



While the focus of our survey is gray whales (northbound) during migration, we take advantage of the abundant and diverse populations of marine mammals: when circumstances permit, we, opportunistically, record sightings of all marine mammals. In this report, we are documenting sightings, not individual animals. There could be many individuals at each sighting.

Only gray whales are, for the most part, determinedly migrating 24/7 past our survey site. The Gray Whales Count survey is a sample, operating approximately 100 days for a scheduled eight hours in suitable conditions. Counters distinguish between north and southbound gray whales, which travel left to right (northbound) and right to left (southbound), across our survey site. Our sighting tallies (Count) indicate the number of unique animals observed through the Count. With this raw data, at the end of the year, we create an estimate of the total number of northbound gray whales, migrating past Counter Point.

All other species of whales, dolphins, pinnipeds, and otters, are here to feed. Some live in these waters. Others, such as humpback whales, migrate here to gorge on the abundance of the Santa Barbara Channel region. These marine mammals may be sighted more than once on particular days and multiple times though the survey.

We do pay special attention to coastal bottlenose dolphins, of which many are continually moving between Ensenada, Mexico and the San Francisco Bay area. When they are very close to us, we try to take photo-identification images to help monitor the population.

Sea lions are ubiquitous in the Channel. We only record "sightings" of sea lions onshore, resting, sick, or injured. When sighted, we call Channel Islands Marine Wildlife Institute (CIMWI) and they come out to assess the condition and, if need be, capture the pinniped and take it to their site for care and rehabilitation.

We have a small number of harbor Seals (see image above) and sometimes southern sea otters that we observe, and we determine a daily "at least" number sighted. (See report on Daily "at least" numbers of harbor seals and sea otters).

2019 Daily Sightings of Marine Mammal Species, On-Effort

Feb 13	Day 1 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
Feb 14	Day 2 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
Feb 15	Day 3 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
Feb 16	Day 4 of 99	Effort Hours 1:47	Sightings 2 2 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
Feb 17	Day 5 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
Feb 18	Day 6 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 6 3 gray whale (Er) (northbound) 1 gray whale (Er) (southbound) 1 unidentified large whale 1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
Feb 19	Day 7 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
Feb 20	Day 8 of 99	Effort Hours 1:35	Sightings 3 1 gray whale (Er) (northbound) 1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt) 1 harbor seal (Pv)
Feb 21	Day 9 of 99	Effort Hours 5:00	Sightings 11 1 gray whale (Er) (northbound) 8 bottlenose dolphin (Tt) 2 harbor seal (Pv)
Feb 22	Day 10 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 17 12 gray whale (Er) (northbound) 3 bottlenose dolphin (Tt) 1 common dolphin, species not determined 1 harbor seal (Pv)

2019 Daily Sightings of Marine Mammal Species, On-Effort

Feb 23	Day 11 of 99	Effort Hours 8:01	Sightings 18
			12 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 unidentified large whale
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			2 common dolphin, species not determined
			2 harbor seal (Pv)
Feb 24	Day 12 of 99	Effort Hours 7:20	Sightings 11
			8 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 Pacific white-sided dolphin (Lo)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Feb 25	Day 13 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 16
			10 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			2 gray whale (Er) (southbound)
			4 unidentified large whale
Feb 26	Day 14 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
Feb 27	Day 15 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
Feb 28	Day 16 of 99	Effort Hours 4:28	Sightings 6
			1 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			3 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 southern sea otter (El)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Mar 01	Day 17 of 99	Effort Hours 6:23	Sightings 13
			11 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 southern sea otter (El)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Mar 02	Day 18 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings

2019 Daily Sightings of Marine Mammal Species, On-Effort

Mar 03	Day 19 of 99	Effort Hours 16:1	Sightings 14
			8 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			2 unidentified large whale
			3 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 southern sea otter (El)
Mar 04	Day 20 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 9
			8 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 southern sea otter (El)
Mar 05	Day 21 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
Mar 06	Day 22 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
Mar 07	Day 23 of 99	Effort Hours 3:57	Sightings 10
			9 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 southern sea otter (El)
Mar 08	Day 24 of 99	Effort Hours 0:42	Sightings 1
			1 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
Mar 09	Day 25 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 19
			17 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 southern sea otter (El)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Mar 10	Day 26 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 33
			31 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 southern sea otter (El)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Mar 11	Day 27 of 99	Effort Hours 6:57	Sightings 27
			24 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			2 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 southern sea otter (El)

2019 Daily Sightings of Marine Mammal Species, On-Effort

Mar 12	Day 28 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
Mar 13	Day 29 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 27 25 gray whale (Er) (northbound) 1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt) 1 common dolphin, species not determined
Mar 14	Day 30 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 31 29 gray whale (Er) (northbound) 2 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
Mar 15	Day 31 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 28 22 gray whale (Er) (northbound) 1 humpback whale (Mn) 2 bottlenose dolphin (Tt) 1 Pacific white-sided dolphin (Lo) 2 harbor seal (Pv)
Mar 16	Day 32 of 99	Effort Hours 8:03	Sightings 20 17 gray whale (Er) (northbound) 1 humpback whale (Mn) 1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt) 1 harbor seal (Pv)
Mar 17	Day 33 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 22 18 gray whale (Er) (northbound) 1 humpback whale (Mn) 2 bottlenose dolphin (Tt) 1 southern sea otter (El)
Mar 18	Day 34 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 36 32 gray whale (Er) (northbound) 1 gray whale (Er) (southbound) 1 humpback whale (Mn)

2019 Daily Sightings of Marine Mammal Species, On-Effort

			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 southern sea otter (EI)
Mar 19	Day 35 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
Mar 20	Day 36 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 18
			15 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			2 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1
Mar 21	Day 37 of 99	Effort Hours 6:00	Sightings 20
			19 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Mar 22	Day 38 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 27
			25 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 unidentified large whale
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
Mar 23	Day 39 of 99	Effort Hours 6:24	Sightings 12
			11 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
Mar 24	Day 40 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 14
			11 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			2 southern sea otter (EI)
Mar 25	Day 41 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 13
			7 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			2 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 common dolphin, species not determined
			2 southern sea otter (EI)
Mar 26	Day 42 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings

2019 Daily Sightings of Marine Mammal Species, On-Effort

Mar 27	Day 43 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
Mar 28	Day 44 of 99	Effort Hours 3:50	Sightings 7
			3 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 unidentified large whale
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 common dolphin, species not determined
			1 southern sea otter (El)
Mar 29	Day 45 of 99	Effort Hours 5:37	Sightings 7
			2 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			3 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Mar 30	Day 46 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 18
			13 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			2 common dolphin, species not determined
			1 southern sea otter (El)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Mar 31	Day 47 of 99	Effort Hours 7:57	Sightings 10
			5 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			1 common minke whale (Ba)
			2 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Apr 01	Day 48 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 12
			7 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 common dolphin, species not determined

2019 Daily Sightings of Marine Mammal Species, On-Effort

			1 southern sea otter (El)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Apr 02	Day 49 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
Apr 03	Day 50 of 99	Effort Hours 4:30	Sightings 1
			1 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
Apr 04	Day 51 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 10
			5 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			2 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 common dolphin, species not determined
			1 Pacific white-sided dolphin (Lo)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Apr 05	Day 52 of 99	Effort Hours 5:42	Sightings 6
			2 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 unidentified large whale
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 common dolphin, species not determined
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Apr 06	Day 53 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 10
			5 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 common dolphin, species not determined
			1 southern sea otter (El)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Apr 07	Day 54 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 5
			1 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 southern sea otter (El)



2019 Daily Sightings of Marine Mammal Species, On-Effort

			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Apr 08	Day 55 of 99	Effort Hours 6:41	Sightings 5
			3 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 southern sea otter (EI)
Apr 09	Day 56 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
Apr 10	Day 57 of 99	Effort Hours 5:32	Sightings 5
			3 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Apr 11	Day 58 of 99	Effort Hours 3:43	Sightings 1
			1 unidentified large whale
Apr 12	Day 59 of 99	Effort Hours 2:15	Sightings 2
			2 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
Apr 13	Day 60 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 4
			1 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			2 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Apr 14	Day 61 of 99	Effort Hours 5:26	Sightings 5
			1 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			1 Pacific white-sided dolphin (Lo)
			1 southern sea otter (EI)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Apr 15	Day 62 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 5
			2 humpback whale (Mn)
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)

2019 Daily Sightings of Marine Mammal Species, On-Effort

			1 southern sea otter (El)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Apr 16	Day 63 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
Apr 17	Day 64 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 9
			3 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			2 humpback whale (Mn)
			3 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Apr 18	Day 65 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 6
			4 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Apr 19	Day 66 of 99	Effort Hours 8:02	Sightings 3
			2 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
Apr 20	Day 67 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 2
			1 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 common dolphin, species not determined
Apr 21	Day 68 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 7
			2 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			5 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
Apr 22	Day 69 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 7
			3 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 common dolphin, species not determined
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
			1
Apr 23	Day 70 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings

2019 Daily Sightings of Marine Mammal Species, On-Effort

Apr 24	Day 71 of 99	Effort Hours 7:00	Sightings 4
			1 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 southern sea otter (El)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Apr 25	Day 72 of 99	Effort Hours 8:30	Sightings 7
			3 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			2 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 southern sea otter (El)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Apr 26	Day 73 of 99	Effort Hours 8:12	Sightings 7
			1 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 common dolphin, species not determined
			2 southern sea otter (El)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Apr 27	Day 74 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 6
			1 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 common minke whale (Ba)
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 southern sea otter (El)
			2 harbor seal (Pv)
Apr 28	Day 75 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 8
			3 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 common dolphin, species not determined
			1 southern sea otter (El)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)

2019 Daily Sightings of Marine Mammal Species, On-Effort

Apr 29	Day 76 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 7
			1 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			3 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 southern sea otter (El)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
Apr 30	Day 77 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
May 01	Day 78 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 7
			6 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
May 02	Day 79 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 5
			1 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			2 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			2 harbor seal (Pv)
May 03	Day 80 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 8
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			2 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 common dolphin, species not determined
			4 harbor seal (Pv)
May 04	Day 81 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 2
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
May 05	Day 82 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 7
			4 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			1 common dolphin, species not determined
			1 harbor seal (Pv)

2019 Daily Sightings of Marine Mammal Species, On-Effort

May 06	Day 83 of 99	Effort Hours 6:01	Sightings 2
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
May 07	Day 84 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
May 08	Day 85 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 5
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			2 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			2 harbor seal (Pv)
May 09	Day 86 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 6
			1 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			2 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 southern sea otter (El)
			2 harbor seal (Pv)
May 10	Day 87 of 99	Effort Hours 5:44	Sightings 5
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 common dolphin, species not determined
			1 southern sea otter (El)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
May 11	Day 88 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 8
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			3 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 common dolphin, species not determined
			3 harbor seal (Pv)
May 12	Day 89 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 3
			1 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 common dolphin, species not determined
			1 harbor seal (Pv)

2019 Daily Sightings of Marine Mammal Species, On-Effort

May 13	Day 90 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 6
			4 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			2 harbor seal (Pv)
May 14	Day 91 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
May 15	Day 92 of 99	Effort Hours 8:00	Sightings 5
			2 humpback whale (Mn)
			2 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
May 16	Day 93 of 99	Effort Hours 1:50	Sightings
May 17	Day 94 of 99	Effort Hours 3:02	Sightings 4
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			2 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
May 18	Day 95 of 99	Effort Hours 5:33	Sightings 6
			1 humpback whale (Mn)
			3 bottlenose dolphin (Tt)
			1 common dolphin, species not determined
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
May 19	Day 96 of 99	Effort Hours 6:05	Sightings 3
			1 gray whale (Er) (northbound)
			1 common dolphin, species not determined
			1 harbor seal (Pv)
May 20	Day 97 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
May 21	Day 98 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings
May 22	Day 99 of 99	Effort Hours 0:00	Sightings