

When Need Turns to Greed

The Mechanism and Consequences of
Over-Exploitation in Biodiversity

DRIVER #2: THE EVIL QUARTET



Historical Dependence

Humans have always depended on nature for basic survival requirements: food and shelter. Extraction matches biological reproduction.



The Tipping Point

When extraction outpaces a species' ability to recover, it leads to the total collapse of the natural resource.

Humans have always depended on nature for food and shelter, but when 'need' turns to 'greed', it leads to over-exploitation.

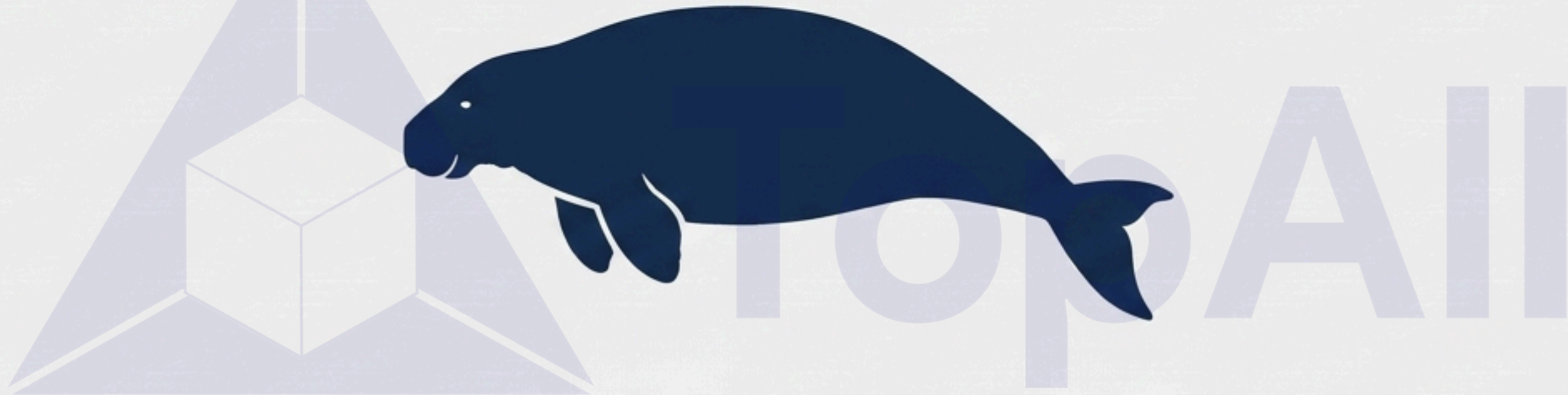
SPECIES: *Hydrodamalis gigas*

COMMON: Steller's Sea Cow

REGION: Russia

TIMEFRAME: Last 500 Years

WARNING: EXTINCT



Driven to total extinction by humans in recent history. The species could not survive unrelenting hunting for its meat and biological resources, collapsing rapidly after human discovery.



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$$E=mc^2$$



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SPECIES: Ectopistes migratorius
COMMON: Passenger Pigeon
REGION: North America
TIMEFRAME: Last 500 Years

WARNING: EXTINCT



Once representing one of the most abundant bird populations on planet Earth, completely wiped out in recent history due to mass, unchecked human over-harvesting.

CURRENTLY VULNERABLE



Global Over-Harvesting

Many marine fish populations around the world are currently being extracted far beyond their repopulation rates.

Compounding Threats

Endangers the continued existence of commercially important species. Threatens both marine biodiversity and global food security simultaneously.

The Stewardship Imperative

The line between utilization and devastation is defined entirely by moderation. **As part of our moral duty,** protecting our biological wealth requires shifting away from relentless extraction back to sustainable coexistence.

ACTION: Pass on our biological legacy in good order.



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