

## Endangered Species:

### Marine Mammals

1. **Blue Whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*)** – Endangered  
The largest animal on Earth, threatened by ship strikes and climate change.



2. **Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*)** – Vulnerable/Endangered (regional threats)  
Sleek and fast, second in size only to the blue whale, facing regional threats from hunting and noise pollution.



3. **Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*)** – Vulnerable  
Deep-diving giant with a massive head, vulnerable due to entanglement and ocean noise.



4. **Irrawaddy Dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*)** – Endangered in Bay of Bengal  
Freshwater-friendly dolphin with a rounded head, endangered in the Bay of

Bengal due to habitat loss.



5. **Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*)** – Vulnerable  
Coastal dweller with a distinctive hump, vulnerable from pollution and coastal development.



6. **Dugong (*Dugong dugon*)** – Vulnerable but declining, highly threatened in Indian waters  
Gentle seagrass grazer often called a “sea cow,” highly threatened in Indian

waters by habitat degradation



## Marine Turtles

1. **Olive Ridley Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)** – Vulnerable  
Known for spectacular mass nesting events called arribadas, but suffers high



mortality from fishing nets



2. **Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)** – Endangered  
Vital for maintaining healthy seagrass beds, yet threatened by habitat loss and poaching



3. **Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)** – Critically Endangered  
Its stunning shell makes it a target for illegal trade, pushing it to the brink



4. **Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)** – Vulnerable  
The largest sea turtle, capable of deep dives, but endangered locally due to plastic ingestion and nesting decline



5. **Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*)** – Vulnerable  
A powerful ocean navigator, vulnerable to bycatch and climate-driven habitat changes





## Sharks & Rays

1. **Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*)** – Endangered (largest fish, found along Gujarat coast)

The world's largest fish, gentle and filter-feeding, often spotted along Gujarat's coastline, yet endangered due to hunting and habitat loss.



2. **Hammerhead Sharks (*Sphyrna spp.*)** – Several species endangered  
Known for their iconic head shape and sharp vision, several species face extinction from overfishing and fin trade.



3. **Giant Manta Ray (*Mobula birostris*)** – Endangered  
Majestic ocean gliders with wingspans over 7 meters, endangered by bycatch and slow reproduction.



4. **Devil Rays (*Mobula spp.*)** – Vulnerable/Endangered  
Smaller cousins of manta rays, vulnerable to fishing pressures and habitat



degradation, with some species nearing endangerment.



## Fish

1. **Napoleon Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*)** – Endangered (found in Andaman & Lakshadweep reefs)  
A vibrant reef guardian known for its thick lips and humphead, endangered due to overfishing and reef degradation in Andaman & Lakshadweep waters



2. **Goliath Grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*)** – Critically Endangered in Indian Ocean  
A massive, slow-growing predator critically endangered in the Indian Ocean, vulnerable to overexploitation and habitat loss



## Corals & Invertebrates

1. **Black Coral (*Antipatharia* spp.)** – Threatened

Deep-sea dwellers prized for their skeletons, now threatened by harvesting and slow growth rates.



2. **Red Coral (*Corallium rubrum*)** – Endangered (collected for jewelry)

Valued for jewelry and ornaments, endangered due to overextraction and fragile reef



habitats.



3. **Staghorn Corals (*Acropora* spp.)** – Many species endangered due to bleaching  
Fast-growing reef builders, many species are endangered from climate-induced bleaching and disease.

