



Glorious Gray Kin

Mysterious adventurers, epic long-distance voyagers,
We landlubbers marvel at your Royal Highnesses.
Marbled gray, sleek tapered head, streamlined robust body,
A dozen knuckles supporting eighty thousand pounds,
Barnacles, sea lice, ecosystems within gray's ecosystem.
Hallelujah!

Such a sophisticated rhythmic accented dialect,
Ronroneo, Quejido, purrs, mirthful bubble blasts.
Each two-second hot breath condenses, regal clouds ahoy!
Twenty-hour summer muddy bottom, frolicking filtering feasts.
Scrumptious fatty crustaceans, delectable worms, the carbon
storehouse makers. Elation!

Alas, global heating vapourising Arctic sea ice,
Unwinding grays feeding ecosystem, emaciated, done for,
Dazed, endless noisy filthy fossil fuel cargo vessels.
O exalted gray oxygen-makers, sea shepherds, don't leave!
Terrifying. Fortitude, fearless defenders. The Great Ending.

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A young gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) at the surface of the water. Credit: Warren Carlton

Agitate. Disrupt. Defend.

#SeaShepherd

#RebelForLife

#TheGreatEnding

#GenZEmergency

Gray Whale Strandings

U.S. State	2019	2020	2021
Alaska	48	45	24
Washington	34	13	9
Oregon	6	3	3
California	34	18	19
Total	122	79	55

Country	2019	2020	2021	Total
Canada	11	5	5	21
U.S.	122	79	55	256
Mexico	83	88	54	225
Total	216	172	114	502

**Eastern Pacific gray whale recorded deaths to 1 December 2021.
Credit: NOAA**