

# GRAY WHALE

# ACTION ALERT!

## THIS IS IT! GRAY WHALE CROSSROADS

***The best hope the Gray Whales have right now is to be upgraded to depleted status under the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.***

If the Coalition is successful in getting National Marine & Fisheries Service to make a positive 60 day finding (a YES decision), then the Agency must initiate what is known as a Status Review, a bringing together of experts to examine all major threats and problems facing the Gray Whales, making recommendations for their recovery.

**A new Status Review is long overdue.** When the whales were delisted from the Endangered Species Act in 1994, a Status Review was held five years later as required by the Act. None of the recommendations of this Status Review workshop were funded or implemented. A second five year Status Review was recommended as well but never implemented. (There was no California GrayWhale Coalition in those days to gee up the government).

There's been **NO STATUS REVIEW** of the Gray Whale population since 1999. Yet almost one year after the first Status Review workshop the population sustained a massive crash, losing more than one third of the whales to starvation.

In the 11 years which have passed since the only Status Review, many problems have arisen for the whales. Major threats involve climate change impacts, loss of prey, entanglements, toxic pollution, transient orca predation, navy exercises and wave energy projects.

***THE DEPLETED PETITION IS THE BEST CHANCE FOR THE GRAY WHALES RIGHT NOW. WE NEED TO SUBMIT THOUSANDS OF POSITIVE COMMENTS TO THE US GOVERNMENT.***

***If the petition is rejected, the Coalition will challenge National Marine & Fisheries decision in the Courts.***

***We need your help now !***

***Comments supporting the Coalition's depleted petition must be sent in by midnight, December 8,2010.***

***To submit your comment electronically please visit:***

***<http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#submitComment?R=0900006480b848e1>***

***Our suggested draft is as follows:-***

I ..... submit a formal comment of support for the California Gray Whale Coalition depleted petition ( RIN 0648-XA018) and requests NMFS accept the petition and make a positive 60 day finding.

I ..... submit the eastern north pacific gray whale population is below its optimum sustainable population and that the petition provides compelling evidence of inhibited reproduction, diminished prey availability and increased predation which are severely impacting the viability of the population.

***Please copy and paste one of the above comments into the comments field, fill out your details and submit.***

***PLEASE ACT NOW.***

***THIS IS A VITAL STEP IN PROTECTING THE MAJESTIC GRAY WHALE***

***To submit by Fax:***

***301-713-0376  
Att: Chief, Marine Mammal and  
Sea Turtle  
Conservation Division.***

***To submit by Mail:***

***Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation  
Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine &  
Fisheries  
Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring MD. 20910***

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**CALIFORNIA GRAY WHALE COALITION**  
PROTECTING THE MOST ANCIENT BALEEN WHALE ALIVE TODAY



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