

THE MARINE MAMMAL CENTER

PRESS ADVISORY

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Scientists respond to two additional gray whales in San Francisco Bay as frequent sightings continue

The whales mark the second and third found dead in the San Francisco Bay Area within a week

(SAUSALITO, Calif. – April 4, 2025) Scientists at The Marine Mammal Center and partners at the California Academy of Sciences can confirm that two additional dead gray whales have been found in the San Francisco Bay Area. The joint team plans to conduct a necropsy, or whale autopsy, on a gray whale at Angel Island State Park on Friday, April 4 at low tide to investigate one of the animal's deaths. The additional gray whale, reported Friday morning off Fort Point Rock Beach in San Francisco, is currently in an inaccessible location caught in rocks just offshore. No timetable for response has yet been determined for that individual as it may continue to float with the tide.

The Center received reports of a dead gray whale floating east of Angel Island on Wednesday afternoon, April 2. A team of responders from the Center collected initial tissue and skin samples from a research vessel later in the day. The team identified the whale as an adult male and noted the carcass was bloated and in a state of advanced decomposition -- indicating it had been dead for some time.

The whale was resighted Thursday morning, April 3, and in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the whale was successfully towed and landed at Angel Island State Park. Advanced permission to land the whale was provided by State Park staff.

The Center received an additional report of a dead gray whale off Fort Point on Friday morning around 11 and confirmed its location shortly thereafter. The age class and sex of the individual is currently unknown.

“Our joint team is thankful to our partners at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their invaluable support to help tow and position this whale so that we are able to investigate this animal's death,” says Kathi George, Director of Cetacean Conservation Biology at The Marine Mammal Center. “There continues to be a significant number of gray whale sightings in San Francisco Bay as this species continues their northern migration to their arctic feeding grounds. With the bay serving as a shared space for commerce and increasing whale activity, it's vital that all boaters, from large commercial vessels to sailboats, be whale aware and if you see a blow, go slow.”

George notes that in the past two weeks, multiple ferry operators in the Bay have taken action to avoid whales, including cutting their engines after spotting a gray whale to allow it to pass safely

before resuming their routes. George adds that these efforts are the result of improved communication through the United States Coast Guard's Vessel Traffic Service (VTS), ongoing collaboration within the San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee, and the proactive actions of individual stakeholders.

Specifically, the Coast Guard is making Special Marine Information Broadcasts (SMIB) over marine frequencies every four hours through the weekend, alerting mariners of the increased presence of whales within the bay. The broadcast reads: "The Coast Guard has received multiple reports of whales in the Central Bay area, mariners are advised to transit the area with extreme caution."

In addition, VTS has also taken additional measures with ferry companies to help protect the whales, including temporary lane changes especially in the area east of Angel Island where a high number of sightings have occurred.

More detail will be made available when the investigation at Angel Island State Park is finalized by the Center's pathology team. If the whale currently offshore of Fort Point strands in a more accessible location and a necropsy response occurs, an update will be made available. Historical stranding data, as well as a regularly-updated interactive map of the Center's responses from this year across our 600-mile California response range, can be found [here](#).

If you do see a whale in the bay or surrounding area, you can report the sighting and enter observations into the free [Whale Alert](#) app on your smartphone or to the Center's [website](#).

To report a dead, injured, or stranded marine mammal in the San Francisco Bay Area, please contact one of two hotlines:

- For dead marine mammals, contact California Academy of Sciences: (415) 379 - 5381
- For live marine mammals, contact The Marine Mammal Center: (415) 289 - SEAL (7325)

All marine mammal stranding activities were conducted under authorization by the National Marine Fisheries Service through a Stranding Agreement issued to the California Academy of Sciences (SA-WCR-2023-016) and MMPA/ESA Permit No. 24359.

ABOUT THE MARINE MAMMAL CENTER:

The Marine Mammal Center is a global leader in marine mammal health, science and conservation, and is the largest marine mammal hospital in the world. As a leading contributor to the global body of research and knowledge about marine mammal medicine and ocean health, the Center generates research findings and scientific outputs at volumes comparable to top academic institutions and prides itself on gathering and providing open research data that is free to access, reuse, repurpose and redistribute. The Center's teaching hospital and training programs

operate globally with headquarters in Sausalito, California. The Center has rescued more than 26,000 marine mammals from 600 miles of authorized rescue area along the California coastline and Hawai'i Island. The Center's mission is to advance ocean health through marine mammal rescue and rehabilitation, research, and education.

For more information, please visit MarineMammalCenter.org. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

About the California Academy of Sciences

The California Academy of Sciences is a renowned scientific and educational institution with a mission to regenerate the natural world through science, learning, and collaboration. Based in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, it is home to a world-class aquarium, planetarium, and natural history museum, as well as innovative programs in scientific research and environmental education—all under one living roof. Museum hours are 9:30 am – 5:00 pm Monday – Saturday, and 11:00 am – 5:00 pm on Sunday. Admission includes all exhibits, programs, and shows. For daily ticket prices, please visit calacademy.org or call (415) 379-8000 for more information.