

Figure 1. Confirmed whale entanglements in the U.S. West Coast region, 2010–2019. (A) Total entanglements over time, (B) by entanglement gear in the U.S. West Coast region, including commercial Dungeness crab, all other fisheries, and unknown gear sources. Most unknown gear included rope, buoys, and other types of marine debris that could not be linked to a fishery, (C) by state or country (Canada and Mexico), and (D) by time of year, Data source: NOAA NMFS Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program (MMHSRP), Entanglements Dataset.



Figure 2. California, Oregon, and Washington stranding records exhibiting evidence of ship strikes, 2010–2019. (A) Total ship strike strandings over time, (B) confirmed dead or alive from observation status, (D) by state (no data available from Canada or Mexico in this dataset), and (D) by time of year. Data source: NOAA NMFS Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program (MMHSRP), Strandings Dataset.

a)

total percentages:

Gray – 37.5%

Humpback 22.5%

Fin 21.3%

Blue – 8.75%

Minke, Sei, & unknown 2.5%

Sperm 1.5%

(Minke, sei, sperm and unknown whales combined - 8.75%)

53.3% (20% of total) of recorded vessel strike strandings for gray whales have occurred in 2018 and 2019 and this increase has been called an unusual mortality event starting in January 2019—present (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-life-distress/2019-2021-gray-whale-unusual-mortality-event-along-west-coast-and>). Humpback whales had the second highest mortality with vessel strikes with 22.5% of the recorded humpback cases occurring in 2016 (6.25% of total).

b)

From 2010-2019, only 19% of vessel strike whale strandings were recorded as alive.

81.0% of were dead 19.0% were alive between the years 2010-2019

c) The majority of recorded vessel strike strandings occurred off California (80%), followed by Washington (14%) and Oregon (2%). Gray whales off California had the highest rate of stranding with 27.5% followed by humpback whales 18.8% and fin whales 17.5%.

Minke, sei, and sperm whales were the least recorded representing 5% total of the vessel strike strandings. All blue whale vessel strike strandings occurred off CA.

d. fin whale vessel strike strandings occurred yearlong except for March. Gray whales had 66.7% of their vessel strike strandings March-May. Most humpback whales vessel strike recordings occurred from May to October