Eastern North Pacific Gray Whales

Population Status

There are two populations of gray whales (Eschrichtius robustus), one in the eastern and one in the western North Pacific. Eastern North Pacific (ENP) gray whales are found along the west coast of North America, ranging from Baja California Sur, Mexico to Arctic waters.
The population has experienced dramatic changes in abundance, calf production, mortality, health, and distribution alongside rapid environmental change across the North Pacific and Arctic habitats.



What the Commission is Doing

At its 2025 Annual Meeting, the Marine Mammal Commission (the Commission) heard from federal scientists about ENP gray whale monitoring efforts and current population trends. In September 2026, the Commission and Oregon State University's Marine Mammal Institute convened a Range-wide Gray Whale Science Symposium to synthesize current understanding of gray whale population dynamics, ecology, and health and identify priorities for future research and monitoring. The symposium convened researchers from across the entire range of ENP gray whales, elevating the profile of this iconic West Coast marine mammal and fostering new collaborations from Mexico to Alaska.

Scan to Learn More!

Symposium Procedings, Recordings, and Presentations

Fiscal Year 2027 Request for Proposals focused on Gray Whales

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION