

GRAY WHALE

ACTION ALERT!

GRAY WHALES IN SERIOUS TROUBLE

This is the first of a series of important newsletters which may depress the hell out of you, but the world needs to know that the last surviving viable population of the eastern Pacific Gray whale is on the road to extinction unless drastic measures are taken.

At a time when the US government should be moving urgently to upgrade these majestic, friendly whales to the protection of the Endangered Species Act, instead government scientists are supporting the allocation of a quota of 1,400 Gray whales over the next ten years at the forthcoming International Whaling Commission meeting.

The Coalition has gathered damning evidence of neglect, distribution of misleading information, and serious downplaying of the true status of the population. Over the next few weeks we will disseminate some of this research – largely to ensure that all of us don't drown in depression – the plight of these whales is truly a national and international disgrace.

As the current migration season draws to an end, the reports coming from one end of the whales' long journey to the other demonstrate a growing catastrophe with potentially significant impacts on the already near terminal Californian economy.

We have no idea how many Gray whales died from starvation, the Coalition is in the



Photo taken by Times Colonist photographer Darren Stone

process of gathering the data. But what we do know is that newspapers up and down the west coast have reported on many tragic deaths as the whales seek food wherever they can find something to eat. The photo below, taken by Times Colonist photographer Darren Stone, shows one of five emaciated whales that died of starvation near Vancouver, Canada. The full story can be read at:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/life/Four+other+grey+whales+wash/2914345/story.html>

Kenny Manzoni from Adventure Rib Rides in San Diego reports that:- Some whales this year, were so emaciated that their rib cages could be seen through

their skin.

Cow/calf numbers are perilously low. Censuses in the Baja Lagunas show a huge downturn in numbers. Whilst National Marine & Fisheries (NMFS) scientists claim the "whales are now giving birth offshore", there's not one shred of evidence to support these claims. The endless capacity of NMFS scientists to ignore evidence which should be the basis for declaring a whale emergency is astounding. Only eclipsed by their capacity to put a positive spin on the increasingly bad news.

Like NMFS scientists at a recent meeting who announced that "the Gray whale calf numbers would improve when sea ice

conditions returned to 'normal'." Huh? Are these guys for real? All the available evidence (and there's a massive amount of research) demonstrates the continuing melting of sea ice; the predicted opening of the north west passage; massive changes in the marine ecosystems; food stressed populations of benthic diving sea ducks, Pacific walrus – the list is endless. Yet these scientists ignore the vulnerability of these majestic whales and continue to actively mislead the public, the politicians and the relevant administration agencies as to the massive threats facing this population, the last viable race of Gray whales.

SOME OF THE RISKS GRAY WHALES FACE.

The crabbing industry is suffering the same as everywhere from over-fishing, resource depletion, etc., so they fish even more pots every year. The lines on the pots average over one hundred feet long and the whole apparatus is very heavy.

Image snagging five or six of these on your flukes, pectoral

fins and even in your mouth. The photo shows only part of the total amount of traps going out of just one harbor. And of course there are many other types of fishing nets and gear being used for other fish and seafood that the whales must navigate. Most of the new fishing nets are of plastic-type monofilament which almost never breaks down. Gray Whales travel past many states

and indeed, different countries with truly thousands of miles of nets, traps, trawling lines, etc., and they do it twice a year.



DOUBLE JEOPARDY

On the east coast, the tragedy unfolding as the oil spew continues is horrific. The Coalition dreads the fate of thousands of dolphins, whales, seals, crabs, fish, the entire food chain. Yet the amount of toxic material pouring into the ocean from California alone is greater, much greater than the current massive oil spill in Louisiana.



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COASTAL GRAY WHALES MIGRATE THROUGH OUR SEWAGE

The hazards our Gray Whales face on their annual ancient migratory journey from the warm water birthing lagoons to the northern latitudes of the Arctic regions and then back again are of the scale of Mt Everest. Poorly treated sewage is discharged within 7000 feet of our shores. Here is a brief idea of what they encounter.

Over 1.5 billion gallons of sewage per day (dry weather flow) is discharged directly into the Pacific Ocean in California alone. Solid wastes amount to almost 44 billion tons of sewage sludge per year is discharged into our coastal oceans, just in California.

HOMELESS WHALES

In Israel, a California Gray Whale was sighted off the coast of Haifa. The same whale was recently seen off the coast of Barcelona.

Atlantic Gray Whales went extinct two centuries ago. It seems almost inconceivable that a California Gray Whale could migrate this far.. in search of food. Gray whales have been seen in places along the west coast where they're

normally never seen. A large Gray Whale recently turned up off Santa Cruz in June, on its way down south. The lack of adequate food is driving the population to desperate measures and great suffering.

INTRODUCING DOUG THOMPSON NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE CALIFORNIA GRAY WHALE COALITION

The Coalition is proud to announce the appointment of Doug Thompson to the position of National Director. Doug has organized and led over one hundred long-range natural history expeditions, from Mexico to New Zealand.

As a marine naturalist, he enjoys world-wide credibility as a leader in experiential research with whales, dolphins, and other marine life. Doug is a writer, ecologist, internationally recognized naturalist, expedition leader, lecturer, award-winning filmmaker, photo-journalist and above all, a man at peace with the planet. Dedicated to keeping our Earth the best it can be. Doug's inspiring

lectures are welcomed by universities, corporations, world-class resorts and retreats.

An expert on Gray Whales, Doug has led expeditions to and been involved in San Ignacio Gray Whales for more than 30 years. His involvement in the Coalition is very welcome. Doug says:- 'In all these years I've been looking for an organisation that adequately focuses on the Gray Whales. The Gray whale is what my life is about but I've never really felt inspired by any particular organization. The Coalition is custom made for me, I really want to champion this Coalition and contribute to the meaningful work being undertaken.'

ACTION LOBBY

The Coalition needs everyone to contact the office Senator Barbara Boxer ... She is standing for re-election and in a perfect position to lobby effectively for proper protection of the Gray whale.

lynn_Abramson@boxer.senate.gov

ACTION EMAIL

Email Doug De Master, Deputy US IWC Commissioner, and tell him that the US delegation must seek a moratorium on any Gray whale quota or be held responsible for the possible extinction of a species.

douglas.demaster@noaa.gov

ACTION DONATE

Consider donating funds to the Coalition as we are doing the work of a small army !

www.californiagraywhalecoalition.org/donations.shtml

ACTION JOIN THE GROUP

SEARCH FACEBOOK FOR:
California Gray Whale Coalition Group

ACTION JOIN THE CAUSE

SEARCH FACEBOOK CAUSES FOR:
YES WE CAN SAVE THE CALIFORNIA GRAY WHALE
<http://www.causes.com/causes/483151>