GRAY WHALE RESEARCH IN MEXICO

A Non-Profit Research Program of The Ocean Foundation, Washington D.C.

and the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur, La Paz, Mexico

https://graywhaleresearchmexico.org/

GRAY WHALES ARE IN CRISIS & NEED OUR HELP

Once a conservation success story, Eastern North Pacific (ENP) Gray Whales have been showing dangerous and unmistakable signs of stress since 2018, with an alarming spike in 2025:

* **Reproduction has declined** significantly with *only 8 newborn calves* observed in the San Ignacio and Bahia Magdalena winter lagoon aggregation areas this year, compared to a historical annual average of 200 or more for these areas.

* **The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA**), in their 2025 observation of spring northward migration past central California, reported the lowest historical count on record of only 85 calves, indicating that "...*reproduction is too low for the population to rebound.*"

* **Malnourished whales in poor body condition** continue to arrive at the winter lagoons, just when they should be healthy after a summer of feeding in the North Pacific and Arctic.

*** Strandings and mortalities of adult whales** continue in record-breaking numbers in their winter range and along their North American migration corridor.

*** In 2019 NOAA declared a range-wide Unusual Mortality Event** (UME) that resulted in the decline of the ENP population from 27,000 individuals in 2016 to an estimated 12,500 in 2025 — *a 50% reduction of the ENP population*.

*** Scientists believe** that cumulative effects of Climate-Change-related disruption of seasonal food production in the whales' Arctic feeding grounds, warming waters along their continental shelf migration routes, human disturbance, and *Orca* (Killer whale) predation on newborn calves are all contributing to the Gray Whale's population decline. (Read more details in our *Letter of Concern for the Gray Whale's Future*

https://graywhaleresearchmexico.org/updates/concern-future-gray-whales)

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO:

Beginning in the 1970s, the Gray Whale Research in Mexico program (GWRM) has monitored and researched the whales' abundance, behavior, and reproduction in their winter aggregation areas and lagoons in Baja California Sur, Mexico. Our mission also includes supporting and training the next generation of marine scientists and wildlife managers to protect and conserve the whales and their essential winter habitats. Our research findings are shared with a NOAA-led international working group of scientists throughout the Gray Whales' geographic range including Russia, Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

At this critical time for the ENP Gray Whales, it is essential that the GWRM program continue each winter to gather information on the numbers and condition of the whales that arrive in Baja California Sur, so that we can report to wildlife managers from Alaska to Mexico on the whales' status and guide meaningful conservation measures to support the recovery of the ENP Gray Whale population.

WE NEED YOUR HELP: The GWRM program is a Tax Exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit research program sponsored by The Ocean Foundation in Washington D.C. and affiliated with the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur, Mexico (UABCS) in La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico. *We operate entirely on private funding from individuals and foundations that support marine conservation and the Gray Whales.*

We are urgently asking for your financial support to sustain our research and advocacy at the necessary levels, in hopes we can eventually document the Gray Whale's recovery from this major population decline, nutritional stress, elevated mortality, and reproductive failure.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Giving options:

1. YOUR ONE-TIME FINANCIAL DONATION OR SUSTAINED RECURRING MONTHLY GIFT may be made directly to the GWRM program by going to our website's DONATE page, where you can safely and securely contribute online via The Ocean Foundation, our 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor. *Here is the link to the GWRM website's donation page:*

https://graywhaleresearchmexico.org/donate

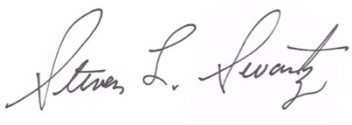
Or you may send your personal check payable to:

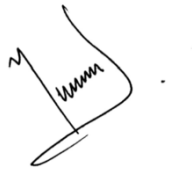
The Ocean Foundation - GWRM Program
1320 19th Street, N.W., Suite 401
Washington D.C. 20036

2. DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS THAT WOULD HELP? To help you help us *help the whales*, please send this message to friends who might value our work and share your commitment to supporting Gray Whale research during this critical time.

Please feel free to contact us directly if you have questions about the Gray Whale research program or would like more information about our work and how you can support our program.

On behalf of the whales and our dedicated team, *THANK YOU*.





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