

Sea Ghosts Glossary

adaptation: a characteristic that allows an organism to live successfully in a particular environment

algae: simple aquatic organisms that carry out photosynthesis; seaweeds are marine algae

aluminum smelter: a factory where aluminum is extracted from aluminum ore

Arctic Ocean: the smallest ocean in the world; its waters surround the North Pole and are covered in sea ice throughout most of the year

beluga whale: a species of cetacean that lives in Arctic and sub-Arctic waters; it is also called the “white whale” and is known for its vocalizations

bioaccumulation: the accumulation of a substance, such as a pesticide or toxic chemical, in an organism

cetacean: a whale, dolphin or porpoise

dorsal fin: the fin located on the center of the backs of fish and some marine mammals, such as killer whales and dolphins

endangered species: a species that is in danger of becoming extinct

Endangered Species Act: a U.S. law passed in 1973 in order to protect plant and animal species that are at risk of becoming extinct

genetics: the science of heredity, or how the characteristics of living things are passed from one generation to the next

ice floe: a large, flat piece of floating ice

industrial pollution: pollution that can be directly linked to industry such as manufacturing and farming, often occurring as water, air or soil pollution

litigation: a lawsuit

polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs): a group of toxic manmade chemicals that are known to bioaccumulate in animals and were banned in the U.S. in 1979

plankton: microscopic plantlike (phytoplankton) or animal (zooplankton) organisms that drift in the water

population: a group of organisms of the same species living in a particular area

sonar: also called echolocation, a method for locating objects underwater

Species at Risk Act: a Canadian law passed in 2003 in order to protect plant and animal species that are at risk of becoming extinct

subsistence hunting: hunting for the sake of survival rather than entertainment

threatened species: a species that is likely to become endangered in the near future

veterinary pathologist: a medical specialist that studies diseases in animals

watershed: the area of land where water from rain or melting snow drains downhill into a river, lake or other body of water