

2016 The Count, On-Effort



The focus of the survey is Gray whales (northbound) during migration through the nearshore of the Santa Barbara Channel. We also record observations of all marine-mammal species, including other whales, dolphins, pinnipeds, and Sea otters. *See other reports.*

Only Gray whales migrating north are counted on the board at the site as observations are made. If it is fast and furious, we sometimes lag behind a bit, but we eventually catch up. Many “regulars” who visit our site check the board and usually smile and say, “last week it was only ...” Then, they wonder why there are no calves, and we tell them that the calf migration may start at the end of March, but probably won’t be robust until mid-April. That brings another big smile.

We update the website every day with an online simulation of the board, and we include a downloadable link to a “Record of the Count” — which resembles this report — to the post date.

One of the most asked questions is: “How does this year’s Count compare to last year’s.” We express that we cannot answer that question. We cannot compare raw data to raw data, because this is a survey, a sample of at best, a third of a day, and the whales are traveling 24/7. We explain that at the end of the year, we will analyze our data and correct errors and omissions, and throw out sightings entered in not-acceptable conditions, generally more limited visibility than appropriate. When all is cleaned up, we meet with our collaboration team at NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center and use their algorithm with our data to produce estimates of the migration past Counter Point: Phase 1, General migration of adult and juvenile males and females; and Phase 2, Mother and calf migration.

In 2016 our Count — on-effort — was 1,412 Gray whales, northbound, including 296 calves; with Counting time, 640 hours, 35 minutes.

part of **2016 Gray Whales Count, Survey Report** © Gray Whales Count, 2016,
prepared by Michael H Smith, Project Coordinator, Gray Whales Count, Santa Barbara, California, USA.

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Day Number	Hours	(Er)	Gray whales, northbound	Running Totals	Hours
1	Feb 16 07:45	Er	6 Calves 0	Er 6 Calves 0	07:45
2	Feb 17 04:21	Er	3 Calves 0	Er 9 Calves 0	12:06
3	Feb 18 03:00	Er	5 Calves 0	Er 14 Calves 0	15:06
4	Feb 19 08:00	Er	19 Calves 0	Er 33 Calves 0	23:06
5	Feb 20 08:00	Er	15 Calves 0	Er 48 Calves 0	31:06
6	Feb 21 08:00	Er	15 Calves 0	Er 63 Calves 0	39:06
7	Feb 22 08:00	Er	21 Calves 0	Er 84 Calves 0	47:06
8	Feb 23 08:00	Er	30 Calves 0	Er 114 Calves 0	55:06
9	Feb 24 08:00	Er	31 Calves 0	Er 145 Calves 0	63:06
10	Feb 25 08:00	Er	20 Calves 0	Er 165 Calves 0	71:06
11	Feb 26 05:40	Er	6 Calves 0	Er 171 Calves 0	76:46
12	Feb 27 08:00	Er	9 Calves 0	Er 180 Calves 0	84:46
13	Feb 28 08:09	Er	44 Calves 0	Er 224 Calves 0	92:55
14	Feb 29 00:00	Er	Calves	Er 224 Calves 0	92:55
15	Mar 01 02:35	Er	22 Calves 0	Er 246 Calves 0	95:30
16	Mar 02 07:05	Er	39 Calves 0	Er 285 Calves 0	102:35
17	Mar 03 06:55	Er	50 Calves 0	Er 335 Calves 0	109:30
18	Mar 04 07:56	Er	39 Calves 0	Er 374 Calves 0	117:26
19	Mar 05 01:03	Er	5 Calves 0	Er 379 Calves 0	118:29
20	Mar 06 00:23	Er	3 Calves 0	Er 382 Calves 0	118:52
21	Mar 07 00:26	Er	1 Calves 0	Er 383 Calves 0	119:18
22	Mar 08 03:44	Er	32 Calves 0	Er 415 Calves 0	123:02
23	Mar 09 08:00	Er	41 Calves 0	Er 456 Calves 0	131:02
24	Mar 10 08:00	Er	54 Calves 0	Er 510 Calves 0	139:02
25	Mar 11 00:00	Er	Calves	Er 510 Calves 0	139:02
26	Mar 12 01:19	Er	1 Calves 0	Er 511 Calves 0	140:21
27	Mar 13 08:00	Er	21 Calves 0	Er 532 Calves 0	148:21
28	Mar 14 00:24	Er	Calves	Er 532 Calves 0	148:45
29	Mar 15 08:00	Er	19 Calves 0	Er 551 Calves 0	156:45
30	Mar 16 08:00	Er	33 Calves 0	Er 584 Calves 0	164:45
31	Mar 17 08:00	Er	23 Calves 1	Er 607 Calves 1	172:45
32	Mar 18 08:00	Er	14 Calves 0	Er 621 Calves 1	180:45
33	Mar 19 08:00	Er	14 Calves 0	Er 635 Calves 1	188:45
34	Mar 20 08:00	Er	16 Calves 1	Er 651 Calves 2	196:45
35	Mar 21 04:41	Er	10 Calves 0	Er 661 Calves 2	201:26
36	Mar 22 00:00	Er	Calves	Er 661 Calves 2	201:26
37	Mar 23 08:06	Er	30 Calves 0	Er 691 Calves 2	209:32
38	Mar 24 08:04	Er	15 Calves 0	Er 706 Calves 2	217:36

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Day Number	Hours	(Er) Gray whales, northbound	Running Totals	Hours
39	Mar 25	07:03 Er 23 Calves 0	Er 729 Calves 2	224:39
40	Mar 26	08:06 Er 28 Calves 0	Er 757 Calves 2	232:45
41	Mar 27	08:00 Er 14 Calves 1	Er 771 Calves 3	240:45
42	Mar 28	02:43 Er 11 Calves 1	Er 782 Calves 4	243:28
43	Mar 29	00:24 Er Calves	Er 782 Calves 4	243:52
44	Mar 30	08:00 Er 13 Calves 1	Er 795 Calves 5	251:52
45	Mar 31	06:37 Er 2 Calves 0	Er 797 Calves 5	258:29
46	Apr 01	08:00 Er 11 Calves 1	Er 808 Calves 6	266:29
47	Apr 02	07:20 Er 11 Calves 4	Er 819 Calves 10	273:49
48	Apr 03	04:46 Er 1 Calves 0	Er 820 Calves 10	278:35
49	Apr 04	08:00 Er 10 Calves 3	Er 830 Calves 13	286:35
50	Apr 05	08:00 Er 6 Calves 0	Er 836 Calves 13	294:35
51	Apr 06	07:04 Er 6 Calves 3	Er 842 Calves 16	301:39
52	Apr 07	08:00 Er 4 Calves 2	Er 846 Calves 18	309:39
53	Apr 08	00:00 Er Calves	Er 846 Calves 18	309:39
54	Apr 09	06:00 Er 3 Calves 1	Er 849 Calves 19	315:39
55	Apr 10	08:00 Er 4 Calves 1	Er 853 Calves 20	323:39
56	Apr 11	08:00 Er 4 Calves 1	Er 857 Calves 21	331:39
57	Apr 12	08:00 Er 2 Calves 1	Er 859 Calves 22	339:39
58	Apr 13	08:00 Er 14 Calves 7	Er 873 Calves 29	347:39
59	Apr 14	00:06 Er Calves	Er 873 Calves 29	347:45
60	Apr 15	08:00 Er 9 Calves 4	Er 882 Calves 33	355:45
61	Apr 16	08:00 Er 24 Calves 12	Er 906 Calves 45	363:45
62	Apr 17	08:00 Er 12 Calves 6	Er 918 Calves 51	371:45
63	Apr 18	08:00 Er 12 Calves 6	Er 930 Calves 57	379:45
64	Apr 19	08:00 Er 14 Calves 7	Er 944 Calves 64	387:45
65	Apr 20	08:02 Er 23 Calves 11	Er 967 Calves 75	395:47
66	Apr 21	06:38 Er 12 Calves 6	Er 979 Calves 81	402:25
67	Apr 22	03:49 Er 14 Calves 7	Er 993 Calves 88	406:14
68	Apr 23	05:39 Er 24 Calves 12	Er 1,017 Calves 100	411:53
69	Apr 24	05:26 Er 22 Calves 11	Er 1,039 Calves 111	417:19
70	Apr 25	00:40 Er 6 Calves 3	Er 1,045 Calves 114	417:59
71	Apr 26	08:16 Er 24 Calves 12	Er 1,069 Calves 126	426:15
72	Apr 27	02:46 Er Calves	Er 1,069 Calves 126	429:01
73	Apr 28	01:02 Er 10 Calves 5	Er 1,079 Calves 131	430:03
74	Apr 29	08:00 Er 5 Calves 2	Er 1,084 Calves 133	438:03
75	Apr 30	08:00 Er 4 Calves 2	Er 1,088 Calves 135	446:03
76	May 01	08:00 Er 26 Calves 13	Er 1,114 Calves 148	454:03

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Day Number	Hours	(Er)	Gray whales,	northbound	Running Totals	Hours
77	May 02	08:00	Er	24	Calves 12	Er 1,138 Calves 160 462:03
78	May 03	04:40	Er	8	Calves 4	Er 1,146 Calves 164 466:43
79	May 04	08:00	Er	8	Calves 4	Er 1,154 Calves 168 474:43
80	May 05	08:09	Er	14	Calves 7	Er 1,168 Calves 175 482:52
81	May 06	08:23	Er	28	Calves 14	Er 1,196 Calves 189 491:15
82	May 07	08:20	Er	32	Calves 16	Er 1,228 Calves 205 499:35
83	May 08	08:00	Er	28	Calves 14	Er 1,256 Calves 219 507:35
84	May 09	08:00	Er	22	Calves 11	Er 1,278 Calves 230 515:35
85	May 10	08:12	Er	35	Calves 17	Er 1,313 Calves 247 523:47
86	May 11	08:02	Er	19	Calves 9	Er 1,332 Calves 256 531:49
87	May 12	08:00	Er	8	Calves 4	Er 1,340 Calves 260 539:49
88	May 13	08:15	Er	18	Calves 9	Er 1,358 Calves 269 548:04
89	May 14	08:00	Er	10	Calves 5	Er 1,368 Calves 274 556:04
90	May 15	08:07	Er	16	Calves 8	Er 1,384 Calves 282 564:11
91	May 16	08:00	Er	2	Calves 1	Er 1,386 Calves 283 572:11
92	May 17	08:00	Er	4	Calves 2	Er 1,390 Calves 285 580:11
93	May 18	08:15	Er	6	Calves 3	Er 1,396 Calves 288 588:26
94	May 19	08:00	Er	4	Calves 2	Er 1,400 Calves 290 596:26
95	May 20	01:19	Er		Calves	Er 1,400 Calves 290 597:45
96	May 21	07:01	Er		Calves	Er 1,400 Calves 290 604:46
97	May 22	06:41	Er	2	Calves 1	Er 1,402 Calves 291 611:27
98	May 23	08:00	Er	4	Calves 2	Er 1,406 Calves 293 619:27
99	May 24	08:02	Er	6	Calves 3	Er 1,412 Calves 296 627:29
100	May 25	05:06	Er		Calves	Er 1,412 Calves 296 632:35
101	May 26	08:00	Er		Calves	Er 1,412 Calves 296 640:35

Totals	1,412	296	640:35
	<i>Er</i>	Calves	Hours