

## **ABSTRACT**

In four chapters that this thesis consists of is presented the protection provided to cetaceans by international law. The first chapter gives insight into the biology of cetaceans, names facts relevant to their conservation and its legal basis. The second chapter deals with legal regulation of whaling. It analyzes the history and current situation in the International Whaling Commission as the only global organization to manage the exploitation of large cetaceans, particularly in terms of adopting protective measures for the recovery and conservation of whale stocks. The third chapter focuses on the species approach in protection of cetaceans as endangered animals. The fourth chapter addresses the protection of cetaceans' environment. First it deals with the protection of marine environment in general and then with the protection of cetacean habitats.