

Name: _____

Date: _____ Period: ____

Marine Mammal Conservation

*Using the accompanying reading, answer the following questions – in at least
2-3 COMPLETE SENTENCES!*



1. Why is conservation of marine mammals so important? What makes them susceptible to depletion?

2. What is the **MMPA**? When was it enacted? What does it define?

3. What is the **ESA**? When was it enacted? What does it define?

4. Why is the Eastern Pacific gray whale a good example of marine conservation?

5. What is the most endangered marine species today? What are the main causes for the decline of this species?

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6. Where does most of our knowledge of marine mammals come from? Why?

7. What techniques are used to help research and understand large marine mammals? (name at least 3)



Case Study: *There are two populations of polar bears inhabiting Alaska. The Southern Beaufort Sea population has approximately 1500 bears. The Chukchi/Bering seas population has approximately 2000 bears. Both populations are declining. On May 8, 2009, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed the Polar Bear as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Studies have demonstrated that significant losses of sea ice are being caused by climate disruption. Because polar bears depend upon sea ice for their sustenance, any reduction in sea ice negatively affects the number and behavior of polar bears and their prey, which puts polar bears at risk of becoming endangered in the foreseeable future. Alaska Natives are permitted by the USFWS to take polar bears for subsistence purposes; however this practice, combined with the loss of sea ice habitat, indicates that the Chukchi/Bering Seas population is declining below historical levels. (<http://www.aza.org/marine-mammal-cons/>)*

What is the main cause of decline for the polar bears of Alaska?

What do you think about the regulations currently in place for the polar bears in Alaska?

What do you think can be done to help further conservation efforts?