

Worksheet 1: Proofreading

Whales

Name _____ Date _____

Mark the subjects and the verbs in the following paragraphs. Correct the errors shown in bold print. Add any missing punctuation.

Killer whales right whales sperm whales and blue whales are four kinds of whales. To some the right whale **are** the most endangered whale on Earth. With a population of approximately 300 the right whale may become extinct. Fortunately hunting whales for **its** baleen oil and meat **have** been banned for many years. Possible extinction is occurring for other reasons. Some **gets** tangled in gill nets fishing lines and other commercial fishing gear. Every summer one or more **gets** severely entangled in fishing gear and die.

The right whales also **swims floats feeds** and *breeds* in waters with busy shipping lanes. These whales move slowly stay near the shorelines and **pays** no attention to huge ships. Gregory Silber, coordinator of whale recovery activities at the National Marine Fisheries Service stated "It's mostly just keeping our fingers crossed that no right whales get run over."

However there are more problems concerns and unanswered questions about right whales. The females are no longer giving birth to one calf every three years. Many of the females in the wild **is** not breeding. The population of right whales **are** not increasing. Polluted water polluted food supplies damaged hormone systems or unknown diseases may be the cause of the low reproduction rate. "Even under the best conditions right whales replace **itself** slowly reported Cone. "Under current conditions the population is doomed to extinction" scientists from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution reported in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in March.

Marla Cone, a *Los Angeles Times* reporter, stated Right whales have suffered a five-fold increase in **its** mortality rate in 15 years." Cone also said "Saving this species comes—quite literally—one whale at a time. With every newborn calf hope is revived. With every death hope fades."

[Adapted from: Marla Cone, Register Guard, no. 22, 1999.]

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