

Prelim Bits 22-01-2017

Rescue plan for the Vaquita:

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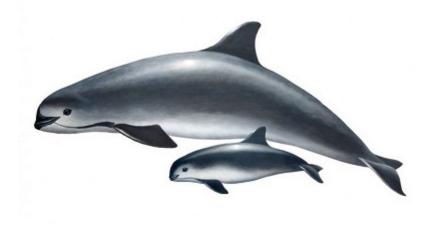
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- The Vaquita (Phocoena sinus) is a rare species of porpoise.
- They are small toothed whales that are very closely related to oceanic dolphins.

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 \bullet It is endemic to the northern part of the Gulf of California. $\ensuremath{^{\text{Nn}}}$

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- It is the most endangered marine mammal species in the world.
- IUCN status Critically Endangered.
- International Committee for the Recovery of the Vaquita (CIRVA) was created by the Mexican Ministry of Environment to eliminate illegal fishing, removing gill nets and relocating remaining Vaquita to a temporary

sanctuary and thereby conserving the species. \n

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Habitable exoplanet next to Earth:

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- The exoplanets are planets that exist outside Earth's solar system.
- The term "habitable zones" refers to a planet where water could exist in a liquid state on a planet's surface if there's sufficient atmospheric pressure.
- Astronomers have located the habitable zone "The Wolf 1061", a planetary system that is 14 light years away from the Earth. \n
- One of the planets in the wolf planetary system, **Wolf 1061c**, is entirely within the habitable zone. $\$
- It has an atmosphere more similar to Venus.
- But the climate of Wolf 1061c is quite chaotic compared to earth, since the
 orbit around its star changes at a much faster rate than earth. The earth also
 experiences climate change due to change in its orbit around the sun which
 resulted in ice age previously.
- Now the earth is in interglacial period. \n

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Warmest Year:

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• The year 2016 was the warmest year since record-keeping began in 1880.

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- The global average surface temperature last year was 0.94°C higher than the 20th century average and July was the warmest month ever recorded.
- \bullet Two phenomena were responsible for this. One was climate change and other was El Nino. $\ensuremath{\backslash n}$
- \bullet Previously 2014 was the warmest year and the record was broken in 2015 and subsequently now in 2016 showing a continuous rise in the earth's temperature. \n
- This is only the second time that the annual temperature record has been broken three years in a row. The previous trio was during World War II.
- \bullet All 16 years in our current century rank among the 17 warmest on record. $\ensuremath{^{\backslash n}}$

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