

Celebration of Conservation:  
Gray Whales, Elephant Seals, & Vaquita



**Daniel Costa**  
TEAM ELEPHANT SEAL



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# Celebration of Conservation: Gray Whales, Elephant Seals, & Vaquita

## DANIEL COSTA, PhD

Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

### STUDIES:

The ecology and physiology of marine mammals and seabirds including turtles, penguins, albatross, whales, dolphins, seals, and every living species of sea lion and most of the fur seals.

### RESEARCH FOCUS:

The ecology and physiology of marine mammals and seabirds

### HAS STUDIED:

Marine animals on every continent and almost every habitat from the Galapagos to Antarctica.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO CELEBRATE ELEPHANT SEALS?

Elephant seals are one of the true conservation success stories. In 1900, maybe 25 or so elephant seals were left on Guadalupe Island Mexico. Complete protection of this species combined with its unusual breeding behavior and it's ability to feed widely over the ocean has enabled them to recover to over 175,000 individuals today.

