

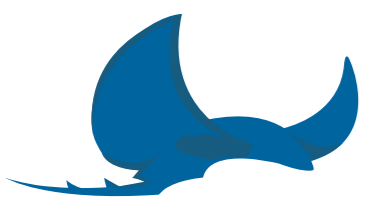
Why are DEVIL & MANTARAYS AT RISK?

Found throughout the tropical and temperate ocean, devil and manta rays (collectively known as mobulid rays) are under threat.

Why? Exceptionally few offspring make them one of the most vulnerable animals in our ocean. Yet controls on fishing and trade are lacking as demand for their gill plates grows. Read on to find out more about these amazing animals and what you can do to help protect them.

REPRODUCTION

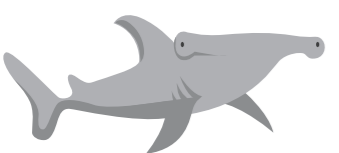
Devil and manta rays usually give birth to just one pup every one to three years. Compare that to the scalloped hammerhead shark, which has between 12 and 41 pups per litter per year, or an albacore tuna that releases between 4 and 60 millions eggs annually.



ONE OFFSPRING



4-60 MILLION EGGS



12-14 OFFSPRING

CONSERVATION STATUS

According to the IUCN Red List the eleven devil and manta ray species face different risk of extinction.



Giant Devil Ray



Reef Manta Ray
Giant Manta Ray

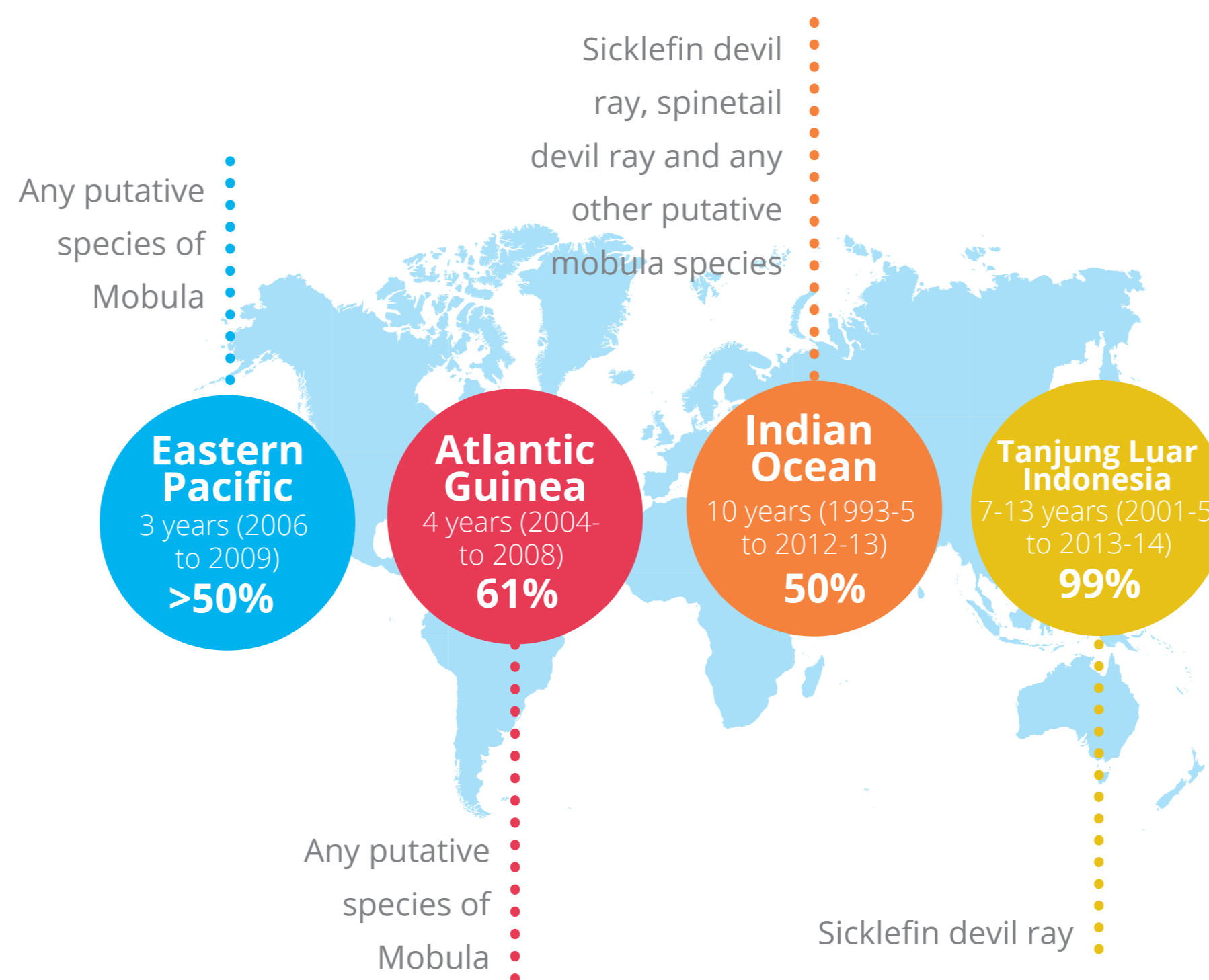


Spinetail Devil Ray
Pygmy Devil Ray
Munk's Devil Ray
Lesser Guinean Devil Ray
Bentfin Devil Ray

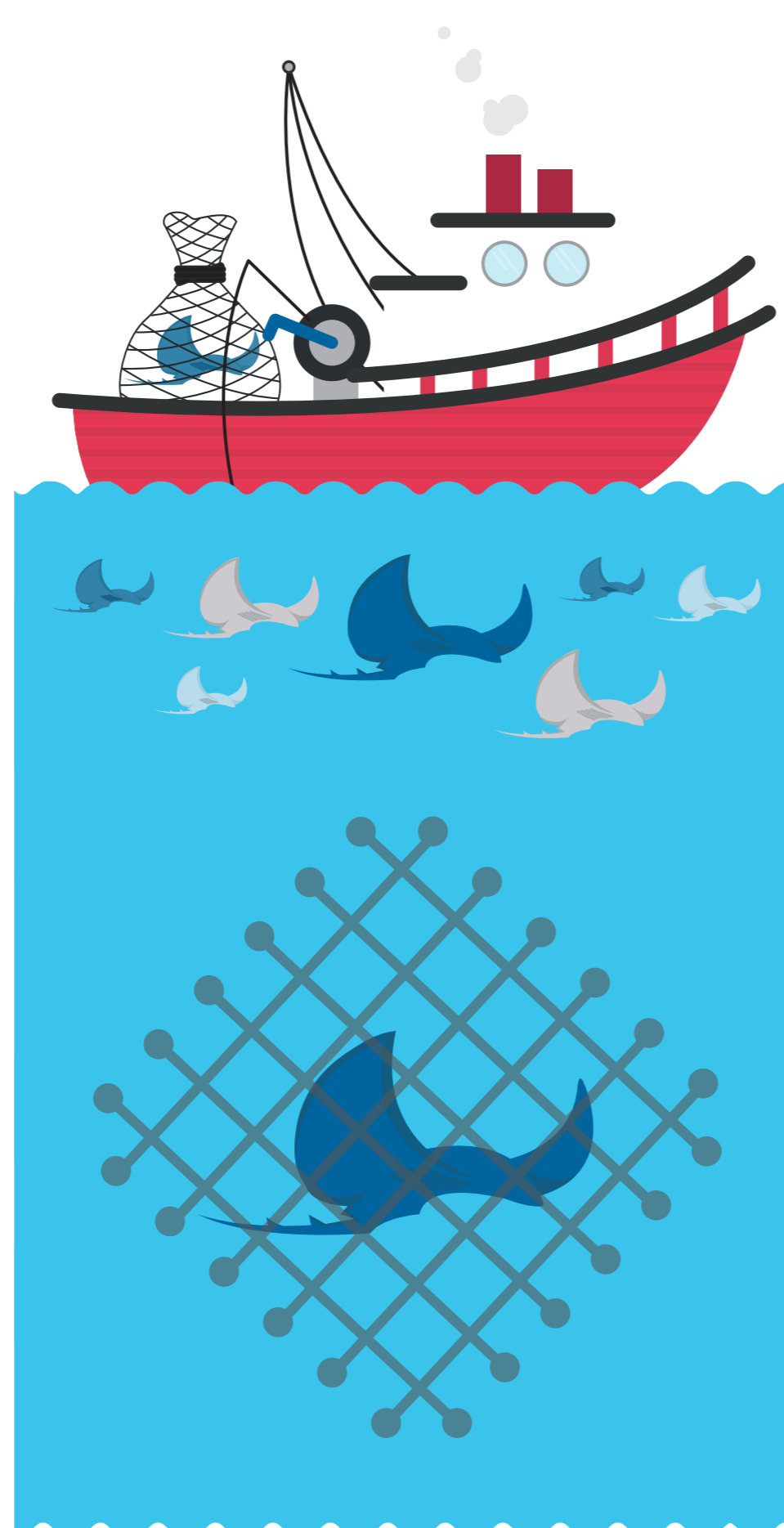


Chilean Devil Ray
Atlantic Devil Ray
Shortfin Devil Ray

REGIONAL DECLINES



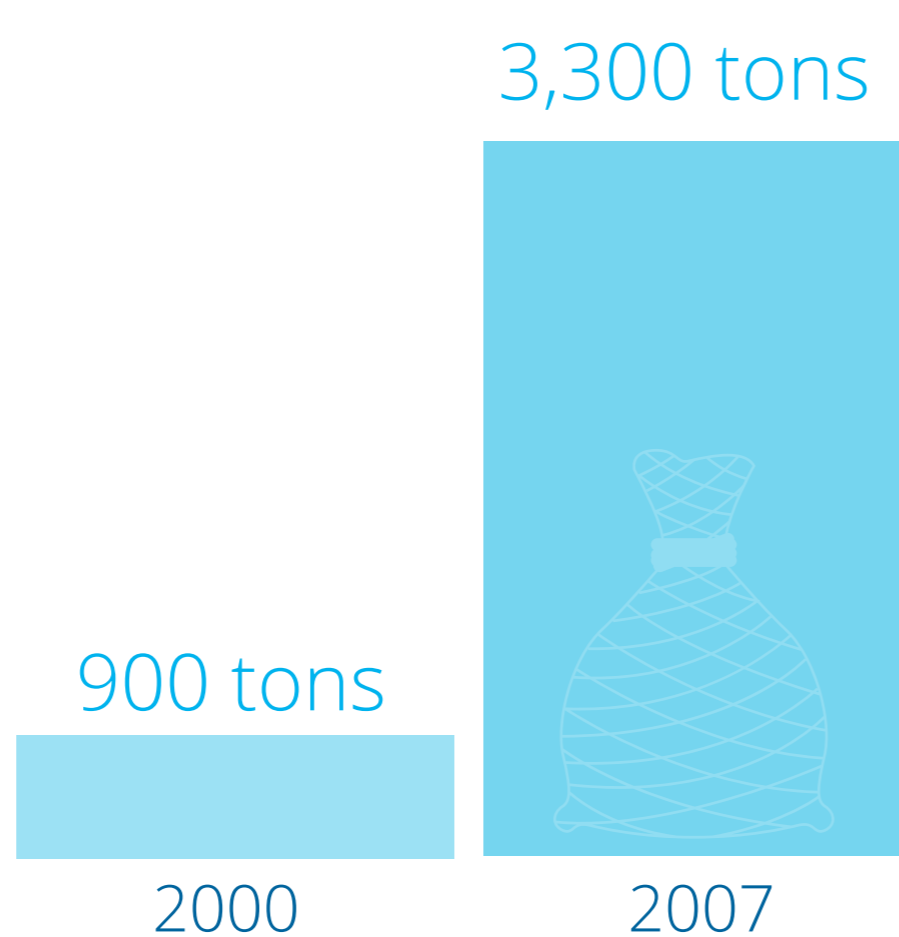
MAJOR THREATS



Mobulid rays are easy targets. They move slowly through the ocean, often near the surface in predictable aggregations. Yet despite several conservation commitments and international mandates very few countries ban or even limit devil ray fishing.

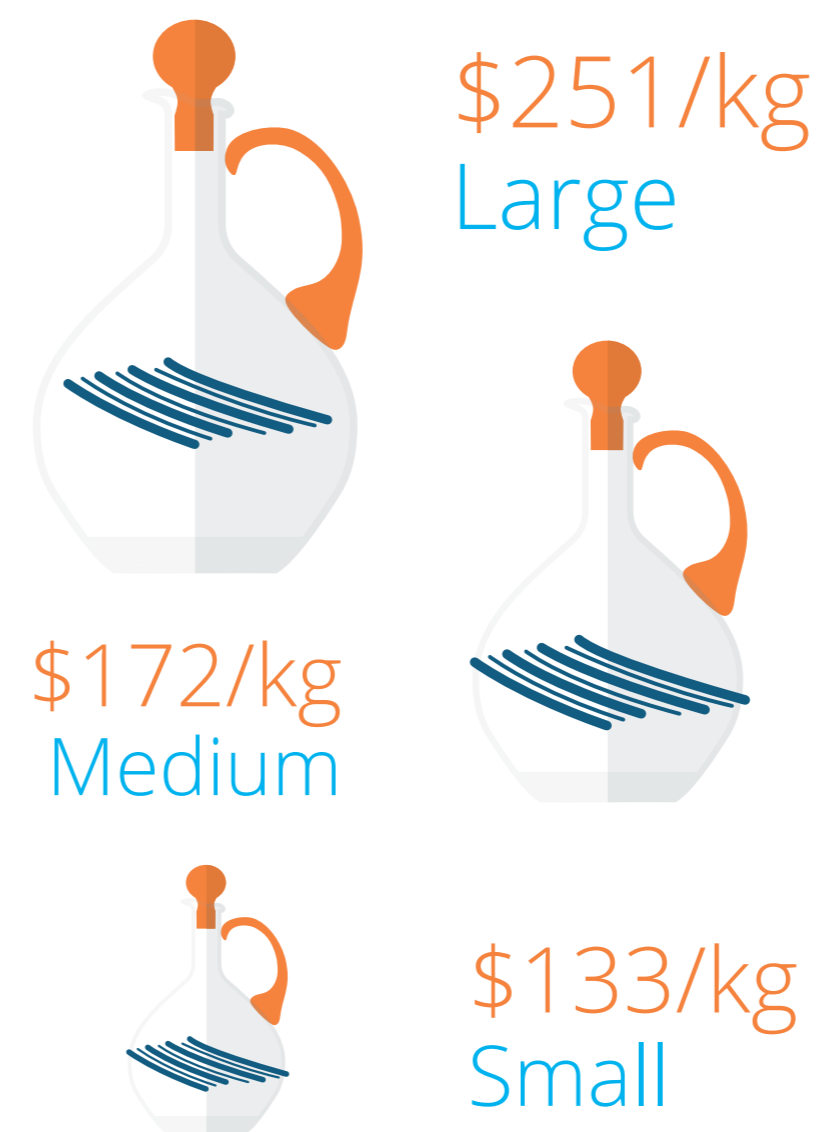
INCIDENTAL TAKE

Mobulids are targeted by some fisheries and taken incidentally in fisheries focused on other species, such as tuna. Between 2000 and 2007, giant manta ray catches reported to Food Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations nearly quadrupled.



GILL PLATE DEMAND AND VALUE

Demand for mobulid gill plates - the tight knit feathery structures these filter feeders use to strain plankton, is rising. The market for a chinese health tonic - where the gill plates are used - has created an incentive to fish for these vulnerable species. And it's profitable, with even small gill plates fetching \$133 per kg.



SECONDARY THREATS



WANTED ALIVE NOT DEAD



Convention of Migratory Species (CMS): All manta and devil ray species are listed under Appendix I and II of the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS). The Appendix I listing means CMS Parties are obligated to strictly protect these species. The Appendix II listing reflects CMS Parties' commitment to collaborate in regional conservation efforts. Yet implementation of these listings is lacking, especially for devil rays.

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC): In 2013 the IATTC took a landmark step to ban retention and mandate careful release of mobulids caught at large scale fisheries. Fully addressing the threat means proper implementation, expansion to small scale fisheries and replication to other regional fisheries bodies.

CONTROL INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Manta rays were listed under CITES Appendix II in 2013 in hopes that resulting control measures would prevent international trade from threatening their survival. In 2016 all remaining mobulid species were added to CITES Appendix II.

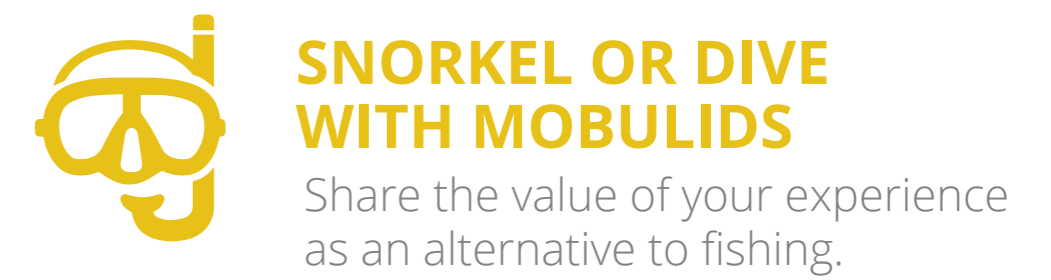


Manta and devil rays could be worth more alive than dead.

Tourism revenue: \$100,000,000
Fishery revenue: \$500,000

One manta is estimated to be worth \$1 MILLION in tourism. That same animal could be worth as little as \$150 to a fishery including the value of a gill raker.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Share the value of your experience as an alternative to fishing.



Be sure you and your guide follow proper procedures. Look, don't touch. Keep your distance.



Contact your government officials and voice your support for implementation of comprehensive international commitments that protect mobulids.



Rethink, reduce, reuse and recycle your waste. Support policy change necessary to help prevent marine debris of all kinds - including derelict fishing gear and plastics - from entering the ocean.



Your voice matters. Support organizations like Project AWARE who work to secure a brighter future for our ocean.

FIND OUR MORE AT PROJECTAWARE.ORG



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SOURCES

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