

GCSE Biology B (Twenty First Century Science)
J257/03 Breadth in Biology (Higher)

Question Set 21

1 In the past, humpback whales have been hunted for meat, oil and blubber (fat).
This hunting (known as whaling) caused their numbers to decrease and humpback whales to be classed as an endangered species.

Whaling was banned in 1986.

The data in the table shows how the estimated number of humpback whales has changed overtime.

	Estimated humpback whale population
Before whaling	125 000
Before the ban on whaling in 1986	Less than 5000
2015	24 500

(a) Explain why scientists can only estimate how many humpback whales there are. [1]

(b) In 2015, humpback whales were removed from the endangered species list.

Do you agree with this decision?

Justify your answer using data from the table.

[1]

(c) Current estimates of population size suggest that the number of humpback whales may not be increasing.

Suggest **two** possible reasons for this.

[2]

(d) In 2018, Japan announced that it will start to hunt whales again.

Use the data in the table to explain why scientists are concerned.

[1]

(e) Whales migrate each year to breeding grounds.

On average, the distance travelled is 5000km and they travel at an average speed of 1.6km per hour.

Calculate how many **days** it will take the whales to reach the breeding grounds.

Use the equation: $\text{time} = \text{distance} \div \text{speed}$

Give your answer to **2** significant figures.

Time in days = [3]

Total Marks for Question Set 21: 8

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