

REQUEST FOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF GRAY WHALES FOR PHOTO-IDENTIFICATION STUDY



Right or left sides near the dorsal hump



Underside of the flukes

PHOTO-IDENTIFICATION RESEARCH - Cascadia Research is studying gray whale use of Washington waters. Over 20,000 gray whales migrate past the Washington coast twice a year on route between their primary feeding grounds in Alaska and their breeding grounds in Mexico. A small number of whales, however, use Washington waters outside the migrations period spending extended periods feeding. Using photographs of natural markings, we are seeking to determine the number of whales that feed in Washington waters, how long they stay, and whether the same individuals return year after year. Cascadia Research is a non-profit tax exempt research organization specializing in marine mammal research.

HOW TO IDENTIFY GRAY WHALES - Gray whales are up 46 ft long, with a gray mottled coloration. They do not have a dorsal fin on their back but instead have a small hump with a series of irregularly spaced bumps (knuckles) extending from the dorsal hump to the tail. They often have patches of barnacles and lice on their bodies most typically on the head. They sometimes raise their tail flukes when they dive. They are usually seen in shallow waters and when feeding can be seen swimming on their sides or trailing plumes of mud from the bottom.

TYPE OF PHOTOGRAPHS - The type of photographs that can be used in our research are shown on the cover. We are interested in photographs that show the marks and scars on either the right or left side in the vicinity of the dorsal hump as well as photographs of the underside of the tail flukes.

WHALE SIGHTINGS - We are also interested in obtaining information on sightings of non-migrating gray whales. If you have information on a sighting that occurred either in inside waters (outside the migration route) or made in May or later (after the main migration) please call us (1-800-747-7329) and let us know the date, location, number, and description of the animals seen.

HOW TO SEND THEM TO US - If you have photographs of gray whales like those we described, we would appreciate the chance to use them in our study. You can use the form in the back to send them to us. We will use the photographs only for research purposes and your name will be affixed to all prints made of the photographs.

Film type - Original slides or negatives are best quality for us to use and then return to you. We can use prints or slide duplicates if you prefer. We can reimburse you for duplication costs if you give us a call in advance.

Other information needed with the photographs - At a minimum, we need the date and general location. Other useful information includes time, position (latitude and longitude or Loran time delays), number of whales in the group, and behavioral description (see form on back).

IMPORTANT - Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act it is illegal to disturb or harass whales. This request for photographs should not be used to justify approaching whales more closely. We are seeking photographs that have been obtained incidentally to other activities.

PLEASE SEND THE FOLLOWING WITH PHOTOGRAPHS

Name

Address

Phone ()

Type of photograph submitted: (slide, negative, print)

Number of photographs:

Date	Location (lat/long if available)	# in group	Frames

Send photographs to:

Cascadia Research
 218 1/2 W. 4th Ave.
 Olympia, WA 98501

Call for more information:

1-800-747-7329