If you’d like to include WDC in your Estate Plan, there are several kinds of gifts that you can include in a new or existing Will or Revocable Living Trust. It’s entirely up to you which kind of gift you wish to give, and for what amount. You need to decide what is best for you and your family. All gifts play a vital role in helping to fund our future work, regardless of the size or type. Here are the types of gift you can make:

**Pecuniary Bequest**
If you like the idea of leaving a fixed sum of money in your Will to WDC then you should opt for an outright pecuniary bequest. This can be for any amount and it needs to be clearly stated in your Will or Trust. Consult with your Estate Planner on the specific wording.

**Specific Bequest**
Instead of money, you can leave a tangible item of value to WDC. This could be anything from a piece of jewelry or a painting, to a car, stocks, or even your house. This is called a specific bequest.

**Residuary Gift**
Many people choose to make provision for their family and friends first, and rightly so. So, once bills have been paid and specific sums of money or items of value set aside for your loved ones, the remainder or ‘residue’ of your estate or trust can be donated to WDC. This is called a residuary gift.

**Consider a Charitable Remainder Trust**
Another estate planning option to consider which may have current tax and other economic benefits for you, while still benefitting WDC later, is called a Charitable Remainder Trust, or CRT. A CRT is a special trust allowed under a “safe harbor” section of the Internal Revenue Code. With a CRT you place a specified sum of money (or other property) in a trust and receive a lifetime annuity (which can include the lives of both members of a married couple) or annuity over a term of years specified in the document. WDC is specified in the document as the ultimate or “remainder” beneficiary. When the annuity ends, the remaining funds in the trust would be paid WDC. Creating a CRT will generate an immediate income tax charitable deduction when the trust is executed, as well as provide a guaranteed source of income over for life. Therefore this device is a “win” both for you and for WDC. The tax rules are complex and so an attorney who specializes in tax or estate planning should be consulted to create a CRT.
Language
We suggest consulting an attorney before making changes in your Will or Trust since there are strict legal rules about how such changes can be made. Writing on your Will or Trust may have unanticipated legal consequences! Your attorney, however, may appreciate you sharing the wording below which they can insert in your documents properly.

Pecuniary Gift language
I give to WDC, Whale and Dolphin Conservation (501 c3 Tax Identification Number is 02-0749188), of 7 Nelson Street Plymouth, MA, the sum of $ [ ] to be used by WDC at its discretion. I declare that the receipt of the executive director, or appropriate officer, shall be a complete discharge to my [executors/ personal representatives/ trustees.]

Specific Gift language
I give to WDC, Whale and Dolphin Conservation (501 c3 Tax Identification Number is 02-0749188), of 7 Nelson Street Plymouth, MA, the [description of specified item] to be used or disposed of by WDC at its discretion. I declare that the receipt of the executive director, or appropriate officer, shall be a complete discharge to my [executors/ personal representatives/ trustees.]

Residuary Gift language
I give to WDC, Whale and Dolphin Conservation (501 c3 Tax Identification Number is 02-0749188), of 7 Nelson Street Plymouth, MA, the residue (or % share of the residue) of my estate [or trust] to be used by WDC at its discretion. I declare that the receipt of the executive director, or appropriate officer, shall be a complete discharge to my [executors/ personal representatives/ trustees.]

Codicils and Amendments
If you already have a Will or Revocable Living Trust, your attorney can make a simple addition called, in the case of a Will, a codicil, or in the case of a Revocable Living Trust, an amendment. This typically will be only one or two pages long and avoids the expense of redoing existing Trusts or Wills. A codicil, and in some states, an amendment, needs to be witnessed and should be kept with your Will or Revocable Living Trust. Again, we highly recommend that you ask an attorney to help you when drawing up any legal document.

Please consider sending a copy of your completed document(s) to WDC for our records. This is by no means necessary, but does inform us as we plan for the future, particularly if you’d like to specify, or restrict, your gift to a particular area of our work (e.g. North Atlantic right whale conservation, educations, etc.). Email Melissa Walker (melissa.walker@whales.org) or mail the copies to:

WDC Attn: Legacies
7 Nelson Street
Plymouth, MA 02360