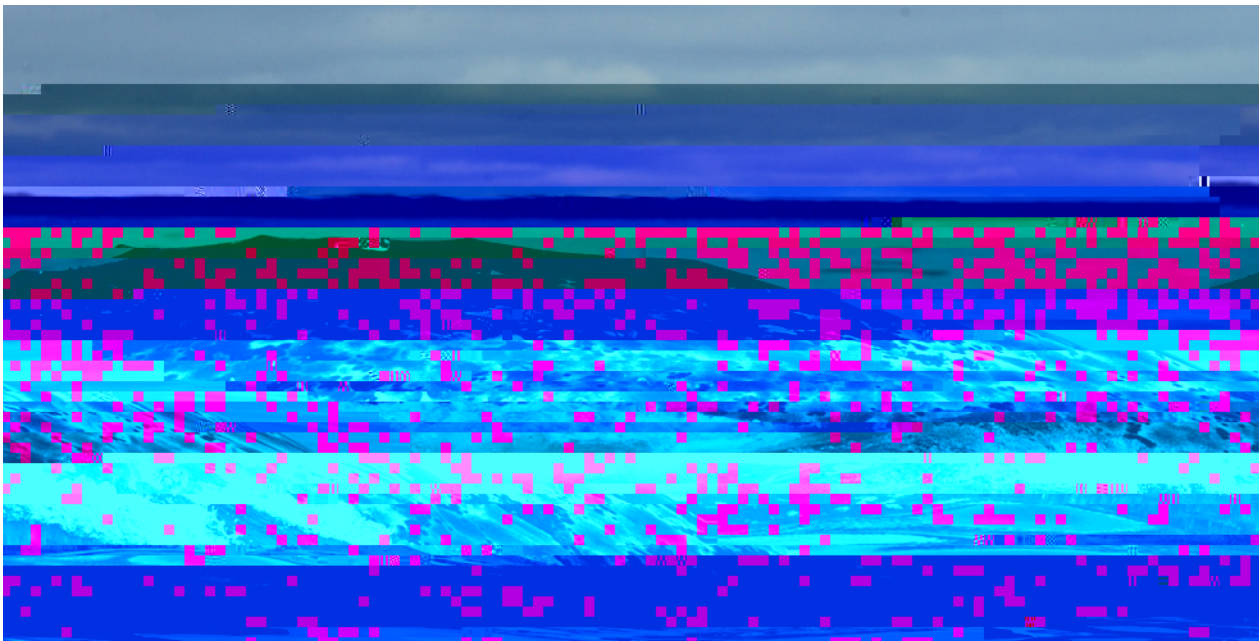


# Western gray whale

## Fact sheet



## Gray whale

### Physical features

The gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) is a marine mammal which can attain up to 15 meters in length and 30 tonnes in weight. It is followed by a series of bumps or “knuckles” along the spine. Its skin is mottled gray. The distinctive skin markings are used to identify individuals.

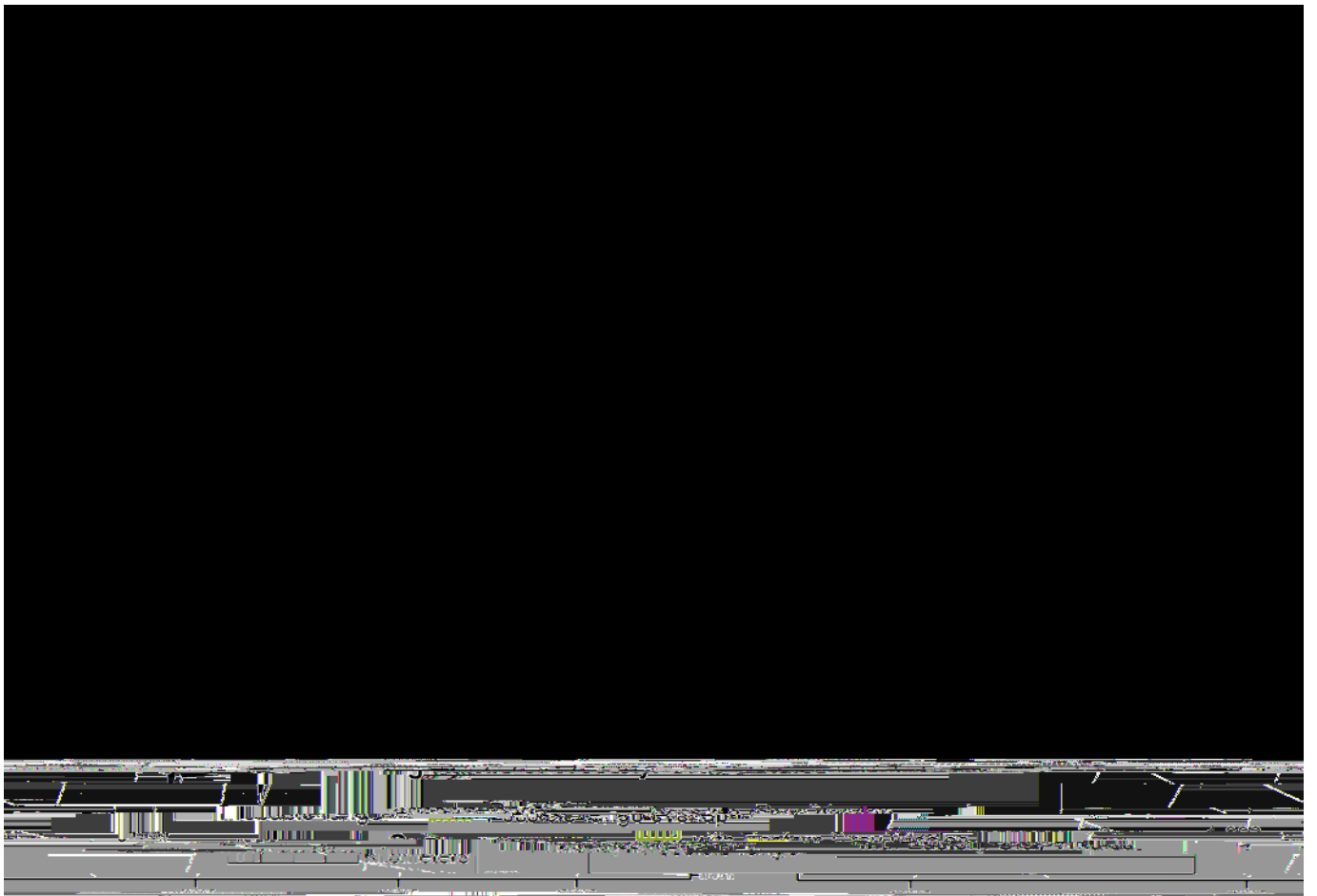
### Migrations

The species is known for its long-distance migrations between low-latitude calving and mating grounds near continental coasts and high-latitude feeding grounds in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic.

### Western versus eastern population

- ‡ The eastern gray whale migrates annually between Alaska/north-eastern Siberia and Mexico.
- ‡ The western gray whale migrates annually between the coast of California and the coast of Korea and/or Japan.

Both populations were driven to very low numbers by commercial whaling. The eastern gray whale has recovered substantially and now numbers in the tens of thousands. The western gray whale remains in a precarious state.



# Conservation actions and actors

## What has been achieved?

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‡ 7KURXJK D :\*\$3 WDVN IRUFH UHVHDUFK for oil and gas companies and independent scientists agreed to share certain kinds of data. This has DOORZHG WKH VWDQGDUGL]DWLRQ DQG RI SKRWR LGHQWL¿FDWLRQ GDWDEDVHV population analysis;

‡ 2YHU WKH \HDUV 6DNKDOLQ (QHUI\ KDV UREXVW VFLHQWL¿F PRQLWRULQJ HOHPH work program;

‡ )ROORZLQJ WKH :\*\$3V UHFRPPHQGDWLRQ (QHUI\ SRVWSRQHGD VHLVPLF VXUUH €5"

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