

Blue whale sighted in Red Sea for first time: Egypt

May 31 2018



The blue whale, which can grow up to 30 metres (100 feet) in length, is listed as "endangered" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature

A rare blue whale, the largest animal on Earth, has been sighted in the Red Sea's Gulf of Aqaba for the first time, Egypt's environment ministry said Thursday.

It said on its Facebook page that Environment Minister Khaled Fahmy has instructed observation teams to track the whale and try to photograph it.

The blue whale, which can grow up to 30 metres (100 feet) in length, is listed as "endangered" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

It was brought "to the brink of extinction" in the 1960s by intensive hunting, according to IUCN.

Hunting has been prohibited by the International Whaling Commission, but the [blue whale](#) is threatened by "the declining availability of krill, its primary food source".

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