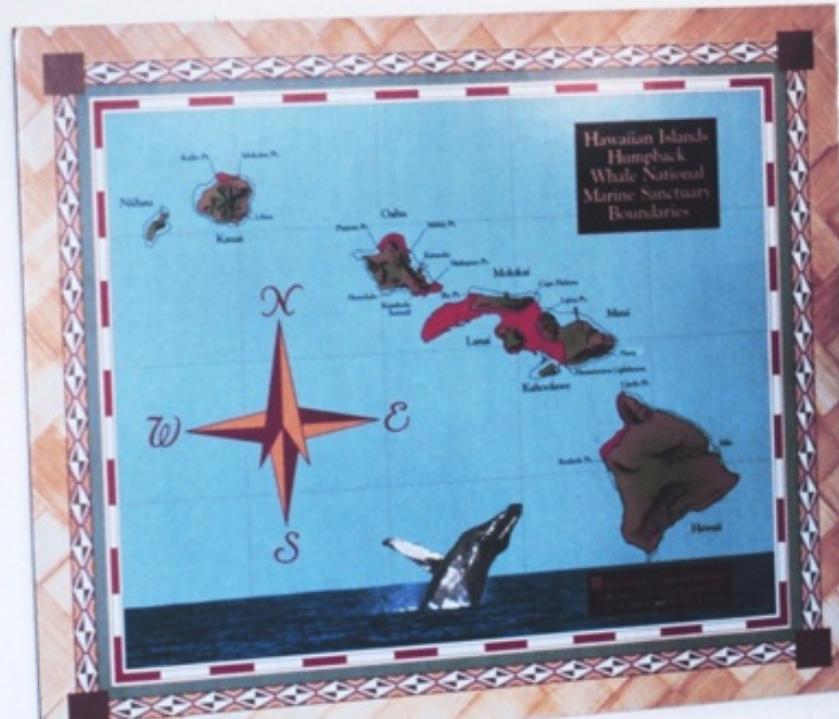
Watch the whales migrate



SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE
COOLER WARMER



Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY



While humpbacks are found in all regions of the ocean both in the northern and southern hemispheres, the Hawaiian Islands support the only National Marine Sanctuary for humpback whales.

Question and Answer Time

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Answer: The main reason humpbacks travel to warmer tropical locations is not to feed, but to begin the breeding process.

For additional information on the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, visit:

<http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/>

