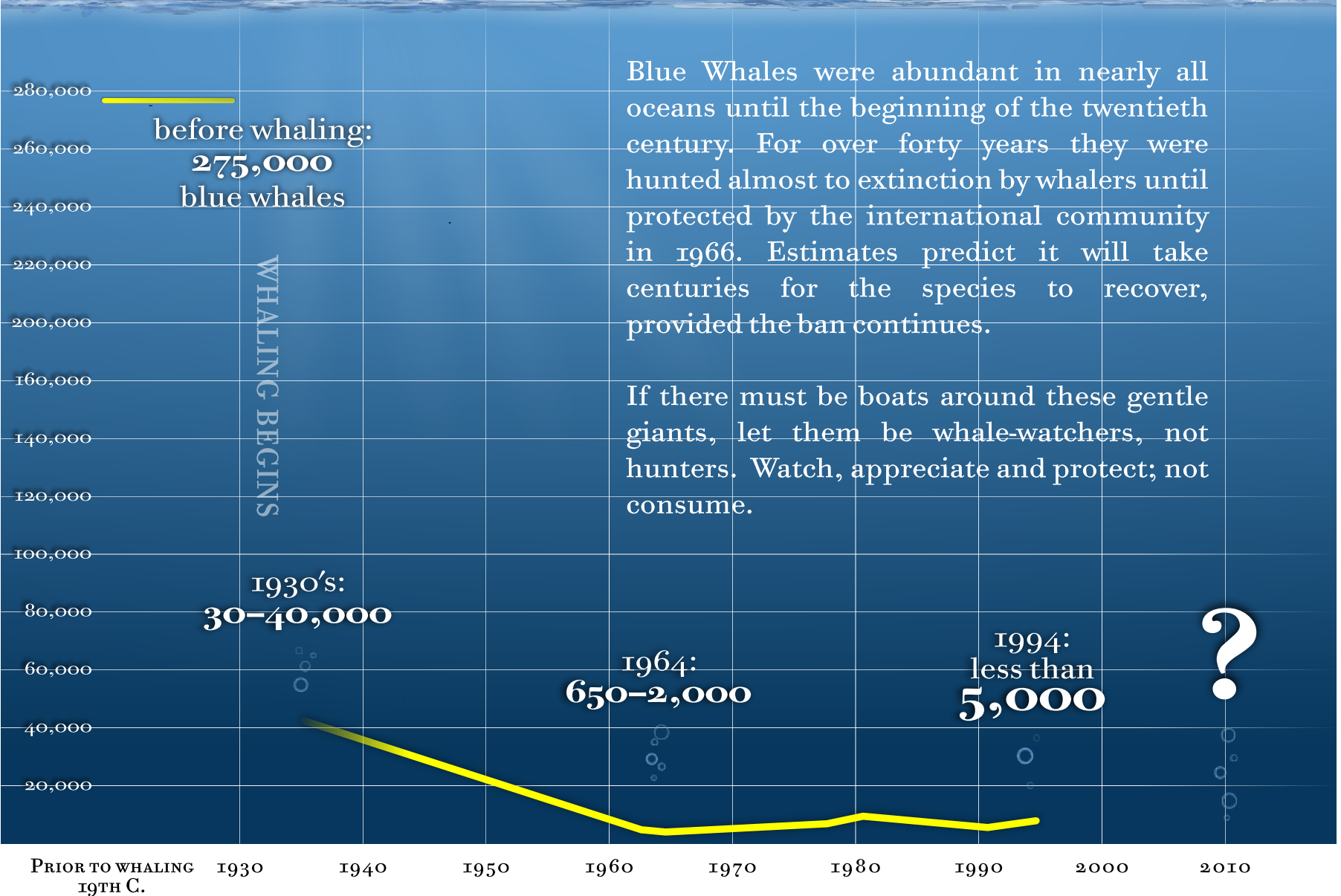


# Blue Whales

»giants of the sea«

The Blue Whale is quite possibly the largest animal to have ever lived. At a length of 33 meters and weighing over 170 metric tonnes, this majestic animal has roamed the world's oceans for thousands of years.



Blue Whales were abundant in nearly all oceans until the beginning of the twentieth century. For over forty years they were hunted almost to extinction by whalers until protected by the international community in 1966. Estimates predict it will take centuries for the species to recover, provided the ban continues.

If there must be boats around these gentle giants, let them be whale-watchers, not hunters. Watch, appreciate and protect; not consume.