

The Complexities of Hunting



Hvalur hf. is the last active commercial whaling company in Iceland, founded in 1947 by Loftur Bjarnason and Vilhjálmur Árnason. Based out of a U.S ex-naval base, the company launched its first whaling boats in 1948. Between the years of 1948 to 1985, Hvalur hf. Killed 8,887 Fin Whales, 2,886 Sperm Whales, 2,574 Sei Whales, 163 Blue Whales, and 6 Humpback Whales. Currently, the Icelandic Government allows the company to hunt 128 Fin Whales yearly, despite the Fin Whale being listed as an endangered species. Whaling is not a cultural tradition for Icelanders but took off commercially around the 20th century due to the industry's profitability. Icelanders show little interest in whale meat, resulting in the harvested whales being exported internationally for consumption. In 2006, it was recorded that 10,000 tons of whale meat was exported to Japan, in 2014, 2,400 tons, in 2017, 1,400 tons, all from Hvalur hf.



Wild Ground Venison: hunted, killed, butchered and processed locally for making burgers, bangers, and sausage. In most parts of the world, the only natural predator for controlling overpopulation of deer species is the human hunter. The meat harvested as such is local, sustainable, healthy, and better than both factory farming and small domestic animal farming. In factory farming, animals are raised and kept in overcrowded and filthy pens. The majority of animals develop weaker immune systems as a result of these circumstances, and antibiotics are therefore frequently used to combat diseases that are found in the animals. 87% of the global population includes meat in their diet, with 73% consuming it regularly and 14% occasionally, these consumers have begun to raise their standards when it comes to the meat and dairy industry, opting for more ethical and sustainable options as well as choosing meat that is free of harmful preservatives.



In the 19th century, an estimated 31,000,000 bison were killed (*Bison bison*). The North American Bison is a keystone species that has faced extinction and continues to be threatened. The animal's meat, bones, and fur were prized, encouraging hunters to kill the animal for a profit, resulting in its near extinction. In 2023, over 1,530 Bison, including pregnant females, were shot and killed outside Yellowstone National Park, causing the population to drop 37.5%. Native Americans, under historic treaty rights, are allowed to kill any Bison that exit the park. The state of Montana allows this slaughter primarily because of the Montana Cattlemen's Association, the most powerful lobbying organization in the state. These ranchers do not want Bison competing with their Cattle on federally owned grasslands. Bison often carry the fatal disease brucellosis, and the Cattlemen's Association uses this as justification despite no documented case of transmission between Bison and Cattle.