

JUNE 2022

HNP

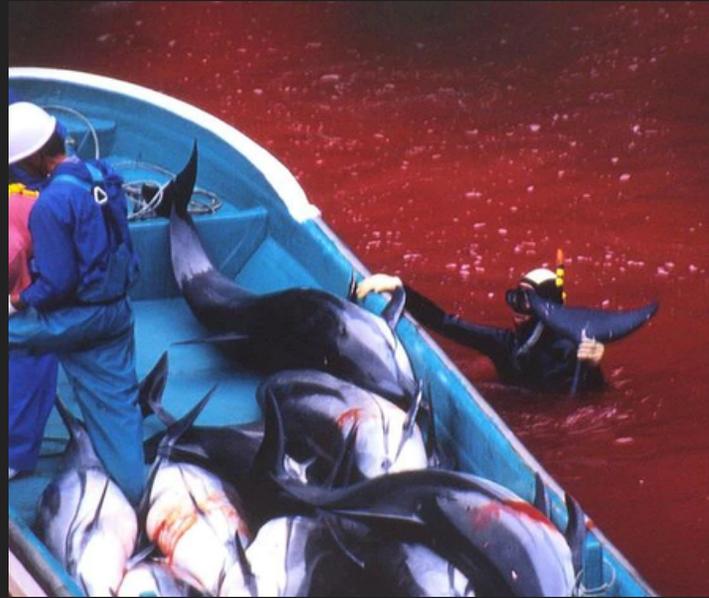
Newsletter



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Massacre of Dolphins IN TAIJI



INTRODUCTION

Much of the world is ignorant towards the countless animal massacres committed by humans. Some people may think we refer to forest logging or ocean pollution. However, it's much more complex than that. Additionally, the majority of these massacres are deliberate, they are meant to create havoc in the natural environment solely for profit.

One ongoing, disturbing, & gruesome massacre is occurring in the small coastal fishing village of Taiji, in Japan. Dolphins and whales are the targets of this selective slaughter (Daly, 2021).

The innocent mammals that naturally regulate the Pacific food chain are being led to Taiji Cove each season from September to February ("Taiji Dolphin Drive Hunt - Wikipedia"). The result is cove water dyed in deep, rich dark red.



Credit: DolphinProject.com

BACKGROUND HISTORY

Dolphin hunting in Taiji, Japan is not a recent practice. The earliest recorded coastal whale hunts in Taiji can be traced back to the early 1600's. (The Guardian, 2016) Japan's long history with dolphin hunting establishes it as a cultural practice, tracing it back to ancestors who used to hunt, as they were unable to grow rice or vegetables.



© Reuters Staff / Reuters | Credit: REUTERS

Currently, the dolphin hunt is operated by the Isana Fishermen's Association. As of now, the association has captured more than 1,849 dolphins from nine different species, all under the permission of the Japanese government. As opposed to the cultural standard of hunting and killing dolphins, hunters may also pawn dolphins to marine parks and dolphinariums within Japan and China. (National Geographic)

HELP IN PREVENTING THE MASSACRE



There aren't a lot of things that can be done to prevent the massacre, as the Taiji government, dolphin suppliers, and receivers refuse to comment about any of their actions and reasons to National Geographic and other organizations.

In contrast, the majority of Japanese citizens peacefully protest against the Taiji dolphin massacre (Daly, 2021). However, the municipal government of Taiji has full authority to decide whether to continue the dolphin massacre or not (Daly, 2021).

There are many simple actions one can do to decrease the severity of this crisis, and hopefully eliminate it.

You can avoid going to marine parks which hold captive whales and dolphins, like Marineland, as they would most likely commit animal cruelty (O'Barry, 2021). Furthermore, you can take action by signing petitions, as well as donating to and supporting the Dolphin Project. Moreover, if these actions seem difficult to do, spreading awareness can inform more people to do something about the cause!

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Aside from the cultural significance Taiji associates with dolphin hunting, Japan's economy falls short of increase. The Oscar award winning documentary "The Cove" reveals how the fishermen of Taiji eliminate copious amounts of whales and dolphins. Despite the regular massacres, there is hardly any demand for dolphin meat in seafood markets.

By continuously hunting for products low in demand, Japan misses out on the opportunity to flourish in the food trade (National Geographic). In addition, thanks to documentaries like "the Cove", consumers are less motivated to purchase dolphin and whale meat, knowing of its unnecessarily cruel nature. As consumers rightfully shy away from the violent practices of dolphin hunting, Japan's seafood businesses continue to suffer, eventually leading to economic depletion.



<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1313104/>

ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGES & SIGNIFICANCE



Dolphins are important organisms in much of the world's marine ecosystems as they are apex-predators in the natural food chain, which means that if we don't take humans into consideration, no creature kills dolphins ("How Are Dolphins Important To The Ecosystem?", 2022"). Dolphins are an essential component to controlling the local fish and squid populations for which they reside alongside ("How Are Dolphins Important To The Ecosystem?"). Dolphins also prey on ill, sick, and damaged fish, as their immune systems are strong, which allows them to eat the fish safely while also ensuring that healthy fish populations continue to flourish (Revermann, 2022). This concludes that the murder of dolphins in Japan may in fact increase the consumption of intoxicated and diseased fish in the Pacific seafood market and other seafood markets worldwide (Revermann, 2022). If a predator is absent from the food chain, the species below them will overpopulate and die out, and can take a very long time to recover if they don't. It's crucial that dolphins continue to exist in their habitats to sustain and control the food web they coexist within, and we find a way to practice sustainable and responsible fishing globally.



Decaying Dolphin Carcass spotted by Taiji lighthouse along the coast, OceanCare, 2015

CONCLUSION

As we continue to take nature for granted, we only continue to suffer. The massacres of dolphins and whales within Taiji, Japan may be of cultural significance but they only continue to contribute to our already growing economic and climate crises. From blood dyed coves to dolphin meat slowly losing its appeal to local consumers, there are many indications to Japan and the rest of the world, as to why dolphin hunting must be stopped. Do your part and continue to educate yourself.





Upcoming Events



INVASIVE SPECIFIC GARLIC MUSTARD PULL

Garlic Mustard is an invasive species that has infected many parts of Toronto and Southern Ontario. Like most invasive species, Garlic Mustard endangers native species such as trilliums. We invite everyone to join us as we remove Garlic Mustards before they spread. Sign-up forms will be available on our social media platforms! Volunteer hours will be given out for this event.

DATE - Sunday, July 19th, 2022

**LOCATION -
MORE INFO TO FOLLOW!!**

ECO-CAREER WEBINAR SERIES

We will be exploring different careers in the field of environmental sciences and learning about possible pathways. A few guest speakers will be joining us to talk about their experiences and challenges while pursuing an eco-career. Stay updated on our social media platforms for more information! Volunteer hours will be given out for this event.

DATE - Sunday, July 24th, 2022

LOCATION - ZOOM

Follow HNP on Instagram to be updated on these events 6

General Member RECRUITMENT



HNP Ontario is currently **hiring** General Committee Members and we are looking for high school students who are passionate about environmental advocacy and are seeking opportunities to earn volunteer hours.

As a general committee member, you will:

Meet with the Operations department on a biweekly basis to develop leadership skills

Reach out to other non-profit organisations to increase online presence and assist in content creation

Help the Communications team to brainstorm and write articles for our monthly newsletters.

Help the Events team with securing sponsorships, fundraising, contacting vendors and setting up booths for future events.

Time Commitment: 1 hour/week

APPLY NOW - <https://forms.gle/MbD7TotRRc3m62a47>

The Fast Food Industry & CLIMATE CHANGE

INTRODUCTION

From food production to food waste and improper disposal, the food industry has a significant impact on climate change (Vetter, 2021). It is agreed upon internationally that the average global temperature rise must not exceed 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels to prevent the most destructive climate change situations. However, even if this goal is met, many climate change scenarios such as sea level rise will still continue for many centuries (Driver & Health, n.d.).

FOOD PRODUCTION

Food production contributes around 37 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Our diets have a significant impact on climate change as seen through this statistic. Animal based foods such as meat from ruminant animals (ex. Cattle and goats) are said to produce about twice

the greenhouse emissions compared to plant-based. Food production contributes about 17.3 billion metric tonnes of carbon dioxide per year and about 57%, the majority, comes from the production of animal-based foods, and about 29% is accounted for by plant-based food production. The rest of the emissions are attributed towards converting agricultural land from non-food crops like cotton to food production. South and Southeast Asia have the highest plant-based emissions and South Africa has the highest animal food related emissions (Charles, 2021).



Image: Beyond Meat



<https://food-guide.canada.ca>



Adopt a healthier and a more sustainable diet

SOLUTIONS TO HELP REDUCE THIS PROBLEM

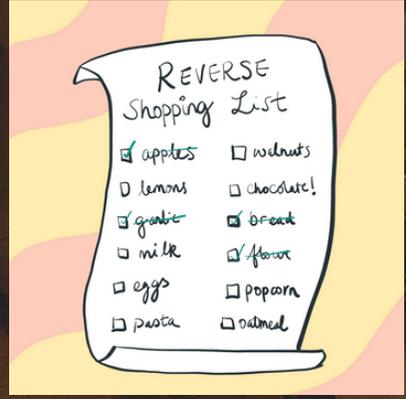
Gearing towards more plant-based substitutes such as Beyond Meat, Impossible burgers and non-dairy milk = lower emissions footprint.

Composting wasted food reduces methane emissions significantly (epa)

Only purchase what you need by planning ahead



Examples of food waste that should have been turned into compost. Photo credit: iStock



<https://garlicdelight.com/reverse-shopping-list/>

FOOD WASTE AND IMPROPER DISPOSAL

Food is the biggest component in US landfills. When food is wasted and ends up improperly disposed of in landfills, it creates methane, a greenhouse gas which is 25% more powerful/vigorous than carbon dioxide. Every year the food we waste costs North America about 278 billion us dollars which could have been used to feed 260 million people. Food waste causes a cascade of events that most people are not aware of. When food is wasted, land, energy and other resources are also impacted. Firstly, food waste takes up 39 million m³ of landscape each year which is equivalent to 13 football stadiums. 193 million tonnes of gasses are emitted without a purpose, which is equivalent to driving 41 million cars continuously for a whole year. Over 32 million hectares of wildlife habitat is lost to farmland to grow food that is never eaten in US alone. This causes loss of biodiversity and ecosystem which are also essential to maintain the healthy state of the environment by controlling climate change (Food Waste, the Environment + Climate Change, 2018).



CREATOR: SVETIKD | CREDIT: GETTY IMAGES

CONCLUSION

Individual choices regarding diet itself can significantly reduce the food industry's emissions. However, in order to change diets on an INTERNATIONAL scale will require more than just educating consumers. National policies will need to shift in ways to support and emphasize plant-based diets. Reforming the food system requires new corporate practices, new laws and regulations at national and international levels. If change does not start on an international scale, it is highly predicted that the average global temperature will rise and exceed 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, which can cause catastrophic climate change scenarios.

Executive of the Month



congratulations



SIERRA YOO

Hi! My name is Sierra and I'm in my second year at the University of Toronto. I'm always eager to make meaningful contributions towards promoting a greener future since the many existing environmental concerns we are currently facing have increasingly problematic impacts. Raising awareness about how we can cater our lifestyles to more sustainable use of the planet's natural resources is my goal. I would also like to mention that all of my time as the Human Resource Director has been pleasurable, which I have my diligent peers to thank for as well as the volunteers who share the same passion!



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HNP ONTARIO



HNP Ontario's Discord server is now open to public and you are invited to join us!!

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- Stay up-to-date on our upcoming events, initiatives and great networking opportunities, especially if you are in high school
- Meet other young climate change activists and build new friendships
- Discover ways to support the environment
- Have fun!!

<https://discord.gg/2rfG9SyBNW>

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MASSACRE OF DOLPHINS IN TAIJI

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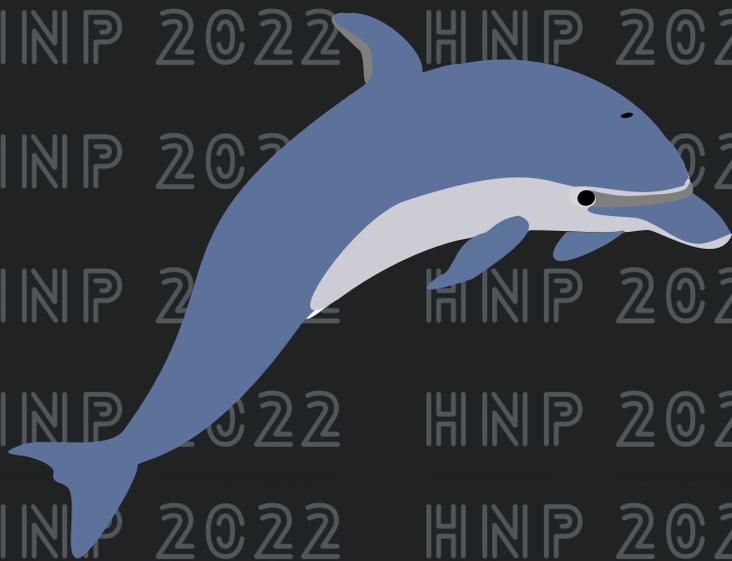


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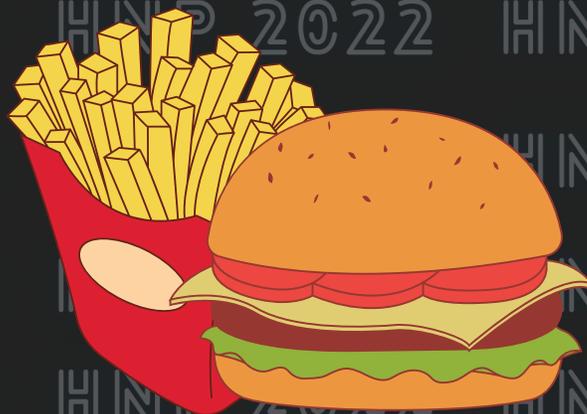
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**What
environmental
topics do want to
see in our next
newsletter?**

**If you have any ideas,
make sure to message
us on any of our social
platforms or e-mail us!**



Meet Our Comms Team



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