

Commercial whaling, especially for gray whales, *Eschrichtius robustus*, and humpback whales, *Megaptera novaeangliae*, at California and Baja California shore

Commercial Whaling, Especially for Gray Whales, *Eschrichtius robustus*, and Humpback Whales, *Megaptera novaeangliae*, at California and Baja California Shore Stations in the 19th Century (1854–1899)

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Abstract

Shore whaling along North America's California and Baja California coasts during 1854–99 was ancillary to the offshore and alongshore American whale fishery, which had begun in the North Pacific in the early 1800's and was flourishing by the 1840's. From its inception at Monterey, Calif., in the mid 1850's, the shore fishery, involving open boats deployed from land to catch and tow whales for processing, eventually spread from Monterey south to San Diego and Baja California and north to Crescent City near the California–Oregon border. It had declined to a relict industry by the 1880's, although sporadic efforts continued into the early 20th century. The main target species were gray whales, *Eschrichtius robustus*, and humpback whales, *Megaptera novaeangliae*, with the valuable North Pacific right whale, *Eubalaena japonica*, also pursued opportunistically. Catch data are grossly incomplete for most stations; no logbooks were kept for these operations as they were for high-seas whaling voyages. Even when good information is available on catch levels, usually as number of whales landed or quantity of oil produced, it is rarely broken down by species. Therefore, we devised methods for extrapolation, interpolation, pro rationing, correction, and informed judgment to produce time series of catches. The resulting estimates of landings from 1854 to 1899 are 3,150 (SE = 112) gray whales and 1,637 (SE = 62) humpback whales. The numbers landed should be multiplied by 1.2 to account for hunting loss (i.e. whales harpooned or shot but not recovered and processed).

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Commercial whaling, especially for gray whales, *Eschrichtius robustus*, and humpback whales, *Megaptera novaeangliae*, at California and Baja California shore stations in the 19th century (1854-1899). Populations of humpback whales, *Megaptera novaeangliae*, and blue whales, *Balaenoptera musculus*, around South Georgia crashed around the time of World War 1, and further exploitation occurred in other regions into the 1930's. Catches of Humpback Whales, *Megaptera novaeangliae*, by the Soviet Union and other nations in the Southern Ocean, 1947-1973. Belugas are seen together with bowhead whales in spring and fall and with humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in fall. 979-771 - Adult humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) breaching and head-lunging along the eastern shore of Chichagof Island in Southeastern Alaska, USA. Add to Lightbox. Add to Shopping Cart. 759-8996 - Snorkeler and humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), Silver Bank, Atlantic Ocean, Dominican Republic, West Indies, Central America. Add to Lightbox. Add to Shopping Cart. Commercial Whaling, Especially for Gray Whales, *Eschrichtius robustus*, and Humpback Whales, *Megaptera novaeangliae*, at California and Baja California Shore Stations in the 19th Century (1854–1899). *Marine Fisheries Review* 72 (1): 25; Jan., 2010), p. 7. ^ Clark, A.H. 1887. History and Present Condition of the Fishery. Pages 3-218 in G.B. Goode, ed. *The Fisheries and Fishery Industries of the United States*. United States Government Publishing Office, Washington, DC.