NIUE Celebrates The Year Of The Whale 2017

Whales have been living on our planet for millions of years. We are visitors to their territory, we need to respect them and their habitat.
Legend goes a woman called "Mataginifale" was swallowed up by a whale at Oneonepata, Avatele, a village in Niue and taken to Tonga where she was said to have taught the art of child birth to the Tongan people.
Myths, legends, storytelling, passed down from generation to generation

- We remember through song, dance, oral traditions;
- This is our culture; our heritage.
Oma Tafua’s Logo encapsulates Niue’s cultural affiliation with marine mammals especially the Humpback Whale

Logo produced especially for Oma Tafuā and donated by Niuean Artist: James Brown
We as the Pacific People have the “longest standing relationship with our whales” (Rawiri Paratene)
• CULTURAL & SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE;
• SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALUES;
• Whales are harmless creatures & considered by Niueans as a good omen:

- There’s an abundance of fish during whale season (e.g. wahoo); and
- Seeing a mom and calf also presents good luck for pregnant woman.
Whales are an iconic symbol of the Pacific and a mana/taoga of Niue.
Lisi hake e tama hele kula ke kitia......Our calls to breach....
- As he was a gentle giant on the field; he is a gentle giant of the sea.

Jonah (Lomu)
Why do we care in the first place?
Thus, it is our cultural responsibility not to deny our whales their long term survival in healthy ocean habitats.
NIUE
Celebrates the Year of the Whale 2017

Whales have been living on our planet for millions of years.
We are visitors to their territory.
We need to respect them and their habitat.

www.omatafua.nu
omatafua@gmail.com