

Question 1) What physical/environmental factors affect gray whales?

Question 2) How do these factors affect the biology of the gray whale? Match the environmental/physical factor with the behavioral change.

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| A) El Niño | 1. Increased calf production as result of more food access |
| B) Pacific Decadal Oscillation | 2. One-week delay in southbound migration |
| C) Reduction in Sea Ice | 3. Reduced calf numbers, change in breeding lagoon occupancy |

Question 3) Provide three reasons that gray whales have been considered “ecosystem sentinels.”