



CALIFORNIA GRAY WHALE COALITION

PROTECTING THE MOST ANCIENT BALEEN WHALE ALIVE TODAY

P. O. Box 50939 Palo Alto, CA 94303 Ph: 650 322 4729

Email: info@californiagraywhalecoalition.org • www.californiagraywhalecoalition.org

Dear Coalition Members

Here's an update of the Coalition's recent lobbying trip to Washington DC.

It was an extremely worthwhile effort and we managed to have meetings with staffers from almost every office of members of the House sub-committee on Commerce Justice and Science. There's a definite sense of change in the corridors of power, even dare we say hope. And it was amazing to listen to the "born again environmentalists" aka the Republican Party.

But with the economic problems which are not going to disappear overnight and may indeed get worse, progress is slow. Everything depends on the Budget and what monies are available. Needless to say, Gray Whales are way down on the list of importance in Budget terms.

Because the action set in motion by Democrat Rep. Lynn Woolsey is an appropriations request for funds to allow a five year study of the Gray Whales, any decision relies on where the funds will come from.

Anyone who has lobbied Congress will know that it is a torturous process and that things do not happen overnight.

We will not know for some weeks whether our efforts have been successful or not. At this point in time, the Coalition has done everything possible to ensure the passage of the appropriations request but the outcome is now in the lap of the Gods. Nevertheless, Gray Whales are now on the Congressional agenda and there's more strategies in the works should the appropriations request be put on hold.

SAN DIEGO CITY COUNCIL TAKES BIG STRIDES FOR GRAY WHALES

San Diego City Council passed a Resolution in July which supports the California Assembly and Senate Joint Resolution. The Coalition is now making its way up the California Coast seeking similar Resolutions from other Councils where whale watching is big business.

Please follow the link below to view the full resolution.

Daryl Hannah joins the Coalition

The California Gray Whale Coalition is thrilled to have the support and endorsement of Daryl Hannah.

Daryl has been untiring in her support of whales. She spent time last season with Sea Shepherd bringing urgently needed publicity to the nightmare of Japanese whaling.

It's exciting and very encouraging to know that Hollywood movie stars like Daryl - who care deeply for the environment - are willing to walk their talk. Daryl's words are inspiring.

"the possibility that we might drive these magnificent creatures into extinction is unimaginable and unacceptable."

She can be certain that the California Gray Whale Coalition is hard at work to ensure that the Gray Whales have the best legal protection and a secure future.

A big thank you to Daryl Hannah from the Coalition and the whales.



Daryl Hannah photo by Pake Salmon

Membership Growing Fast

Please check out Coalition members and you will be delighted to see the Coalition is growing by leaps and bounds.

Our focus now is on the tourist industry, armed with the fantastic data which IFAW has kindly allowed us to use.

It is vitally important that the Coalition continues to grow as we need to demonstrate to the Congress and Senate that the California Gray Whale is a precious environmental and economic icon that must be relisted under the ESA.

In the meantime, the Coalition is working with several scientists on the alarming disappearance of sea ice in the Gray Whales Arctic feeding grounds. Whales are dependent on

the crud which rains down from the sea ice to the benthos on which they feed.

We're also hearing anecdotal evidence of a significant number of skinny whales sighted in Mexico this year.

As always, the Coalition relies on your support and willingness to contact relevant politicians when needed. We are always grateful for any donations to help our work.

**For the California Gray Whales,
Sue Arnold CEO CGWC
Palo Alto office ph: 650 322 4729**

ECONOMIC VALUE OF GRAY WHALE TOURISM

The International Fund for Animal Welfare commissioned a critically important report on the economic value of World Wide Whale Watching which was presented to the IWC at its meeting in Madiera in June.

The Coalition is grateful for IFAW's permission to reprint some of the findings which relate to Gray Whales. Here is an excerpt:-

GRAY WHALE TOURISM -CALIFORNIA

The primary focus of whale watching tourism in California is the winter migration of gray whales which occurs between November and May.

Northern Region - Del Norte County, Humboldt County, Mendocino County

The northern region has six operators who take an estimated 8,735 boat-based whale watchers annually.

Land-based watching is big in this region, with nearly 150,000 land-based whale watchers estimated for

2008. Although a total of 22 land-based locations are identified in this region, the vast majority of the tourism estimates are based on seasonal visitation to McKerricher State Park and Mendocino Headlands

State Park.

Trips here only run during the gray whale season, between mid-December and February for the southern migration and February and April for the northern migration.

Central Region - Sonoma County, San Francisco County, San Mateo County, Marin County, Santa Cruz County, Monterey County, San Luis Obispo County

The central region offers a greater variety of watching compared to the north, with twenty-two operators

taking an estimated 128,509 boat-based whale watchers in 2008. This region is also the biggest for land-based whale watching in California, with an estimated 454,560 land-based whale watchers.

Although approximately 20 land-based locations are identified in this region, the vast majority of tourist estimates are based on seasonal visitation to Point Reyes National Seashore and Sonoma Coast State Park, with San

Simeon and Montaña de Oro State Park also attracting large numbers of whale watchers.

Southern Region - Santa Barbara County, Ventura County, Los Angeles County, Orange County, San Diego County

Southern California is the home of organized whale watching, and remains the largest region for boat-based operators in California, with forty-five operators taking an estimated 253,381 boat-based whale watchers in 2008.

The region also attracts an estimated 386,618 land-based whale watchers, primarily to Cabrillo National

Monument, the Point Vicente Interpretive Center and Crystal Cove State Park. A total of 25 land-based locations are identified in the southern region, although as in central California, whales can usually be seen from any elevated location, including along many of the coastal highways.

In San Diego, land-based whale watching is popular at the Cabrillo National Monument, with an estimated 125,000 land-based whale watchers in 2008.

(The full report can be found at : - http://www.ifaw.org/Publications/Program_Publications/Whales/asset_upload_file639_55365.pdf)

Image courtesy of James Dorsey



"THE WHALE"

*With awesome power and grace,
The great speckled white whale,
Leaps towards the heavens,
As if to merge into,
The vortex of time,
To free its spirit,
From the deep swirling sea,
Of our blue white planet,
This soaring soul,
Sings for sheer joy,
As it plummets at the speed,
Faster than light,
Towards the beginning of the universe.
This primal sound resonates
everywhere,
Then once more back within,
The gigantic powerful physical frame
Slips beneath the waves,
All is quiet once more!*

Rosalind Hyson 8/7/2009.

GRAY WHALE TOURISM - CALIFORNIA

Year	Number of Whales	Number of operators	Direct expenditure	Indirect expenditure	Total expenditure
1991	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1994	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1998	1,774,700	N/A 65	\$14,110,000	\$50,171,000	\$64,281,000
2008	1,371,467	2.5% 73	\$14,308,814	\$68,573,343	\$82,882,157

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE

your **POEMS** or **PHOTOS** for inclusion on our website and in our newsletters. Send to: info@californiagraywhalecoalition.org