

Abstract

Home Range Analysis of Summer Resident Gray Whales in British Columbia, Canada

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Home range has been defined as the total area used by an animal in normal daily activities, excluding migrations, emigrations or erratic wanderings (Mendonca, 1983). The home range utilization quantifies the degree to which individual animals frequent different units in space (Schoener, 1981). The recent advent of merging statistical tools and mapping software, such as the development of ArcView software's Animal Movement Analysis Extension (Hooge, 1999a), enables biologists to examine the concept of home ranges and habitat utilization from a quantitative as well as qualitative point of view. The purpose of this study is to apply statistical analysis to data obtained from photo identification methods and GPS latitude and longitude readings, to estimate the amount and type of habitat necessary to maintain a healthy population of gray whales.

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