

With your help, graduate students at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) will construct a life-size display of a gray whale skeleton that will welcome visitors as they approach the labs. This exciting project builds on 15 years of research by Dr. James Harvey, Professor of MLML's Marine Vertebrate Ecology Laboratory, and his students.

In cooperation with the Marine Mammal Center, MLML students collected the gray whale, a male twelve meters in length, near Fort Baker, Marin County, California, on April 16, 2000. The whale was approximately five years old and had reached physical maturity. At the time of collection, skin and blubber samples were taken for toxicological analyses; the skeleton then was transported to MLML for cleaning. After thousands of hours of labor from dedicated students and volunteers, the skeleton is now ready for articulation and display.

Please join us in completing the final stage of this project and in continuing MLML's legacy of excellence in marine education. By connecting visitors to the ocean, we hope to inspire appreciation of the marine environment and enhance understanding of the fascinating organisms that dwell there.

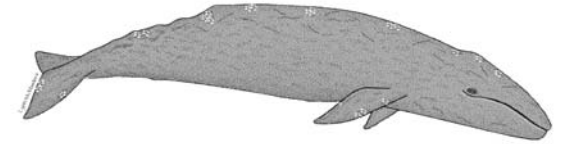


Drawing by E. Woolery



The skeleton will be displayed at the front entrance of MLML, nestled among restored native dune vegetation. The bones will be supported by a stainless steel structure and positioned so that the animal is head-down (a feeding posture).

## Fun Facts About Gray Whales



**Scientific name:** *Eschrichtius robustus*

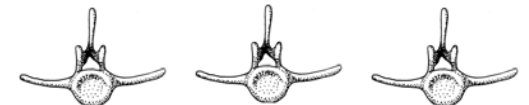
**Geographic Range:** Bering and Chuckchi Seas to Baja, California; prefer coastal waters

**Diet:** Use baleen to filter tiny shrimp-like crustaceans and benthic amphipods from mud on ocean bottom

**Length:** Females - up to 46 feet  
Males - up to 43 feet

**Weight:** 14-35 tons

**Status:** The Eastern Pacific population remains stable at approximately 20,000 individuals; however, the Western Pacific stock is critically endangered, containing only 100 individuals





## YES, I'D LIKE TO HELP BUILD A WHALE!

Please complete this form and mail it along with your tax-deductible donation to:

Friends of MLML  
Attn: Whale Skeleton Project  
8272 Moss Landing Road  
Moss Landing, CA 95039



I would like to donate:

\$10     \$20     \$40  
 \$50     \$100     Other

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Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ MC or VISA ?

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

From a modest start in a sardine cannery more than thirty years ago, MLML has gained a well deserved international reputation for the quality of its marine research and educational opportunities.

MLML's goal is to provision the pioneers of the future in marine science through the pursuit of excellence in marine scientific research and education. Through an emphasis on field and laboratory projects, the labs provide an unequaled educational experience for students at the Master's level.

For more information about MLML please visit <http://www.mlml.calstate.edu>

### The Marine Mammal Stranding Network

To report a dead marine mammal, please call (831) 771-4422

or visit our website at

<http://birdmam.mlml.calstate.edu>

Please contact MLML's Marine Vertebrate Ecology Lab at (831) 771-4422 for more information!

## HELP US BUILD A WHALE!

