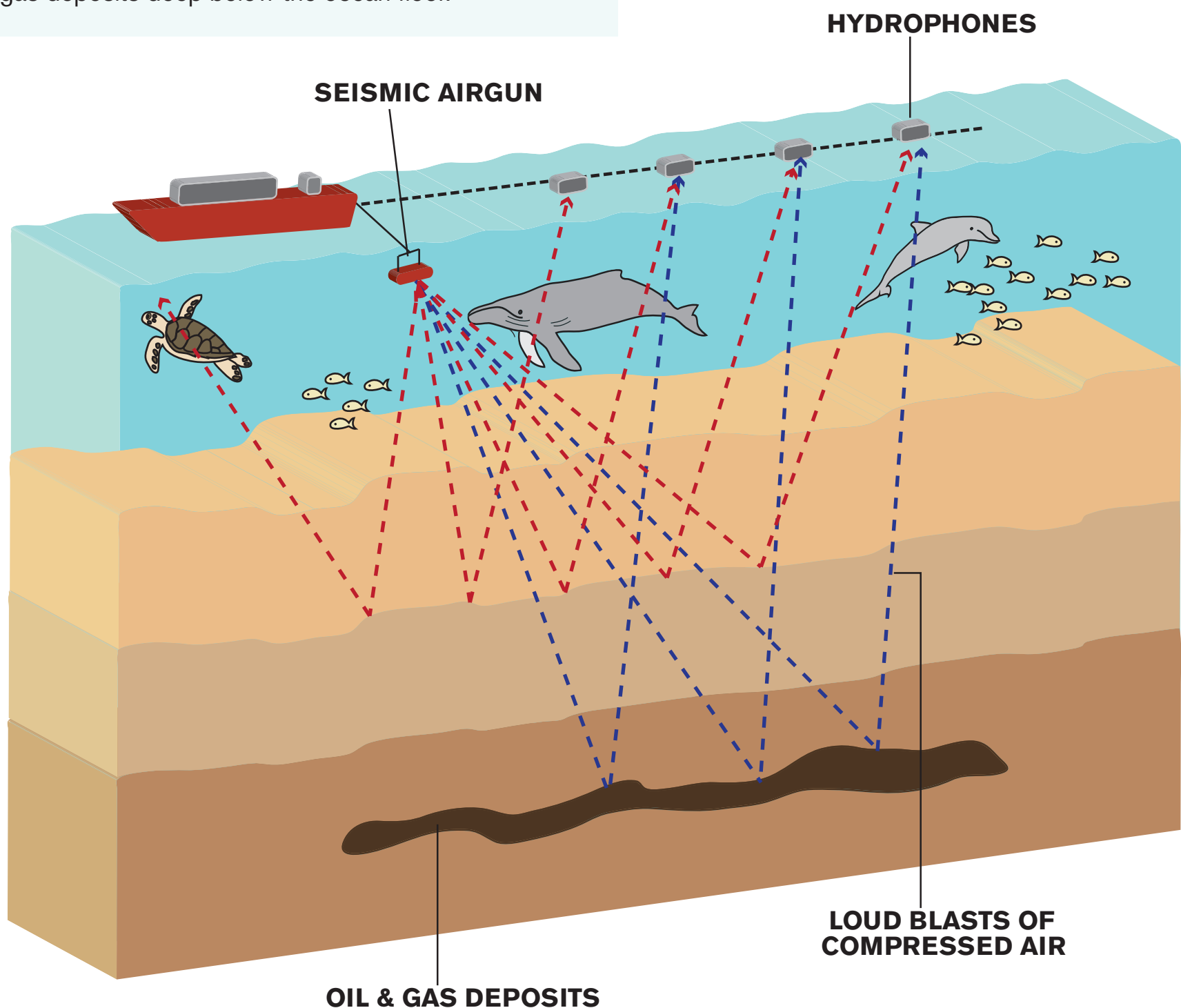


Airguns can immediately impact marine life. The sounds of the blasts are so great, they can permanently or temporarily deafen whales and dolphins. These animals rely on hearing to protect them from predators, find food and communicate with each other.

The blasts can lead to drilling and spilling and the burning of fossil fuels which contribute to climate change and ocean acidification. They can also destroy habitats in various ways, such as: disrupting schooling behavior of commercially important fish, killing fish larvae, and disturbing spawning grounds.

## HOW IT WORKS

**Seismic airgun blasting** is used to locate oil and gas deposits deep below the ocean floor.



Vessels tow large arrays of seismic airguns which shoot extremely loud blasts of compressed air through the ocean and miles under the seafloor, **every ten seconds, 24 hours a day, for days to weeks on end.**

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### SOURCES

U.S. Department of the Interior