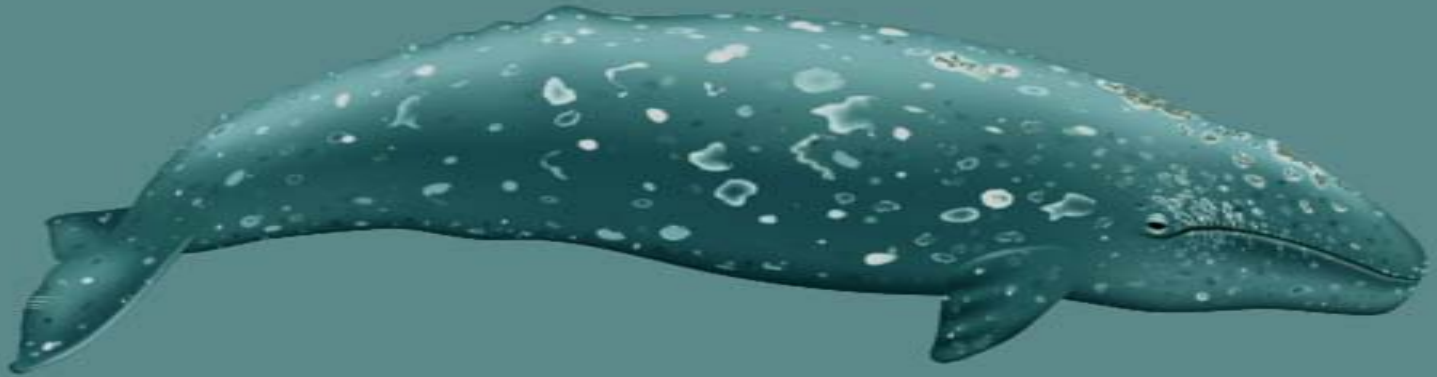


Baja's Friendly Whales



Biology and Conservation

Debra Valov
ISSI 2024

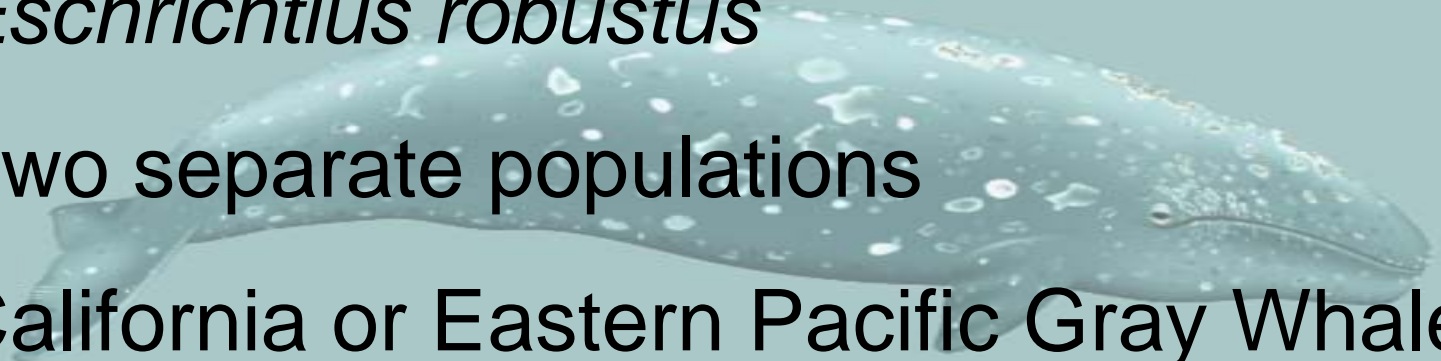
Introduction

- Natural History
- Conservation Issues
- Ecotourism



Natural History

- Mammal in Order Cetacea
- *Eschrichtius robustus*
- Two separate populations
- California or Eastern Pacific Gray Whale



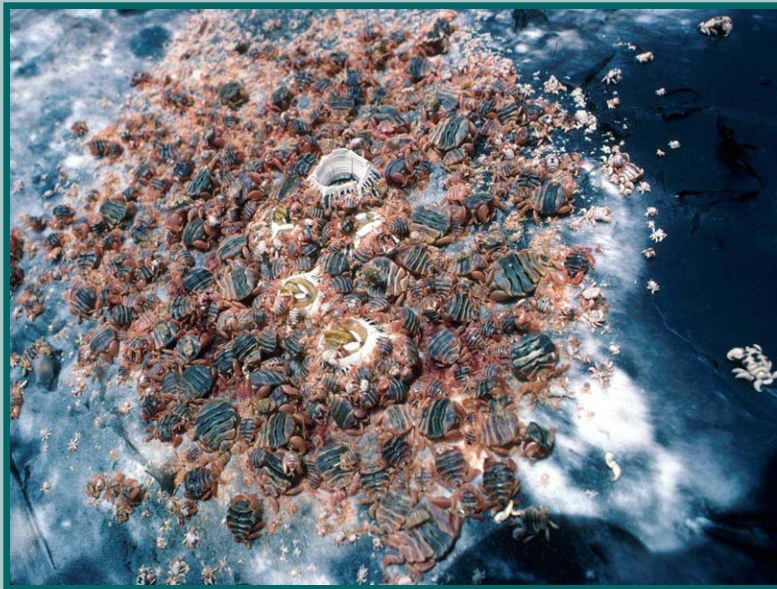


WHALE STATS

45 ft long

30-40 tons

“Knuckles”



Barnacles and whale lice



Mottled blackish-grey skin



Baleen

WHALE DIET

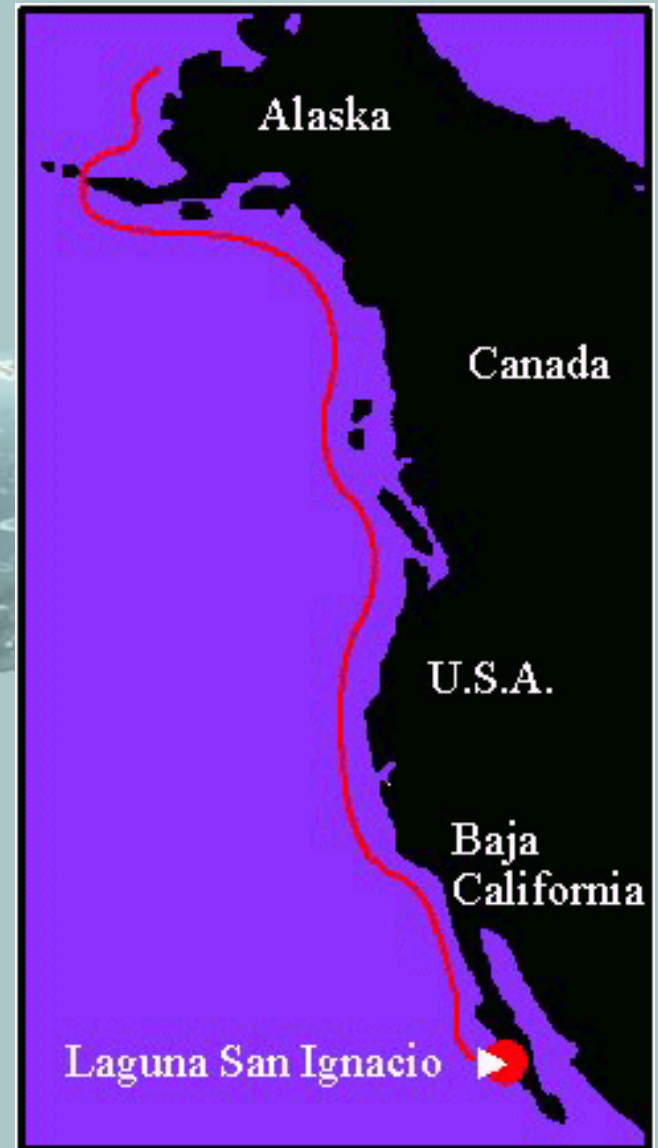
- 1.3 tons (2600 lbs) per day
- 198 tons (396,000 lbs) in 5 months



Amphipods (krill)

LIFE CYCLE

- Artic to Baja California: longest migration of a mammal
- Echolocation



SUMMER

- Jun-Sept (Oct)
- feeding

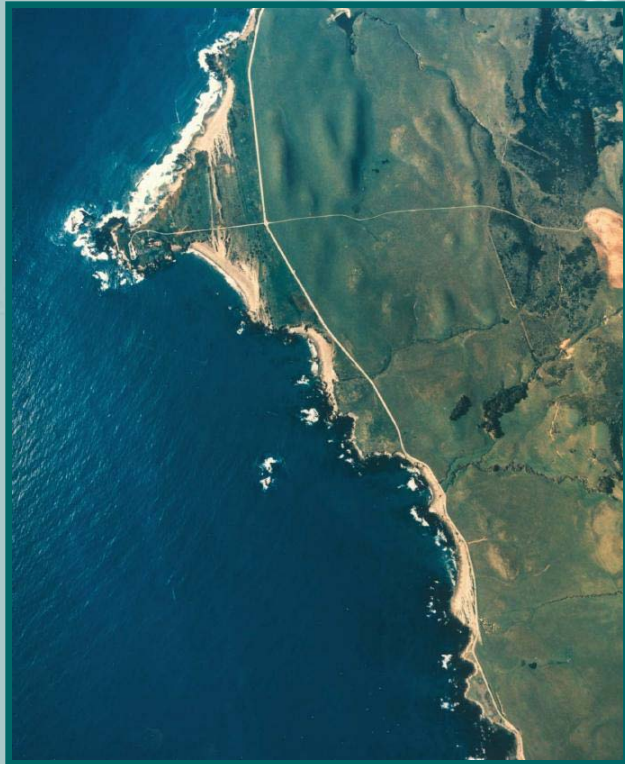




FALL & SPRING

Oct-Nov & Apr-May

- migration
- 55-60 days



No. California Coast



Baja California Peninsula

WINTER

Dec-Mar

- Mate
- Give birth
- Watch tourists



Laguna Ojo de Liebre



Laguna San Ignacio



Breaching



Breaching

Life in the Baja Lagoons



Spyhop



Fluking/Diving

More than Whales

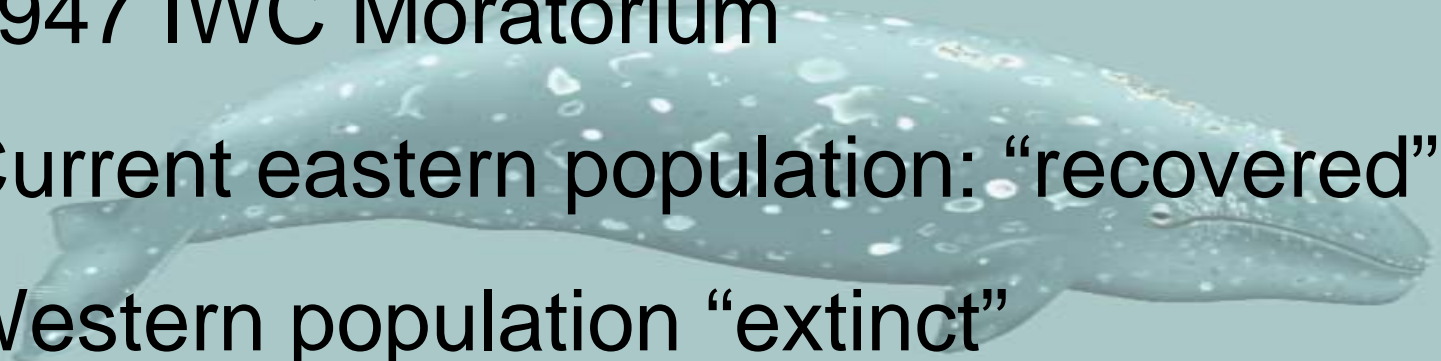


PREDATORS: KILLER WHALES




PREDATORS: HUMANS

- 19th Century whaling
- 1947 IWC Moratorium
- Current eastern population: “recovered”
- Western population “extinct”





Conservation Issues

- Whale nurseries declared (Mexico, 1973)
 - Biosphere Reserve (1988)
 - World Heritage Site (1993)
 - 1999 & 2005: salt works proposals
- 



Laguna Ojo de Liebre
w/ ESSA Salt works



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Image NASA
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Pointer 27°43'36.95" N 114°15'10.98" W elev 50 ft Streaming ||||| 100%

Eye alt 46.00 mi

Laguna San Ignacio



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Ecotourism

- Whale watching tours
- Other “eco” activities
- Education programs



bienvenidos welcome

CENTRO DE INFORMACIÓN Y VENTA DE BOLETOS

TOURIST INFORMATION AND TICKET SALE

Centro de visitantes
Casa Mexicana de la Ballena Gris

Con tu pago de derechos, contribuyes a la conservación de las ballenas.
With your entrance fee you are contributing to the preservation of the whales.

Reserva de la Biosfera El Vizcaíno

Gracias por tu pago!
¡Exige tu comprobante!

Tours Ojo de Liebre
Ej. B. Juárez Mpio. de Mulegé B. Cta. Sur

- Ballenas
- Aves
- Pinturas Rupestres
- Berrendos
- Salina
- Casona
- Dunas
- Desierto



Bienvenidos / welcome

Area Protegida
Gracias por tu pago,
con el mejoramos nuestros servicios
Protected Area
Thank you for your fee;
we use it to improve our services

Centro de visitantes
 Visitors' Center
Casa Mexicana de la Ballena Gris
 Mexican Home of the Groy Whale

Reserva de la Biosfera El Vizcaíno









Isidro Arce Arce, Punta Abreojos BCS

Whale Watching Tours





Whale Video

¡Thanks!
¡See you in Baja!



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www.lasecomujeres.org