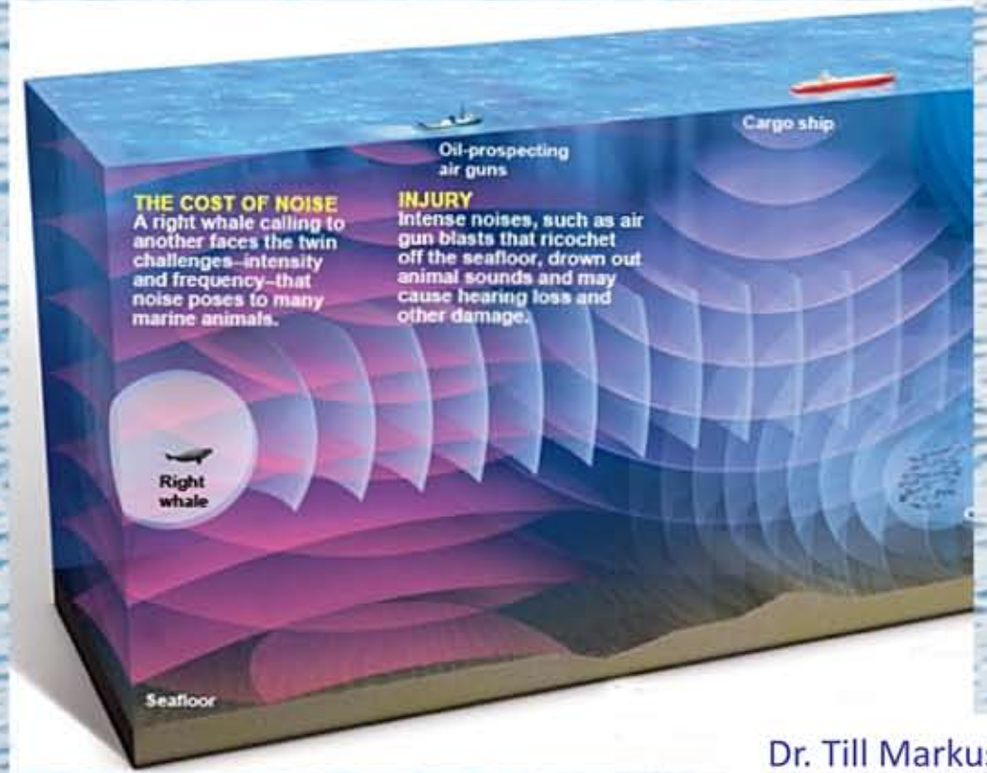

Image source:
http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/01/big-idea/noisy-ocean

Mitigating adverse impacts of anthropogenic ocean noise

The oceans are becoming increasingly noisy. In addition to the everyday background noise of cracking icebergs, rainfall, wind and earthquakes (all natural events), recent decades have seen a significant increase in anthropogenic noise from shipping, seismic surveys, and military sonar. National legislators, international organisations, NGOs and scientists are currently working to improve their understanding of the impacts of noise on the marine life and how to mitigate its potential adverse effects. However, progress in this area has been hampered by a high degree of uncertainty regarding the properties of sound in the marine environment as well as it effects on marine life. The establishment of appropriate limits at "levels that do not adversely affect the marine environment" is only possible by engagement in a (sometimes challenging) interdisciplinary collaboration between lawyers and scientists. Both lawyers and scientists have a part to play in assessing the quality of mitigation measures and revising their content where necessary.

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