

### LSIESP Community Reunion 2009:

The LSIESP researchers held the Third Annual Community “Reunion” at the Kuyimita campground on 28 February 2009. The Reunion brought together representatives from the Eco-Tourism Companies, fishermen, panga drivers, naturalists, and local residents to review the current LSIESP research activities in the lagoon, updates on climate change impacts on gray whales and other marine species, and plans for future research and community activities. Steven Swartz



updated the participants on the current abundance of the Eastern North Pacific gray whale population as estimated by the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, and counts of gray whales in the Laguna San Ignacio over the past three years. Jorge Urban reviewed the topics and papers from the Workshop on gray whales and their responses to climate change which was held in conjunction with the American Cetacean Society’s Biennial Conference last November in Monterey, California. Abstracts from this workshop are available at the following link: [GrayWhaleClimateWorkshop](#).

Liria Del Monte Madrigal discussed her Master’s Thesis project to documents and analyze the growth of the whale-watching tourism at Laguna San Ignacio, and to compare trends in number of whale-watching boats operating in the lagoon with trends in gray whale abundance and



distribution. Anaid Lopez Urban gave a Power Point presentation from Melania Guerra and Aaron Thode on the acoustics program including the suction-cup acoustic tag research and preliminary findings. Following these presentations the participants discussed several local issues and concerns. One outcome is that beginning in 2010, LSIESP researchers will offer an information workshop for the naturalists working for the Eco-Tour Operators at the beginning of the winter whale-watching season to share current

information and observations on the status of the gray whale population, observed responses to climate change, status of LSIESP research projects underway, and to discuss issues related to informing the visitors to the lagoon about the lagoon wildlife and conservation efforts.

### Public Relations and Outreach:

The LSIESP was featured on Mexico's number one rated morning TV program broadcast from Mexico City. LSIESP researchers and students were interviewed by several news media teams from the United States (San Diego channel 8 news), then United Kingdom (BBC World News), and the Japan News Agency. LSIESP researchers also provided lectures and slide shows on the natural history of the lagoon and gray whales to several Eco-Tourism groups that visited the lagoon this winter.



For more information on the LSIESP visit our web-site at [www.lsiecosystem.org](http://www.lsiecosystem.org)

