

FADE IN:

PACIFIC LIFE - DEDICATION SPOT

A small frame video of Roger Payne (below him is written: Roger Payne, PhD, Pioneer whale researcher) then

Scenes of humpback whales.

R-1 ROGER PAYNE (V.O.)
When I began studying humpback whales, almost fifty years ago, there was very little funding for such research. I'd like to thank the Pacific Life Foundation for their unparalleled generosity in supporting the conservation of humpback whales and other marine mammals.

Pacific Life logo.

R-2 ROGER PAYNE (V.O.)
Enabling a better future is what Pacific Life does; and their support of a healthy ocean benefits all of us -- whales as well as people.

OPENING CREDITS

Planet Earth, a tiny globe in space, is gradually drawing closer. Then, we see the title:

A MACGILLIVRAY FREEMAN FILM

As the Earth draws near, we see that it is mainly covered by water. We continue to fly in toward one of the vast oceans on the Earth.

N-1 NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Our planet holds a kind of parallel universe.

We crash right through the surface of the sea, into the blue world beneath.

EXT. UNDERWATER - DAY

A humpback whale is facing down, towards the ocean floor. Slow motion gives the scene a dream-like quality. As the humpback

flips and starts swimming on its back, a perspective shift begins to take place.

N-2 NARRATOR (CONT'D)

A place of wonder where giants roam free.

The whole scene gradually spins on axis. The surface of the water, just above the humpback whale, gradually rolls beneath it until the world of the humpback is literally turned upside down.

N-3 NARRATOR

For thousands of years, we could only wonder about humpback whales; now, by exploring their world, we're getting surprising glimpses into their lives.

Floating in this upside ocean, a huge tail fluke sweeps gracefully across the screen.

N-4 NARRATOR

A 40-ton adult appears weightless, in its ocean home. Though longer than a school bus, these fifty foot giants are nimble.

Underwater, two humpbacks cavort. One sweeps past camera with its long pectoral fins splayed out to the side, like wings.

N-5 NARRATOR

With a wingspan greater than most Lear jets, humpbacks are magnificent acrobats.

A shot of a humpback breaching, soaring high and then landing with a splash.

Underwater shot -- a mother and calf swim almost directly at the camera, veering off playfully, at the last second.

N-6 NARRATOR

Often seen in shallow waters, these mammals occasionally dive to a depth of 1000 feet.

A shot of a humpback with prominent tubercles on its head.

N-7 NARRATOR

Each bump on their heads contains a single stiff hair -- which may help them sense their environment.

Underwater shot -- four humpback whales from the southern hemisphere swim together, all heading in the same direction.

N-8 NARRATOR

Today, we celebrate them, but it
wasn't always so.

ARCHIVAL - WHALERS

Black and white archival footage shows a mechanized gun for shooting harpoons. A lone gunner casually fires a shot that hits a whale.

N-9 NARRATOR
Whales were hunted for hundreds of
years, and rendered into oil to
light our cities.

Archival still photos from decades past record a gruesome history of whaling, with men posed around gigantic carcasses, indifferent to the slaughter.

N-10 NARRATOR
When whalers developed exploding
harpoons, these giants had no chance.
We nearly wiped humpback whales off
the face of the planet.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

Clouds move and eventually cover a full moon.

ARCHIVAL STILL - U.S. NAVY SHIP

N-11 NARRATOR
Then, during the Cold War, a U.S. Navy
observer recording the hum of Soviet
submarines, heard something
mysterious -- the other-worldly calls
of humpback whales.

EXT. UNDERWATER-DAY

A humpback whale hanging still, head down, near the ocean floor, pumping out a song.

N-12 NARRATOR
Humpbacks string their songs
together, in a continuous river of
sound -- "the music of the deep." In
the 1970's, when these recordings
were studied by scientists Roger
Payne and Scott McVay, they

recognized that the seemingly random noises were actually precise rhythmic patterns of sound -- or "songs."

A different angle of a lone singing humpback, hanging motionless in their classic singing posture.

N-13 NARRATOR

When record albums were released, the humpback's songs changed millions of hearts.

EXT. OCEAN- DAY

An aerial of an expansive blue sea. Two humpbacks are swimming side by side. They break through the surface spraying mist into the air before diving back into the sea.

N-14 NARRATOR

People from many nations joined together, to support a ban on killing whales.

EXT. UNDERWATER-DAY HIM

A family of humpbacks glides serenely through the water, just beneath the surface.

N-15 NARRATOR

The song of the Humpback helped us to begin to understand, finally, that whales are magnificent, complex beings, worthy of protection. Worthy of life. This was our turning point.

EXT. OCEAN-DAY

A humpback bursts through the surface into the sky, spraying feathery plumes of water into the air as it crashes back into the sea.

EXT. OCEAN-DAY

A sunset reflecting off of the water. Superimposed over the shot is the main title.

Graphic: Main Title: Humpback Whales (logo)

Graphic: Narrated by Ewan McGregor

EXT. BORA BORA - DAY

Aerial high above the Bora Bora coastline, as clouds very slowly drift past.

N-16 NARRATOR
The South Pacific. The Humpback
population here, was hard hit by
whaling.

Zoom in past Fiji to Tonga.

Underwater - looking up at a calf nestling against its mother's stomach.

N-17 NARRATOR
In Tonga, there were only about 50
mature females left.

EXT. UNDERWATER-DAY

A mother and calf circle around each other, swimming up towards the surface.

N-18 NARRATOR
In 1978, when the King of Tonga banned
the killing of whales, the humpbacks
here slowly began to recover, one calf
at a time.

EXT. DAY - HARBOR IN TONGA

Tilt down to a scenic wide shot of Tonga, with low islands and shallow bays.

EXT. UNDERWATER-DAY

Four humpback whales swim lazily around each other.

N-19 NARRATOR
Today, in Tonga, there are about 2000
humpbacks -- a fraction of what once
was, but it's a start.

N-20 NARRATOR
The humpback resurgence has now
sparked a whale-watching boom here.
The increased tourism has raised the
standard of living for the local
people, ...

In a shallow bay, Ali Takau carries his two year-old son through knee-deep water.

N-21 NARRATOR
... -- like Ali Takau.

A-1 ALI TAKAU (V.O.)
My grandfather was a whaler. He hunted humpbacks to feed our family.

INT. CLASSROOM-DAY

Ali holds a humpback toy as he talks to a group of kids about marine conservation.

N-22 NARRATOR
Instead of killing humpbacks, Ali works hard to save them.

EXT. FIELD DAY

The same group of schoolchildren runs up to a wire with snorkels hanging from it, grabs their gear and runs off.

N-23 NARRATOR
The future of our humpbacks depends on these children.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Ali and two instructors are walking alongside the children in the water, instructing them in the use of the masks and snorkel.

A-2 ALI TAKAU (V.O.)
I tell the kids about the whaling days, so we never have that kind of killing again.

EXT. HARBOR- DAY

A white boat cruises along at a good clip, while Ali and a group of people scan the ocean for any sign of whales.

A-3 ALI TAKAU (V.O.)
My job is to take tourists and scientists out to see the humpbacks.

EXT. COASTLINE - DAY

Wide shot -- Tilt down from blue sky to a wide panorama of the Tongan coastline, from high on a cliff. In the foreground lies a well-protected harbor.

N-24 NARRATOR

Now these magnificent whales have begun to recover. Each calf is critical to Tonga's fragile resurgence.

Underwater - A humpback mother hangs perfectly still, sheltering her calf with a huge protective tail fin.

N-25 NARRATOR

After a full year of pregnancy, mothers give birth to a single fourteen-foot baby.

A humpback mother, streaked with sunlight, glides beneath her calf.

N-26 NARRATOR

What's it like to be a newborn humpback, floating in a vast blue world, where your only landmark is a mountain of mother?

A humpback calf is floating above its mother, which comes very close to us, as she passes by. Remora fish swim along underneath the belly of the huge whale.

N-27 NARRATOR

Humpbacks share these waters with a whole community of marine life. The remora fish come along for the ride.

As the mother glides past, just overhead, a mighty fin stretches out and brushes past, missing the camera lens by inches.

A humpback calf basks in the protection of its mother's shadow.

A humpback whale and her calf swim near the surface.

A-4 ALI TAKAU (V.O.)

Even when the mother sleeps, the newborns don't stray far from mother's milk.

A humpback calf nuzzles its mother.

A-5 ALI TAKAU (V.O.)

But after a few weeks, the calves get bolder, and they take off on their own.

A calf ascends straight up, following a bubble stream to the surface with apparent curiosity.

A-6 ALI TAKAU (V.O.)
They're so curious, and they've got so
much energy!

Another calf frolics at the surface, flipping and diving.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

An aerial of a humpback mother and her calf breaking through the surface to breath.

The mother and calf continue to glide along at the surface.

A-7 ALI TAKAU (V.O.)
These newborns learn by copying their
mothers. In their first year, they
double in size.

A large tail fin slaps the water. A smaller fin breaks through the surface and copies the mother's performance.

This begins a lively montage of teaching by example. Mothers and calves breach one after the other, and slap the water in tandem with their flukes.

An up-tempo montage of lively calf behavior cut to spirited music.

The mother finally takes a breather, but like the Energizer Bunny, her tireless calf continues a long series of exhausting tail slaps.

A-8 ALI TAKAU (V.O.)
Once they get the hang of it, there's
no stopping them!!

EXT. UNDERWATER - DAY

Mother and calf float serenely.

N-28 NARRATOR
Each calf stays with its mother only
about one year to learn about the
world --

A humpback calf and its mother are swimming side by side.

N-29 NARRATOR
-- how to migrate thousands of miles
-- what to eat and how to find it --

A humpback calf swims above its mother.

N-30 NARRATOR
-- who to trust and who to fear.

A baby humpback whale swims towards the surface, all alone in a vast ocean.

A-9 ALI TAKAU (V.O.)
Whalers like my grandfather once targeted mothers and calves, because they move so slowly.

A-10 ALI TAKAU (V.O.)
I always loved my grandfather. But he didn't understand the need to stop killing whales.

N-31 NARRATOR
The killing stopped here in Tonga, but not everywhere. Three nations -- Japan, Norway and Iceland -- still allow commercial and scientific whaling.

EXT. PORCH - DAY

Ali is showing Susan Nash and Michael Donoghue an old harpoon, demonstrating its use with a quick jab.

N-32 NARRATOR
Today, fewer people kill whales on purpose, but we now kill them without even knowing it.

Ali, Michael Donoghue, and Susan Nash stand at the rail of a smaller boat, watching as a larger container ship passes them.

N-33 NARRATOR
When a ship collides with a whale, the impact is often fatal. And the number of ships on the world's oceans has doubled in the last twelve years.

Stock shot -- a dead humpback whale is being carried along, draped across the protruding bulb at the bow of a large ship.

N-34 NARRATOR
There is something we can do about these fatal collisions. {Pause} One solution is to slow down ships, or re-route them, to avoid the migratory pathways of whales.

A huge cruise ship looms in the distance, as a smaller boat zips along in the foreground.

Underwater -- a humpback mother communes with her calf, head to head.

N-35 NARRATOR

Here in Tonga, mothers go for months with almost nothing to eat.

EXT. HARBOR- DUSK

Ali's boat cruises into harbor, at sunset.

N-36 NARRATOR

To find food, the humpback whales in Tonga head south, to the frigid, bountiful waters of Antarctica.
{pause} Many humpbacks in the North Pacific Ocean migrate to Alaska.

EXT. COASTLINE -DAY

The screen bursts with the energy of a wide, sweeping aerial view of Alaska's coastal waterways and glaciers.

A map of the North Pacific zooms in on Alaska.

EXT. ALASKA - DAY

The energy of the musical montage continues with a montage of various animals.

A pod of killer whales cruises along next to a heavily forested shore.

The montage continues with Stellar sea lions and salmon.

The fluke of a humpback whale glides above the calm surface, as the whale dives.

EXT. ALASKA HARBOR - DAY

Tall conifer trees flank a calm bay, with boats tied up to a low wooden dock. Scientists walk to a research boat called the Snow Goose.

N-37 NARRATOR

Dr. Fred Sharpe has been studying the behaviors of humpback whales here for the past twenty-five summers.

INT. BOAT - DAY

Fred Sharpe shows the captain navigational readings on a screen, as a colleague looks on.

STOCK VIDEO- KRILL/HUMPBACK WHALES

Masses of krill fill the screen. Dense schools of silver fish swim by.

N-38 NARRATOR

Most of the time, humpback whales in Alaska feed on krill. {pause} These small shrimp-like crustaceans thrive here, in waters enriched by upwelling currents and glacial nutrients. The tiny krill might be harder to catch if humpback whales had teeth. {But they don't.}

INT. BOAT CABIN - DAY

Fred and two colleagues refer to maps and discuss strategy.

Fred then sketches a baleen on a large white canvas.

F-1 FRED SHARPE (V.O.)

Instead of teeth, humpback whales have baleen. It's a kind of strainer that hangs from the roof of their mouth. It lets the water through, but allows them to trap these tasty morsels, like fish and krill.

EXT. ALASKA COAST- DAY

Fred and his colleagues stand on the deck of a ship, checking out a navigational chart.

Wearing headphones, Fred listens intently to whales he is monitoring through his hydrophone.

F-2 FRED SHARPE (V.O.)

When we're trying to locate big feeding pods, it's like coming home.

N-39 NARRATOR

Fred has studied these particular whales for so long that he can often tell who's vocalizing, just by listening.

FRED SHARPE (SYNC)

Bubbles! Bubbles!

Fred spins and points to where the whales are, so his colleague can take pictures.

A POV shot from the boat shows a group of humpbacks gathering at the surface.

A diving humpback whale flips up its tail fluke, revealing its unique identifying markings.

F-3 FRED SHARPE (V.O.)

We know who is who, because each of these whales has a really distinctive tail fluke. Their kind of like a fingerprint.

INT. OFFICE-DAY

Seated at his computer, Fred looks through a series of well cataloged tail flukes.

F-4 FRED SHARPE (V.O.)

No two are exactly alike. So... I run the prints.

EXT. ALASKA COAST -DAY

A humpback whale dives below the surface.

F-5 FRED SHARPE (V.O.)

This is Melancholy... I've really come to know him over the past 20 years, from studying his behaviors and even sketching him.

As Fred and a colleague cruise along in a small boat, studying whales at the surface, he jots down notes in a journal.

F-6 FRED SHARPE (V.O.)

I often see Melancholy with another male who we call Vulture.

A large group of humpback whales swims near the surface. One dives, flashing its tail fluke on its way down.

F-7 FRED SHARPE (V.O.)
Many whales feed individually, but Melancholy and his crew have learned a really cool strategy. They can capture more fish by working together as a team. When we hear the feeding calls and see the whales group together, we know we're in for quite a show.

From a precariously small rubber raft, Fred photographs a group of nearby whales.

INT. STUDY- DAY

Fred draws a picture of humpbacks during their feeding process. As he continues to sketch, the line between objective reality and imagination starts to blur. CG water flows in whimsically from the edge of frame, spilling across the sketch pad, until Fred's live action drawing comes to life and swims off the edge of the paper.

GRAPHIC: BUBBLE NETTING

We begin with the coordinated terminal dive, starting with a surface view of the tail flukes, each defining a graceful arc. When the six whales begin their dive, they are as synchronized as a team of gymnasts. We cut from the live action surface shot of the dive to the CGI subsurface view of these whales continuing their dive to the bottom of the bay.

F-8 FRED SHARPE (V.O.)
What happens next is one of the most incredible and complex animal behaviors ever observed. It's called group bubble-net feeding. The first step is always the synchronized dive.

The CG sequence continues. Three of the whales dive towards the bottom and swim in a circle, tilted on their sides, with pectoral flippers outstretched to encourage fish to rise into water column.

F-9 FRED SHARPE (V.O.)
Some of the whales dive deep underneath the school of herring to drive them up towards the surface. With their long pectoral flippers, they can outmaneuver fast-moving prey.

As the fish rise, four of the whales position themselves under the fish.

One whale blows the bubble-net by emitting a stream of bubbles, to form a curtain of air around the school of fish.

F-10 FRED SHARPE (V.O.)
The bubble specialist blows a stream of bubbles forming a spiraling wall of air, that acts like a net to keep the fish from getting away.

The designated whale begins to vocalize the scream, occasionally joined by additional whales.

F-11 FRED SHARPE (V.O.)
The designated vocalizer begins to make almost deafening sounds, scaring the fish up toward the surface.

As the whales continue to ascend beneath the school of fish, they open their enormous mouths.

F-12 FRED SHARPE (V.O.)
The Humpback mouths expand so wide, they could swallow a small car.

When their throats distend, we see the pliable grooves and pleats of their throats flex, like an accordion.

F-13 FRED SHARPE (V.O.)
They can eat up to a ton of food in a single day. That's like 8,000 hamburgers.

EXT. ALASKA COAST- DAY

An extended montage of humpback whales bursting out of the water in tight groups, swallowing great quantities of water and fish -- a feeding frenzy on a grand scale. Again and again, the whales continue to surge as one, a well disciplined team with a common purpose.

As the sated whales ease up and the energy of the feeding frenzy subsides, the mood changes. Near a heavily forested shoreline, a leisurely group of humpbacks glides together, all heading in the same direction, occasionally breaking the glassy surface of the bay with their steamy breaths.

F-14 FRED SHARPE (V.O.)
Well, as it starts to get cold up here in the fall, Melancholy, Vulture, and all the other whales begin to leave. They'll travel thousands of miles down to their warm water breeding

areas like Costa Rica, Mexico, and Hawaii.

GRAPHIC-(HUMPBCKS MIGRATING/MAP/GLOBE CGI)

A graphic eagle-eye view of Alaska widens out to reveal the globe.

N-40 NARRATOR
Some humpbacks migrate 5000 miles one way -- one of the longest known migrations of any mammal.

The view pulls all the way back to reveal the Earth spinning in the galaxy, with animated lines -- representing the migratory paths of humpback whales -- animating back and forth from north to south in every ocean.

N-41 NARRATOR
There are fifteen distinct populations of humpback whales, located in all the oceans of the world. They feed in polar and sub-polar regions, and breed and give birth in the tropics.

EXT. OCEAN-DAY

The CG flight ends with a match dissolve to a live action aerial of the Hawaiian coastline.

An aerial shot rises over a ridgeline to reveal a verdant tropical valley framed by a cliff adorned with a beautiful, tall waterfall.

N-42 NARRATOR
Each winter, the Hawaiian islands host the largest gathering of humpbacks in the North Pacific -- thousands of whales!

A group of humpbacks surface close to a boatload of whale watching tourists.

N-43 NARRATOR
Humpbacks may live up to 80 years -- or more. {pause} They seem as curious about us as we are about them.

Underwater - a humpback glides cheerfully along, escorted by an entourage of gregarious spinner dolphins.

NARRATOR N-44

Other whales and dolphins vocalize.
But humpbacks make a greater variety
of sounds than any other whale;
Including grunts, groans, thwops,
snorts and barks.

EXT. OCEAN-DAY

Above the glassy surface of a calm ocean, a humpback flashes its tail flukes and dives, as Jim Darling and Jason Sturgis look on, from a nearby skiff.

An aerial shot of a humpback breaching far below.

N-45 NARRATOR
When humpbacks leap -- or "breach" --
they make it look easy. No other whale
leaps so high, so often.

A wide shot of a humpback breaching, close to a small boat.

Another brief breaching shot, closer to the whale.

N-46 NARRATOR
We're not exactly sure why they do it
-- but we're glad they do.

"BEST DAY OF MY LIFE" MONTAGE

A montage of humpback whales breaching, dolphins playing, wind surfers leaping, and captivated humans in small boats.

EXT. OCEAN - DAWN

In the distance, a tiny skiff floats peacefully on the glassy smooth ocean, as the sun rises above a distant coastline.

N-47 NARRATOR
On a quiet morning in Hawaii, you can
hear hundreds of humpbacks in their
hidden world below, all singing at
once -- a reminder of how their songs
began changing our hearts, so many
years ago.

The sun glints on the surface as Jim Darling throws a hydrophone into the water.

EXT. UNDERWATER-DAY

The hydrophone wire snakes down into the depths.

Looking up from underwater, seen through the ocean's shifting surface, Jim Darling is casting the wire into the water.

N-48 NARRATOR

Today, Dr. Jim Darling lowers the hydrophone into the water, just as he did decades ago, when Roger Payne first invited him here to record humpback whales.

EXT. OCEAN-DAY

A humpback whale approaches, just below the glassy surface.

N-49 NARRATOR

For scientists like Jim, finding singers isn't easy. But there are clues.

When it dives, it leaves a distinct telltale footprint.

N-50 NARRATOR

When whales dive, they leave a slick spot on the surface -- what researchers call a "footprint."

From his skiff, Jim Darling peers intently down into the water.

N-51 NARRATOR

Sometimes, when Jim looks down through the footprint, he spots a singer.

EXT. OCEAN-DAY

Jim Darling walks to the bow of the boat and puts on headphones.

Jim Darling listens intently to his headphones and takes notes.

N-52 NARRATOR

All the singers in Hawaii start each breeding season singing the same song.

EXT. UNDERWATER-DAY

The humpback floats tranquilly in classic singing posture.

N-53 NARRATOR
Incredibly, when one singer changes his song, they all adopt those same changes.

INT. BOAT-DAY

Jim Darling and Meagan Jones are discussing what they see on their computer.

N-54 NARRATOR
By comparing the latest song against previous versions, Jim can pinpoint exactly what has changed. Jim's colleague, Dr. Meagan Jones, helps him search for those changes in the song.

The computer screen has audio levels and readings from a humpback whale song.

Jim Darling and Meagan Jones are discussing what's on the computer screen.

M-1 MEAGAN JONES (V.O.)
Two years ago, Jim recorded a song with a really distinctive phrase. We started calling it "chuckles" because it made us laugh. But this year the chuckles are starting to disappear.

Their computer shows an audio spectrogram, representing the whales' song.

Jim Darling and Meagan Jones continue discussing their data.

MEAGAN JONES (SYNC)
Except for this part, the chuckles.

The computer displays a more detailed spectrogram representing the sound of a 'chuckling' whale.

Meagan Jones and Jim Darling smile as they listen to the chuckling song.

EXT. UNDERWATER-DAY

A close up of the tail fluke of a whale that is hanging near the surface, head down.

EXT. OCEAN-DAY

A skiff floats near where two whales are swimming. Jason Sturgis walks to the bow and looks into the water.

N-55 NARRATOR

After years of study, scientists were surprised to discover that the singers were all males.

Underwater a whale is singing.

N-56 NARRATOR

While the males are busy singing, what are the females up to?

EXT. OCEAN-DAY

Meagan Jones takes a photograph while standing on the deck of the boat.

N-57 NARRATOR

Dr. Meagan Jones studies the behavior of female humpbacks on the breeding grounds in Hawaii.

Two humpback whales approach the boat.

M-2 MEAGAN JONES (V.O.)

One of the most important questions I am trying to answer is how females choose their mates.

EXT. UNDERWATER-DAY

A underwater view -- two whales spy-hopping together, almost cheek to cheek.

N-58 NARRATOR

It's not easy because they spend 90% of their time underwater, out of sight. So she catches only glimpses.

M-3 MEAGAN JONES (V.O.)

No one has ever observed mating between humpbacks, but we often see a male and female pair resting together ... just before ... and just after - we see males fighting over the females.

Two whales are floating near the ocean floor (breath-holders)

M-4 MEAGAN JONES (V.O.)
The battle-scarred male escort is actually on guard... watching and listening for his rivals. When intruders show up, he tries to fight them off.

EXT. OCEAN-DAY

A humpback whale blows loudly, blasting spray in all directions.

Two whales are clashing at the surface, angrily hurling their bodies against one another.

Two humpback duel at the surface.

An aggressive humpback breaches and comes down on another whale.

A humpback whale angrily slaps the water with his pectoral flipper.

The water roils around a group of fighting males as they splash, and hit, and charge.

An exciting aerial of whales spreading out through the water, competing for a prime location.

M-5 MEAGAN JONES (V.O.)
Twenty males pursuing just one female!

An aerial of a boat speeding through the water.

M-6 MEAGAN JONES (V.O.)
We think the males are vying for the prime spot, closest to the female.

A group of humpback whales swimming at the surface of the water. One chin slaps in close proximity to the other.

Meagan observes and photographs from the boat.

A humpback whale blows.

An aerial of several humpback whales fighting for position.

N-59 NARRATOR
The escort will use all kinds of tactics to defend his position. He streams bubbles! He lunges, charges, and even collides with other males!

An exciting aerial of whales spreading out through the water, competing for a prime location.

Two humpback whales surface and slam against each other.

An aerial of four humpback whales barreling through the water. One breaches suddenly and slams down on an opponent creating a huge splash.

A group of humpback whales swimming. One of the whales slaps the surface with its chin.

EXT. OCEAN-DAY

A lengthy aerial of a group of humpback whales swimming in formation. For the moment, they have seem to have suspended the fierce brawl.

We see the white pectoral flippers of the female.

EXT. UNDERWATER-DAY

Two humpback whales are rushing to the surface. One trails a massive bubble stream behind.

EXT. OCEAN-DAY

An aerial of the three humpback whales swimming towards the surface.

M-7 MEAGAN JONES (V.O.)
Is the female leading these males? Or is she being chased? We're not sure, but we think she wants to mate as soon as possible so she can return to Alaska and resume eating. For whales, bigger mothers often make better mothers. She needs to be in the best physical condition when she gives birth the following year.

EXT. UNDERWATER-DAY

Two humpback whales swim to the surface before arching back into the water.

M-8 MEAGAN JONES (V.O.)
This chase lasted four grueling hours. We think the competition may allow the female the opportunity to select the fittest mate.

The trail of bubbles they leave behind them glistens like a string of weightless jewels.

EXT. OCEAN-DAY

Meagan Jones is taking pictures at the bow of a boat while Jason Sturgis gets into the water with a camera.

An aerial of two humpback whales circling the boat.

M-9 MEAGAN JONES (V.O.)
One day, just as the other male rivals swam away, the male and female pair stayed around and circled our boat for over an hour.

A humpback whale surfaces and blows. Its eye gleams just above the surface.

M-10 MEAGAN JONES (V.O.)
At first, we thought the female was swimming upside down and using the boat to discourage the male.

An aerial of the two whales swimming near the boat.

A humpback whale blows, then begins to dive.

M-11 MEAGAN JONES (V.O.)
But as we watched the pair circle and dance around each other, and us, it became clear that at least in this case, the female was following him as much as the male was following her.

An aerial of the male and female humpback swimming around the boat.

M-12 MEAGAN JONES (V.O.)
Was this courtship? Was she trying to attract him? This is what we think may be happening but until we see mating, we can just never be sure.

EXT. UNDERWATER-DAY

A male and female humpback whale swim next to a boat.

EXT. OCEAN-DAY

An aerial of one of the whales drifting under the boat on her back.

One of the whales swims past the boat, waving its flipper in the air as it glides back under the surface. The second appears and blows, spraying mist into the sky.

The two whales swim away from the boat.

M-13 MEAGAN JONES (V.O.)
For me, these are the best kind of
days... when new observations lead to
new questions.

EXT. OCEAN-DAY

On board the Lucky Strike. As Ed Lyman hauls a tangle of nets and lines onto the transom, Meagan Jones rushes in to give him a hand.

N-60 NARRATOR
When Meagan is out studying whales she
sometimes runs into the real dangers
they face -- like loose, floating
debris.

ED LYMAN (SYNC)
Thank you, Meagan.

N-61 NARRATOR
More than half of these humpback
whales bear scars from being tangled
up in ropes and fishing nets. This
humpback whale population is growing,
but we think worldwide the humpback
population may be only 40% of what it
was before whaling began.

Aerial shot taken from two miles out at sea, approaching Maui

N-62 NARRATOR
Some of the most serious problems
facing whales have no immediate
solution. But when individual whales
get entangled, some of them can be
saved by rescue teams -- like the one
here in Hawaii.

EXT. HARBOR - DAY

Ed and crew load the boat and launch hurriedly.

ED LYMAN (O.S.)
Joe, let's see if we can get underway
in five!

An aerial following the boat as it rips across the open water.

Ed's crew listens for the transmission buoy.

N-63 NARRATOR
Most rescues start with a phone call
from a boater. Reporting entangled
whales is one important way to help
humpbacks.

A POV from the bow of the boat as it continues to race to the
entangled whale.

N-64 NARRATOR
Ed's team caught up to the entangled
whale in just under an hour.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

A shot of the entangled whale.

E-1 ED LYMAN (V.O.)
This young energetic humpback male
was trailing more than 200 feet of
line and buoys behind it.

N-65 NARRATOR
Each entanglement is different, so
Team Leader, Ed Lyman, has to keep
adjusting his strategy. If this young
whale is not set free by Ed's team, he
could die from infection, starvation,
or even drowning.

An aerial of the inflatable racing to the entangled whale.

N-66 NARRATOR
A key tool is their grapple. That's
how they hook onto the trailing gear,
and then pull themselves close enough
to cut the whale free.

Ed throws the grappling hook and attaches to the gear.

E-2 ED LYMAN (V.O.)
We attach a transmitter to help track
the whale, in case we lose it -- and
buoys to keep it from diving deep.

Underwater, we see the buoys being dragged by the entangled whale.

An aerial of the inflatable pursuing the whale.

N-67 NARRATOR
Even with extensive training, it's dangerous for Ed and Joe to get so close to a huge animal under stress.

Ed and Joe work their way up the line.

E-3 ED LYMAN (V.O.)
We work entirely from boats; people have been killed jumping in the water to cut whales free.

E-4 ED LYMAN (V.O.)
If we hear signs of stress, like a trumpeting blow, we back off.

Close-ups of the whale zooming by, wheezing.

Ed checks the GoPro on the end of his cutting pole and examines the whale.

E-5 ED LYMAN (V.O.)
Our "pole-cam" gives us an underwater view ... and helps us see what's going on. We need to get this gear off. These wounds are bad.

The team works to untangle the whale-attached line from the propeller of the support boat.

E-6 ED LYMAN (V.O.)
These young ones? They're unpredictable.

E-7 ED LYMAN (V.O.)
Our whale made a sudden U-turn and snagged its gear on a nearby boat, so we raced back to cut the boat free. Boy, as soon as we cut that line, he takes right off.

An aerial of Ed and Joe racing back to the whale.

E-8 ED LYMAN (V.O.)
Even dragging all those buoys, the whale is just pulling us too fast.

Ed and Joe grab the line and pull their way up towards the whale.

E-9 ED LYMAN (V.O.)

We actually got what the old-time whalers called a "Nantucket Sleigh Ride."

A GoPro view from Ed's helmet-cam shows his attempt to slow down the whale with a sea anchor.

E-10 ED LYMAN (V.O.)
We attach a small sea anchor to slow him down.

N-68 NARRATOR
Finally, the whale slows down enough to give Ed a clean angle -- so he moves in for the cut.

A GoPro view from Ed's cutting pole shows him making the final cut.

ED LYMAN (O.S.)
A little closer, little closer. Cut!!
Cut!!

Extreme close-up of the whales' s blowhole, breathing what appears to be a sigh of relief.

N-69 NARRATOR
It all went their way today. But it doesn't always work out.

The whale dives, now free of the fishing line.

Ed and Joe celebrate and head back to the rest of the team on their boat.

The whale lets out a big stream of bubbles underwater.

An aerial view of the whale blowing and then diving.

A wide shot of a whale peck slapping.

A beautiful sunset shot of a whale flapping it's tail fluke.

N-70 NARRATOR
Even Ed's heroic team can't save every whale. But you and I *can* help reduce the number of entangled humpbacks. Encourage the use of "whale-safe" gear. And keep debris out of the ocean.

A sunset shot of the NOAA boat, heading home, as the crew celebrates.

E-11 ED LYMAN (V.O.)
I'm in awe of humpback whales. For centuries, men in boats brought them pain and death. It brings us such joy

to flip that around, and bring them
life, instead.

Joyful humpback montage.

An aerial view of two humpbacks swimming from left to right.

N-71 NARRATOR

It took hundreds of years for people
all across the world to wake up and
hear the song of the humpbacks.

Ali and Michael stand on the bow of a catamaran, near a tiny
island.

A-11 ALI TAKAU (V.O.)

In the early days, humpbacks were
known as our guardians. Now it's our
turn.

A lengthy low angle underwater view of a humpback mother and
calf, silhouetted against the sun.

Jim Darling and Jason Sturgis standing in the bow of a boat,
underway.

N-72 NARRATOR

Future generations of scientists have
their work cut out for them. Each new
insight scientists gain into these
remarkable whales helps us protect
them against the growing threats they
face.

A close up view of a humpbacks tail fluke as it dives down beneath
the surface.

The joyful montage of humpback activity continues.

Underwater - a humpback mother and calf gracefully swim from
right to left across the screen.

A aerial view of a Hokulea sailing at sunset. A humpback breaches
in the background.

N-73 NARRATOR

Oceans cover 71% of our planet, and
humpbacks roam them all.

A montage of whales, underwater and above the surface.

Underwater - a single humpback gracefully twirls as it slowly
swims toward the surface, its eye glistening.

N-74 NARRATOR
Just one look in their eye will tell
you, we have much more to learn about
their world.

A pod of whales spouts as it charges towards the camera.

N-75 NARRATOR
And to think, we nearly missed that
chance.

Underwater - the pod of whales dive down below the surface.

An aerial view the same pod of humpbacks as the spout above the
surface.

Music crescendoes as a huge humpback breaches in slow-motion and
crashes down with a gigantic splash.

END CREDITS -- including website for saving humpbacks.

TO HELP SAVE HUMPBACK WHALES:

Encourage ships to reduce speed in migratory areas.

Encourage use of "Whale Safe" fishing nets.

Support the International Whaling Commission's ban of whaling.

Promote marine protected areas.

And Visit
OneWorldOneOcean.com/Humpbacks