

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Southwest Region

Efforts to address ship strikes of large whales



NMFS' role

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service has responsibility to protect whales through:

Endangered Species Act (ESA)
(1973)

Marine Mammal Protection Act
(MMPA) (1972)

Our approach focuses on four main areas:

- Advancing the science related to large whale ship strikes on the West Coast.
- Improving our ability to understand and characterize large whale ship strikes from data collected from our stranding network and partner agencies.
- Engaging with the shipping industry to share information and develop options to mitigate the risk of lethal ship strikes.
- Working within NOAA and with other agencies to meet our regulatory responsibilities under the ESA and MMPA to protect large whales.

Science

NMFS's Southwest Fisheries Science Center leads science efforts.

The Center works in collaboration with the region on research projects and priorities.

The Center annually conduct surveys to evaluate status of all marine mammal stocks.

Science (cont.)

NMFS hosted meeting of scientists, managers and constituents in 2010.

Set short term science goals for NOAA and community.

NMFS SWFSC developed co-occurrence models for SoCal Bight and working on models for central CA.

Science (cont.)

NMFS continues to support whale research.

CetMap

<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/cetsound/>

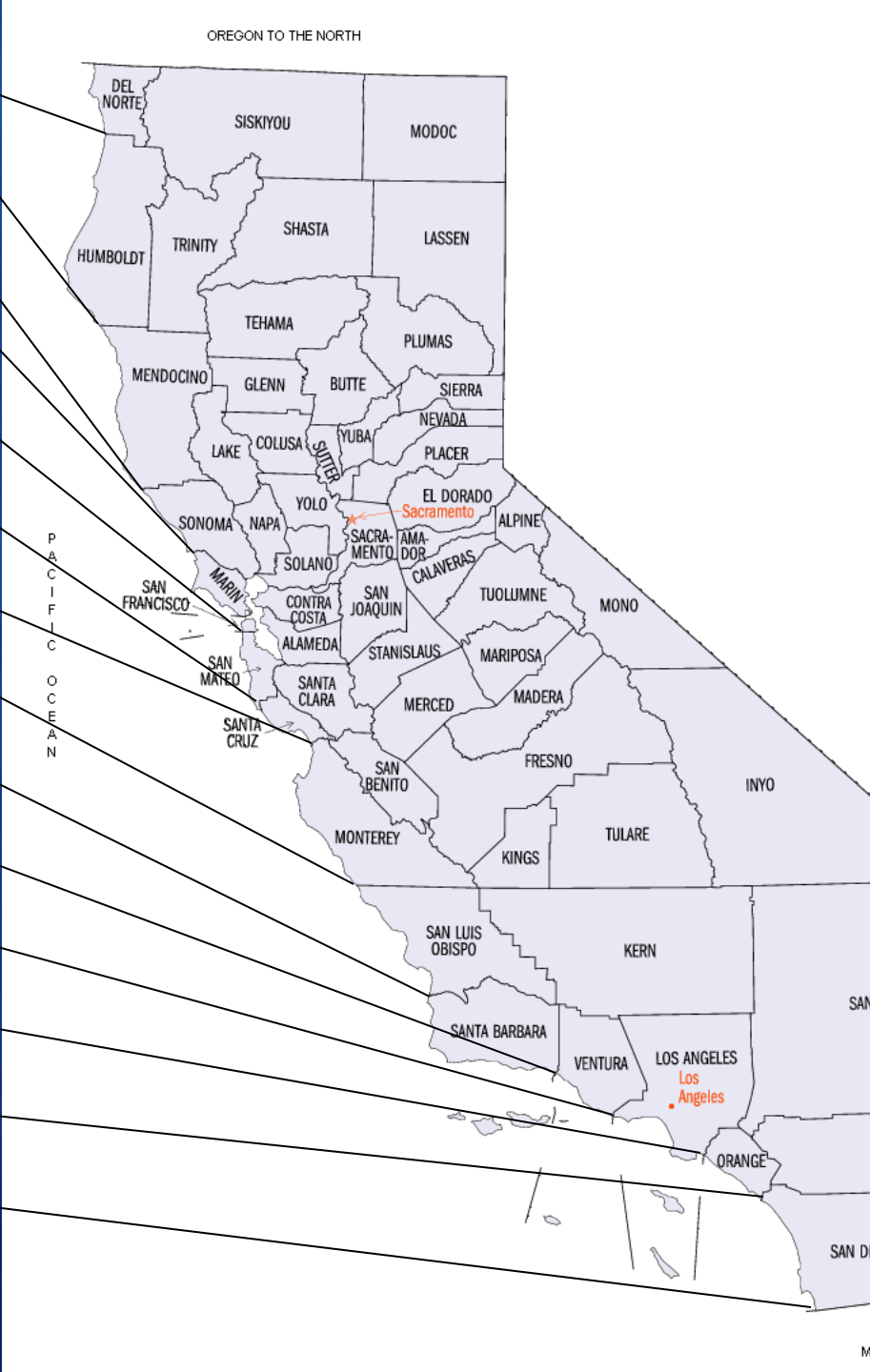
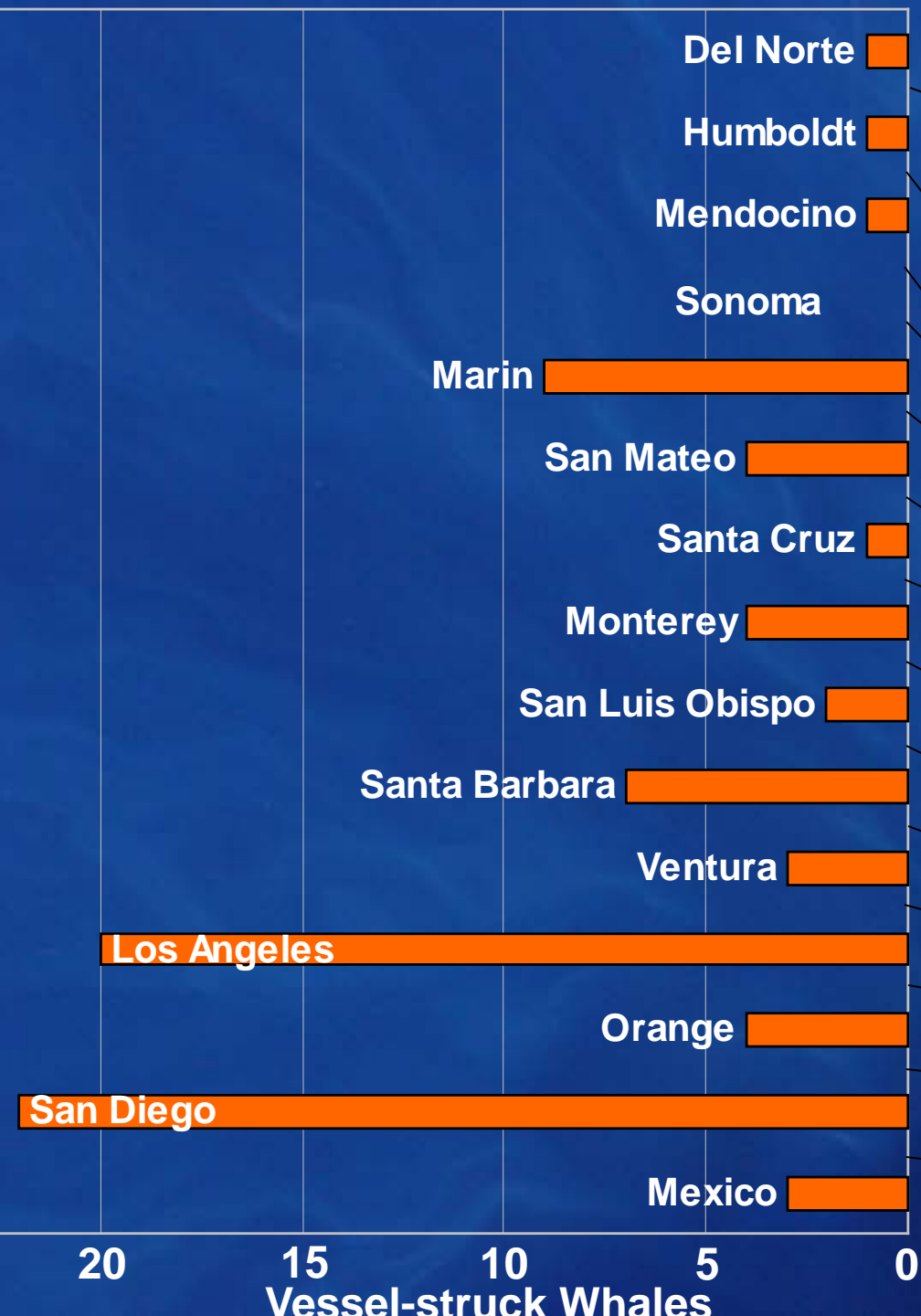
NMFS contributing staff expertise to various projects, including WhaleWatch.

Understand and Characterize Large Whale Vessel Strikes in CA

- NMFS coordinates stranding network under MMPA and ESA.
- Collects information from the public, volunteers and other agencies on animals in distress or killed.
- NMFS has toll free number for reporting marine animals in distress, as well as dead animals. We rely on public input, so please call:

1-877-SOS- WHALe

1-877-767-9425



Reported Large Whale Vessel Strikes in CA by Species, 1998-2010

