

**GRAY
WHALE**

ACTION ALERT

TELL THE US IWC DEPUTY COMMISSIONER THERE MUST BE A MORATORIUM ON ANY GRAY WHALE QUOTA.

The US International Whaling Commission Deputy Commissioner is Doug DeMaster. He's a senior NMFS scientist working out of the Alaska Science & Fisheries Center. Doug spent several years as Chair of the IWC Scientific Committee. He brings a very powerful influence to NMFS Gray Whale policy which unfortunately, doesn't translate into any precautionary management.

Let's sum up the Gray Whale issues

- Very low calf counts for four consecutive years.
- Count in Guerrero Negro and San Ignacio Lagunas during peak week down by 50%.
- An astonishing lack of cow and calf pairs in the Baja Lagunas, and along the West Coast.
- Average annual increase for the last 35 years, just 1.9%. Lower than the endangered blue whale.
- Population count currently being undertaken by NMFS will probably not be available for years. It's been 8 years since the last proper count.
- Climate change is obviously having a serious impact on the whales' primary food sources.
- As a specialist feeder, there's no evidence of sufficient alternative prey.
- Whale watching captains are seeing smaller whales, very few cows and calves, emaciated whales and whales further off shore.
- Orca predation is not taken into account in any NMFS quota.
- Canadian researchers say approximately 150 calves and juveniles are taken annually at False Pass, Alaska . A bottleneck which the whales must migrate through.
- The critical indicators of a healthy population are the breeding rates; sex ratios and survivorship. None of this information is available.
- NMFS scientist Wayne Perryman now says the breeding rate is one calf every three years.
- Not many years ago, it was one calf every two years. The increased reproduction gap is a bad signal.
- NMFS has built a veritable Tower of Babel consisting of hypotheses, models and more models, desktop studies, different methodologies, analyses and re-analyses.
- In the light of the lack of proper information regarding the major threats to the Gray Whale, which include:- climate change, orca predation, increasing industrialisation; military and seismic sonar; status of feeding grounds; access to alternative food sources, a moratorium on any quota for Gray Whales is the only acceptable action by the US IWC delegation.

ACTION

**EMAIL DOUG DE MASTER AT:-
douglas.demaster@noaa.gov WITH THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE**

SELECT THE TEXT THEN COPY AND PASTE TO THE BODY OF YOUR EMAIL

Doug,

I object to the US IWC delegation supporting an annual quota of 140 Gray whales at the forthcoming IWC meeting. Until such time as there is independently reviewed current research which demonstrates the status of the population and investigates the ramifications of the major threats, particularly climate change, the only acceptable action is to request a moratorium.

Signed....



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

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