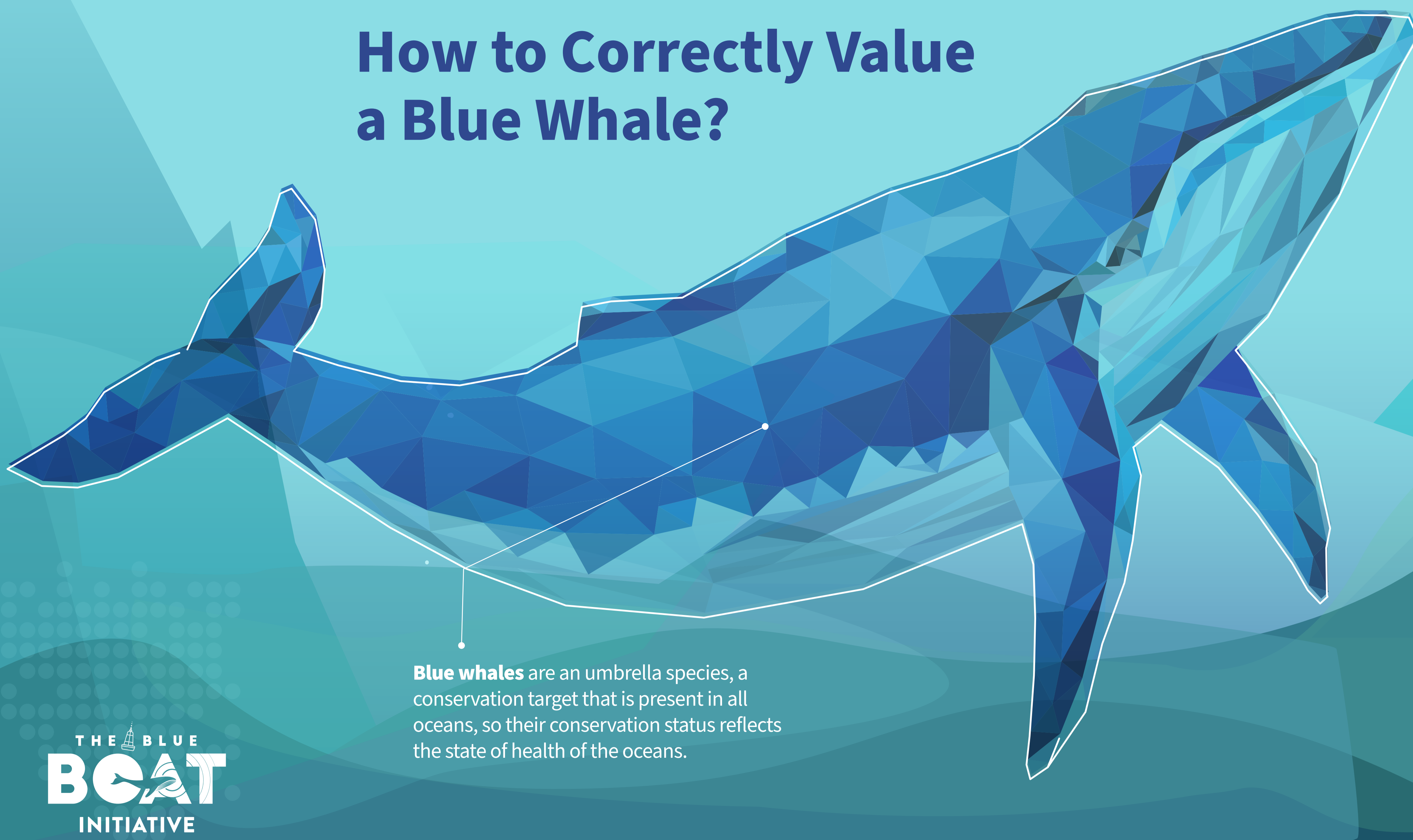


# How to Correctly Value a Blue Whale?



Blue whales are an umbrella species, a conservation target that is present in all oceans, so their conservation status reflects the state of health of the oceans.

THE BLUE  
**BCAT**  
INITIATIVE

FUNDACIÓN  
**MERI**



## Yes

The oceans are not only a source of raw materials. They generate multiple environmental, social, cultural and economic ecosystem services.

Environmental economics warns us of the undeniable value of these ecosystem services for the sustainable development of our society.

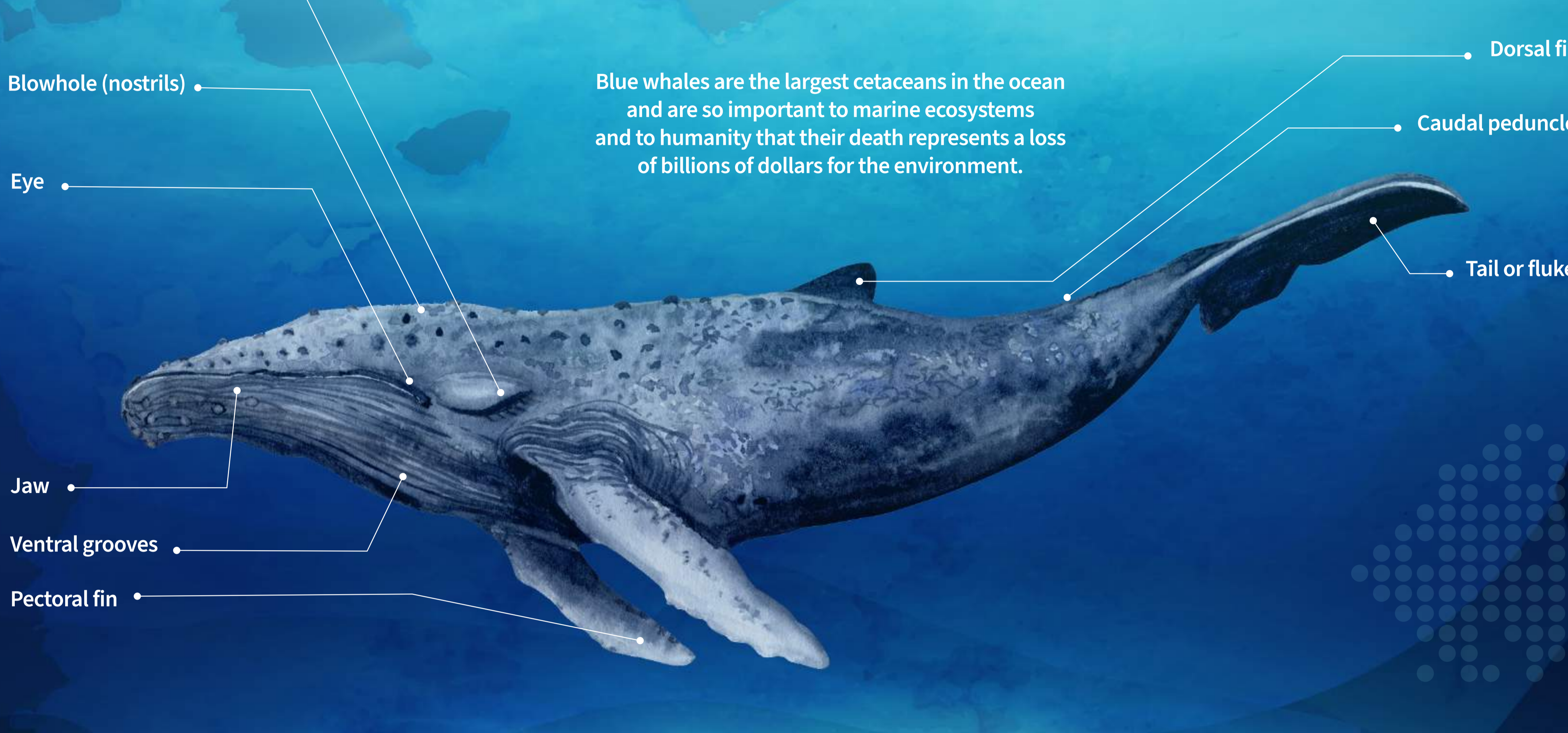
Only a correct valuation of marine ecosystem services will allow decision-makers to recognize the wide range of benefits provided by the marine ecosystem and its biodiversity and to act accordingly.

In the case of blue whales, the valuation of their ecosystem services requires scientists to carefully analyze the positive impact of the whale population in environmental, social, cultural and economic terms.

The oceans call on all of us.

THE BLUE  
**BCAT**  
INITIATIVE

FUNDACIÓN  
**MERI**



Blue whales are the largest cetaceans in the ocean and are so important to marine ecosystems and to humanity that their death represents a loss of billions of dollars for the environment.

These ocean giants provide at least four ecosystem services.

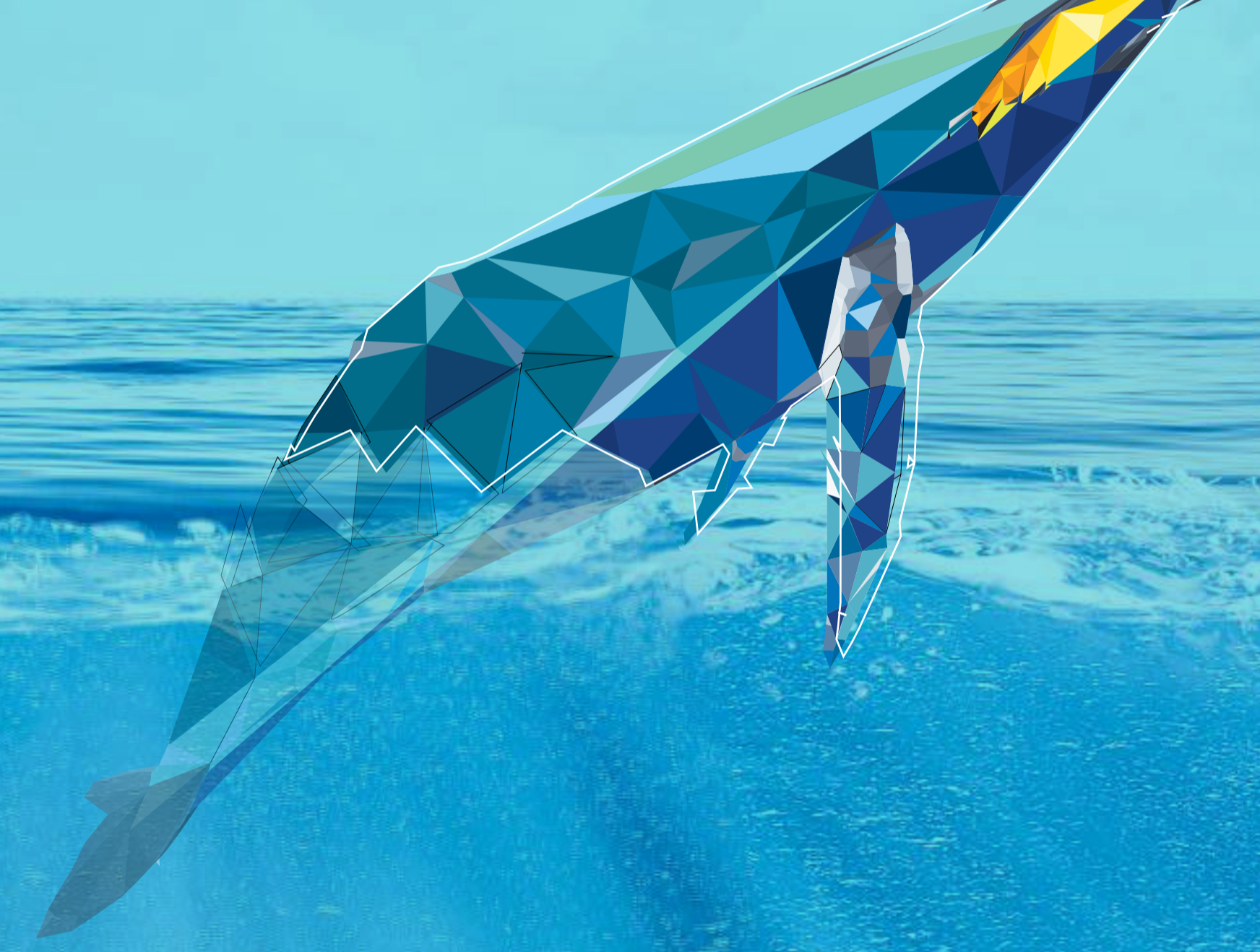
THE BLUE  
**BCAT**  
INITIATIVE

FUNDACIÓN  
**MERI**

## 1 Ecotourism

The whale-watching industry is estimated to generate revenues of over 2 billion dollars worldwide.

As a result, this cultural service has been valued at US\$ 3,707,269.



THE BLUE  
**BCAT**  
INITIATIVE

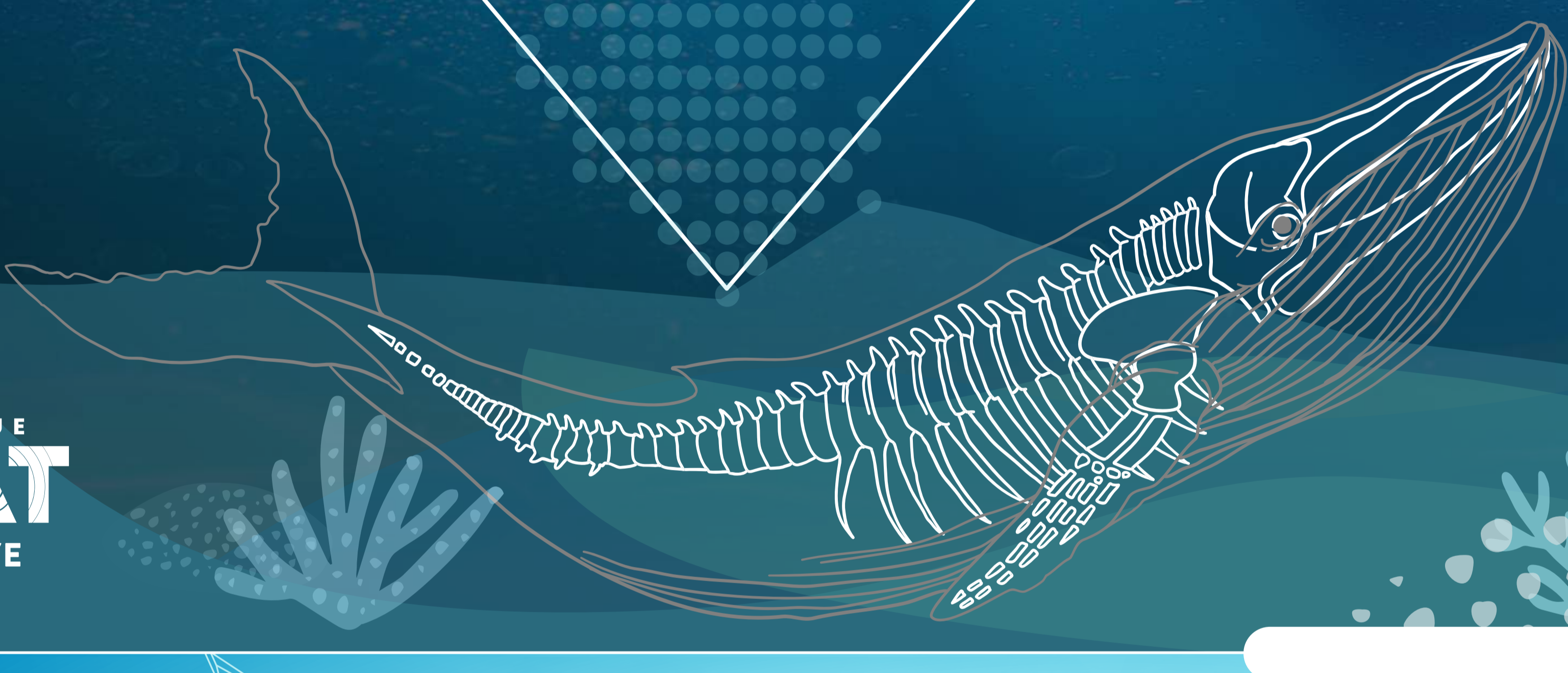
FUNDACIÓN  
**MERI**

## 2 Direct Carbon Sequestration

On average, each blue whale sequesters 33 tons of carbon throughout its lifetime. When whales die, their carcasses sink to the bottom of the ocean trapping carbon for hundreds of years.

Due to their importance in reducing the presence of one of the main gases causing climate change in the atmosphere, this regulation service has been valued at US\$845,184.

CO<sub>2</sub>



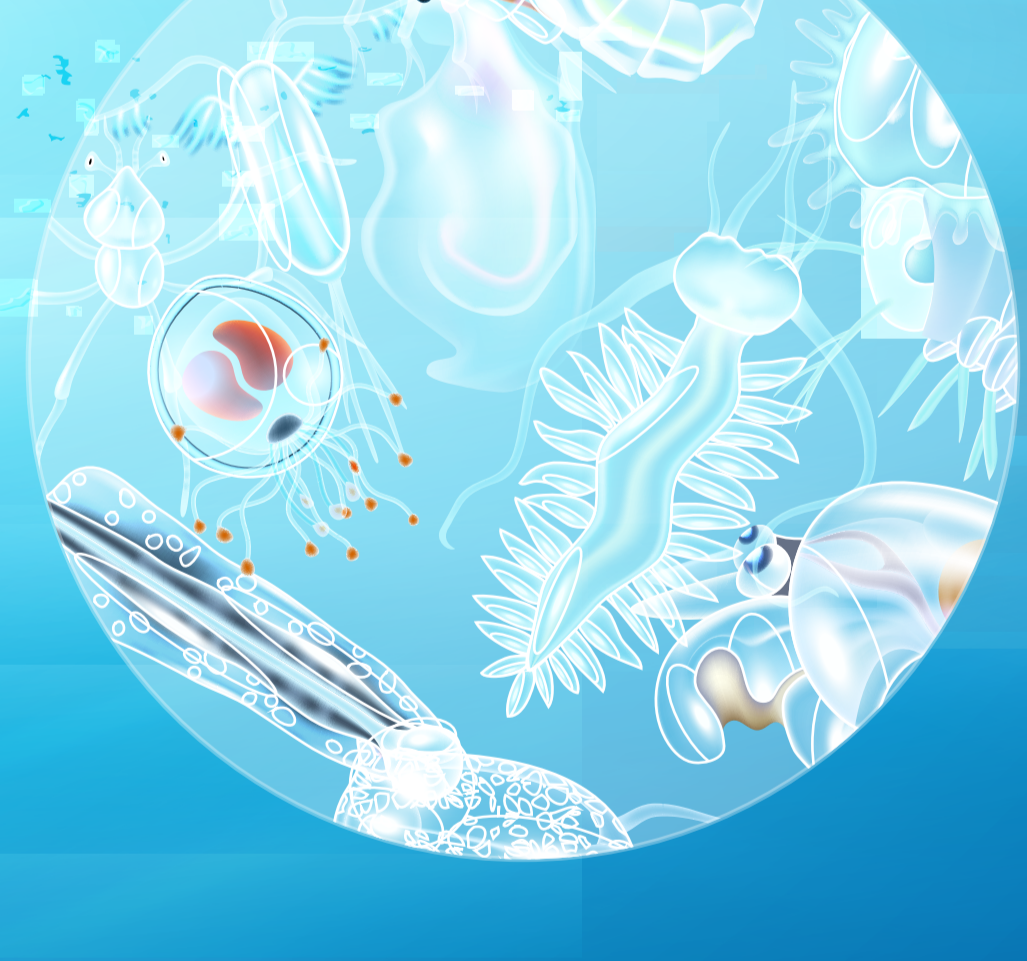
THE BLUE  
**BCAT**  
INITIATIVE

FUNDACIÓN  
**MERI**

## 3 Ocean Fertilization

When whales excrete, they release nutrients that are used by phytoplankton. Thanks to this, a blue whale can increase the proliferation of this microorganism, which in turn contributes directly to oxygen production and carbon sequestration.

This service has been valued at US\$16,954,085.



Phytoplankton



THE BLUE  
**BCAT**  
INITIATIVE

FUNDACIÓN  
**MERI**

## 4 Increase in Fishing

Whales contribute to the stabilization of food webs and increase primary production, which is reflected in a rise in fish stocks. This service has been valued at US\$2,780,552.



THE BLUE  
**BCAT**  
INITIATIVE

FUNDACIÓN  
**MERI**

## The Value of a Live Chilean Blue Whale

Each live Chilean blue whale is worth US\$4,088,856. A live whale is worth much more than a dead one, help us protect them.

Learn more about this initiative at <https://theblueboatinitiative.org/>

Source: On Valuing Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change. This work is a collaboration between MERI Foundation and the

THE BLUE  
**BCAT**  
INITIATIVE

FUNDACIÓN  
**MERI**

