**PRESENTS** 

# GRAY WHALE

Famous for its curious nature and friendly disposition, this species attracts thousands or tourists to Baja California Sur every year. After a drastic decrease in its population towards the end of the XIX and beginning of the XX centuries due to whaling, the North Pacific population has recovered thanks to multinational conservation programs.

TAXONOMY 🗐 Kyngdom: Animalia

**Phylum:** Chordata Class: Mammalia **Subclass:** Eutheria **Order:** Artiodactyla **Infraorder:** Cetacea

**Parvorder:** Mysticeti Family: Eschrichtiidae Ellerman & Morrison-Scott, 1951 **Genus:** Eschrichtius

**Species:** E. robustus



Conservation status: • Nom 059 – **Pr** (special protection)

• IUCN – **LC** 

(least concern)



**Distribution:** From the arctic waters in the Bering Sea, to the Mexican Pacific.



**Diet:** Amphipods, shrimp, mysids and polychaetes.



**Sexual maturity:** Between 6 and 12 years of age; can live to 75-80 years.

#### REPRODUCTIVE CYCLE



1979: The San Ignacio international agreements regulating Lagoon Whale Refuge is decreed. Lagoon is decreed as a Whale



Instead of a dorsal fin it has a

series of 6-12 dorsal knuckles that decrease in size towards

4.5 meters

small hump followed by a

the tail.

**Blue Whale** 

Humpback Whale Megaptera novaeangliae

Ballena Gris Eschrichtius robustus

Physeter macrocephalus

**Cachalote** 

Endangered Species of Wild Fauna

includes the Ojo de Liebre and San

The stomach's capacity. Its

intestines can be up to 6

times the length of its body.

**ANATOMY** 

each individual whale.

vertebrae

In lumbar and caudal

ribs

make up the ribcage of an

adult gray whale.

Adults can reach 13-15 meters in length and can weigh

The long mouth appears to

cut the head in half; the

upper jaw is arched.

between 15 and 33 tons. The skin is light gray with

irregular white spots that create a unique pattern on

flora and fauna under special protection status.



NOM-EM-074-ECOL-1996.

Once lactation period ends, mothers begin an

anestrus period that lasts between 3 and 4 months.

2000: The General Wildlife Law is published, which aims to conserve wildlife through its protection and sustainable use.

The lactation period

lasts approximately

7 months

They can measure

meters

activities, habitat conservation and protection measures are established in the NOM-131-SEMARNAT-2010.

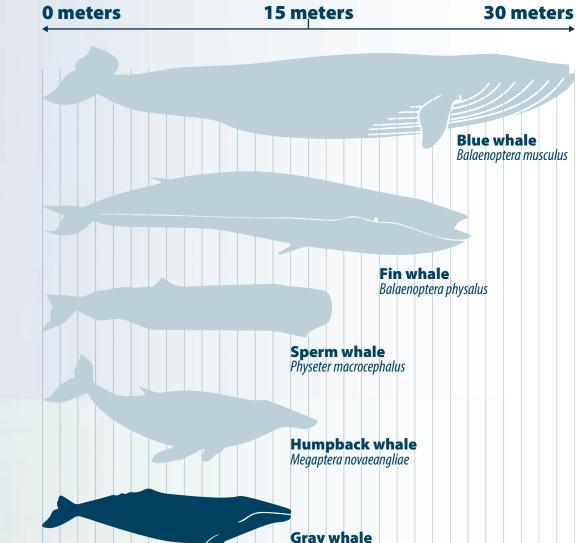
including the gray whale, is

### **GIANTS OF THE SEA**

Human 1.8 meters aprox.

Cata Po

The gray whale can reach up to 15 meters in length. However, she barely covers half the length of the largest cetacean in the world, the blue whale.



pairs of baleen bristles On average, less than 50 cm long and white-yellowish in color.

PRIORITY SPECIES

data**Pedia**of marine universe

It is common to see them

with the head above the

water surface.

V-shaped.

SEA

"spying" (spy hoping); they

position their body vertically

The spiracle has two slits, or

blowholes; its blow is

# **GRAY WHALES IN MEXICO**

**Every winter they migrate from the Bering Sea to the** warmer waters in Mexico, where they give birth between December and February.





20,000 kilometers The distance their migration

route covers; the equivalent to 26 million steps.



**OJO DE LIEBRE** Estimated

882.6 km<sup>2</sup>

**MEXICO** 

Annual average number of whales

**144**1

**SAN IGNACIO Estimated** 

**SAN IGNACIO** 

**Another smaller population** 

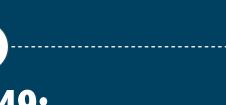
migrates between the

Okhotsk Sea and Korea.

276.2 km<sup>2</sup>

Annual average number of whales

## **CONSERVATION TIMELINE**



whaling activities through the

**International Whaling Commission** 

1972: The Ojo de Liebre

Convention on International Trade in El Vizcaino is established and and Flora (CITES) which includes the Ignacio Lagoons, as well as the gray whale under special protection migration corridor between them.

Birth of calf

the NOM-059-ECOL-1994, which lists the species and subspecies of wild

guidelines are published in the

Females can give birth

to one calf every

They can weigh

approximately

1-3 years

Their body is covered in

parasites, including

barnacles and sea lice.

2014: A list of priority species and populations for conservation,

-Eschrichtius robustus, Ballena Gris. San Diego Natural History Museum.
https://www.sdnhm.org/oceanoasis/fieldguide/esch-rob-sp.html
-DOF. 1994. NORMA Oficial Mexicana NOM-059-ECOL-1994 •DOF. 2014. ACUERDO por el que se da a conocer la lista de especies y poblaciones prioritarias para la

· Ballena Gris, Eschrichtius robustus. Naturalista. https://www.naturalista.mx/taxa/41478-Eschrichtius-robustus Números Naturales. 2016. Ecoturismo Marino. https://vimeo.com/181058266 • Steven L. Swartz. 2018. Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals (Third Edition)