

Whale Id: Unique Dorsal Hump Patterns

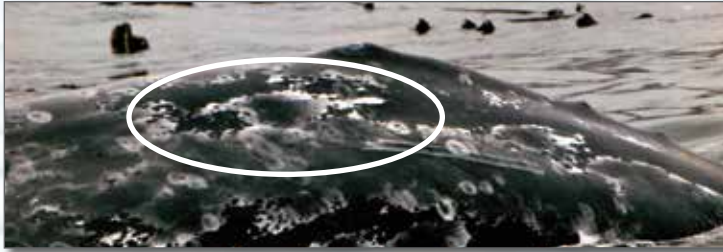
Road Runner

Road Runner was first identified off Depoe Bay in August of 2008. The characteristic pattern of this whale is a bird, “a road runner running,” on the left dorsal hump. This summer resident is extremely friendly as seen in the photos where Road Runner is approaching my boat.

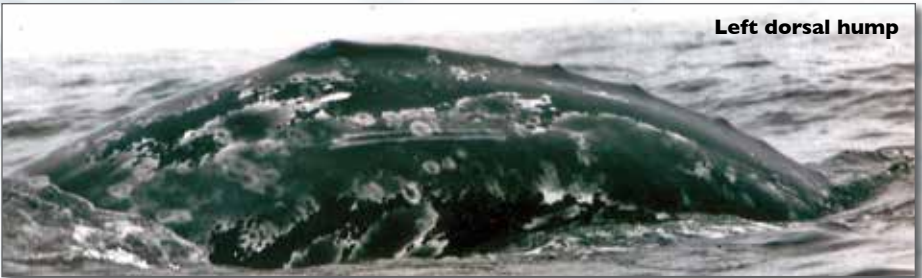
Roadrunner coming towards the boat



Rostrum



Left dorsal hump



Close Approach



Whale Id: Unique Dorsal Hump Patterns

Arrow

Arrow was first identified off Depoe Bay in July of 2006 and seen again in 2007. This whale was given this name due to the fact that there is a pointed “arrow” on the left

dorsal hump. It points towards the head. Arrow also does a unique feeding behavior by being a “lefty” so instead of going on the right side to feed, Arrow goes on the left.

Left dorsal hump - notice the “arrow shaped pattern”



Right dorsal hump



(Right) Arrow is a lefty, turning on the left side to feed on mysids, with the right tail fluke “sharking,” unlike most whales who are just the opposite.



Dorsal fluke



Ventral fluke



Whale Id: Unique Dorsal Hump Patterns

Wishbone

Wishbone was first identified off Depoe Bay in September of 2007 and again in 2008. This whale has a pigmentation pattern like a “wishbone” on the right dorsal hump and on the top right side of the tail fluke. Wishbone is probably a male since a lot of courtship

activity was occurring between him and Comet in September of 2007 and he was always the whale trailing behind Comet. This whale was named by my good friends Gloria and Alan Koch and some of the photos are by Alan Koch.



Left dorsal hump



Right dorsal hump

photo: Alan Koch

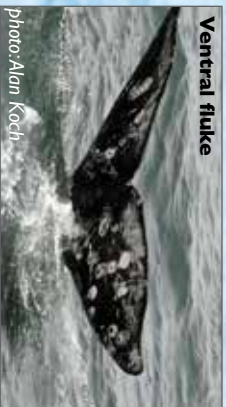


Back and blowholes

photo: Alan Koch



Dorsal fluke - fluking up and showing the wishbone pattern



Ventral fluke

photo: Alan Koch

Whale Id: Unique Dorsal Hump Patterns

CRC #565

Comet

Comet is a large whale with a white pigmentation mark in front of the dorsal hump that looks like a “comet tail.” The “comet tail” can be seen primarily from the left side. On the right side of the dorsal hump, there are three pigmentation marks that look like “comet hits.” Comet is a long-time summer resident of Newport and Depoe Bay. She spent 4 months off Depoe Bay in September of 2007, 2 months in 2008 and appeared in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. You can always

count on Comet fluking up for you, unlike other summer residents. In September of 2007 she was seen courting with Wishbone and she was in the lead which indicates that she is probably a female. She is very large and females are 5 feet longer than males. One of her strange habits is to blow underwater right before surfacing. She must have an obstruction in her left blow hole since the heart-shaped blow is lower on the left. During a breach we noticed a long cut extending from her pectoral flipper to her genital area.





Comet coming up to the boat to see Kida



Comet fluking up in front of Kida

Comet blowing underwater before surfacing with a fellow whale buddy in the background.



Comet beginning to blow underwater



Comet T-boning it towards our boat - notice head



Whale Id: Unique Dorsal Hump Patterns

Shamrock



Shamrock was first identified off Depoe Bay in June of 2007. This whale had a three-leaf clover pattern on the right dorsal hump and a white pigmentation pattern like a lightning bolt on the left. This whale appeared in

September of 2009 in a courting triad. Shamrock was in the lead and is very large and was a female. Shamrock had a very unique fluke that looked “droopy” when fluking up. She died in the summer of 2012.

Rostrum and back



Right dorsal hump



Left dorsal hump



Humping up



Ventral Fluke



Droopy dorsal fluke



Whale Id: Unique Dorsal Hump Patterns

CRC #714

Splotch

Splotch was first identified August of 2009 and stayed around Whale Cove the whole month of September. Splotch appeared in late May of 2010. This whale is characterized by having off white “splotch-like”

patterns on both the right and left dorsal humps. There is also a characteristic white spot on the right side in front of the dorsal hump. Splotch was very friendly and came up to my boat numerous times.



Whale Id: Unique Dorsal Hump Patterns

Ice Cap

Ice cap was first identified off Depoe Bay in July of 2008. This whale is identified by an irregular white patch located on top of the dorsal hump, like the polar ice cap. There is also a prominent white spot below the 5th knuckle on the right side that is visible when Ice Cap takes a deep dive. Some sort of mishap occurred to Ice Cap between the beginning of the summer in 2008 and the

latter part of the summer in 2008 since there were additional wounds on the hump and knuckle areas. Ice Cap spent over 2 months in Depoe Bay in 2009, over 4 months in 2010 and also showed up in 2011 and 2012. Ice Cap is extremely friendly and has approached my boat closely numerous times. One time Ice Cap and my dog, Kida, almost touched noses. I think Ice Cap is a male because of his smaller size and shorter blow.

Rostrum and back-notice eye by arrow

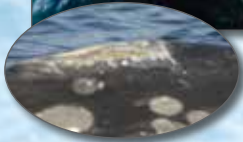


Feeding behavior called sharking as he goes on his left side to capture mysids.

Left dorsal hump



(Left) The inset shows the wound that occurred in the summer of 2008



Dorsal fluke



Right dorsal hump



Progression of photographs showing initial wound and the healing process over time.

Left dorsal hump
without cut



Boat cut Ice Cap
on 8-18-10



Piece of tissue from wound
showing on 8-24-10



Wound starting to close up
on 8-26-10



White scar tissue shows
wound location on 8-30-10

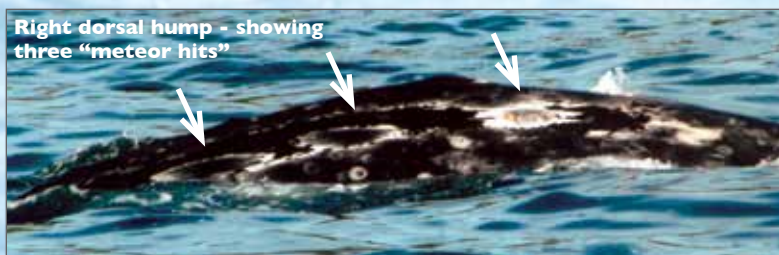


Whale Id: Unique Dorsal Hump Patterns

Meteor

Meteor was first identified off Depoe Bay in July of 2003. This whale has three distinctive “meteor hits” on the right dorsal

hump that easily identify it. Meteor was last seen in 2008. Meteor may be mistaken for Football since there is a sink-hole like pattern on the left dorsal hump of Football.



Whale Id: Unique Dorsal Hump Patterns

CRC #169

Joker

Joker was first identified off Depoe Bay in September 2008 (courting p. 24) and again in August of 2009. Joker is probably a female. Joker has a J-shaped pattern on the

fluke and a pigmentation mark shaped like a question mark on the left dorsal hump. Joker spent weeks feeding off whale Cove and the Whale Center.

Left dorsal hump



Right dorsal hump



Right dorsal hump



Dorsal fluke



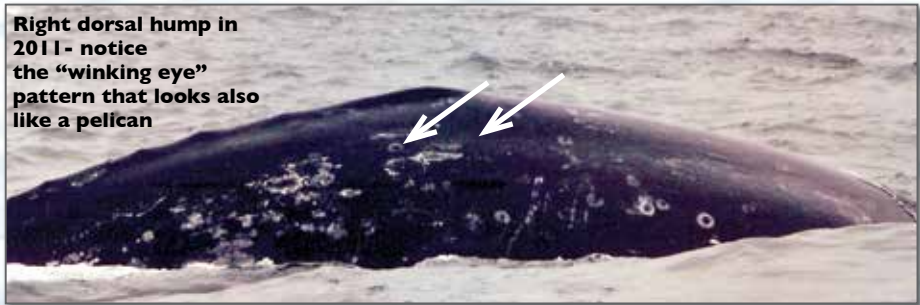
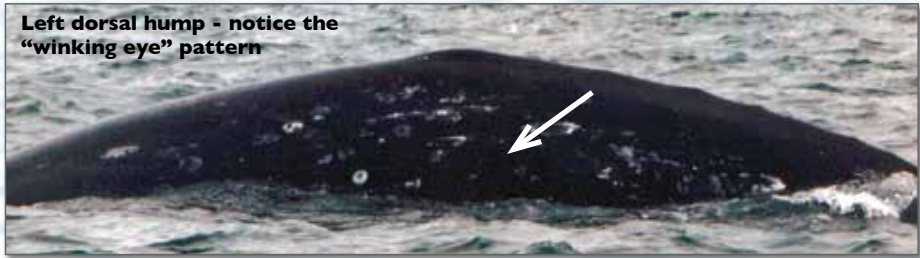
Ventral fluke

Whale Id: Unique Dorsal Hump Patterns

Winky a.k.a. Crescent

Winky was first identified June of 2006. This whale stayed around Depoe Bay for over 3 months usually feeding at North Point. Winky showed up again in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. This dark whale with its smooth dorsal hump and knuckles is characterized by a winking eye pattern on both the right and left dorsal humps. In 2006, we had named this whale Crescent crescent-shaped moon on the right side

below the dorsal hump. This crescent is actually made up of three barnacle scars. It was always thought that the barnacle scars were somewhat permanent but we found that is not always the case since now this whale no longer has any evidence of barnacle scars. Because the characteristic pattern is no long evident, Crescent's name changed to Winky, a "winking eye" pattern that has not changed. There are also characteristic clumps of barnacles and whale lice on the left side of the head and neck.



Right dorsal hump in 2006 showing the three barnacle scars making up the crescent moon, the round white "full

moon" and two barnacle scars below the right dorsal hump.

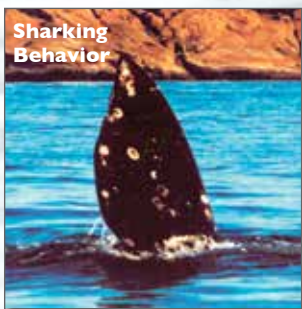
Rostrum and back-notice barnacle clumps



Winky giving a passenger a close approach



Sharking Behavior



Feeding on its right side



Ventral fluke



Dorsal fluke



Whale Id: Pointed Dorsal Hump/Knuckles

Vinnie

Vinnie was first identified off Depoe Bay in July of 2007. Vinnie appears to be a very young whale due to the dimpled rostrum (head). Young whales have rostrums with a 1-inch hair protruding out of each dimple. As the whale ages, blubber covers up the hairs and dimples. This very dark whale is also characterized by an extremely pointy dorsal hump-like an inverted “V”, plus a very wide V-shaped notch in the tail fluke and a “nn”

made out of barnacle scars on the left side of the neck. Vinnie spent over two months in Depoe Bay in 2009. He exhibited very erratic behavior and he would pop up close to the boat during one surfacing then far away on the next surfacing. My dog Kida jumped in after Vinnie one time when he popped up two feet off the bow of my boat. Vinnie flukes a lot, even in shallow water and he’s a “lefty.” He was skinny in 2009 with his scapula showing.

Notice the dimpled rostrum



Left dorsal hump



Right dorsal hump





Whale Id: Pointed Dorsal Hump/Knuckles

Spike

Spike was first identified off Depoe Bay in August of 2009. This small gray splotchy whale is characterized by having a pointed dorsal hump and very pointy knuckles.

Spike has the appearance of a prehistoric

dinosaur. Spike is similar in coloration to Ridgeback with the same pointy knuckles. Spike received some sort of cut on the top of the back.



Whale Id: Pointed Dorsal Hump/Knuckles

CRC #854

Ridgeback

Ridgeback was first identified off Depoe Bay in June of 2008 and seen again in 2009. This gray splotchy whale is characterized by having a long “ridge-like” dorsal hump and very pointed knuckles. Just beneath the ridge and

knuckles there is a black band of pigmentation. There is also a white dot midway on the right side. The rostrum is very white. Ridgeback and Spike are similar in coloration and both have pointy knuckles.



Whale Id: Pointed Dorsal Hump/Knuckles

Pointer

Pointer was first identified off Depoe Bay in July of 2008. Like Vinnie, Pointer is a darker whale with a very pointed dorsal hump. At some time in Pointer's life, transient killer

whales attacked him as evidenced by tooth rakes on the tip of one side of the fluke and a bite mark on the other side of the fluke.

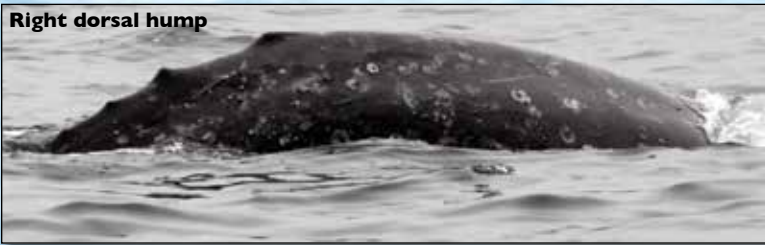
Rostrum



Left dorsal hump



Right dorsal hump



Fluking up



(Below) Notice the killer whale bite mark on the flukes and tooth rakes.



Ventral fluke

Whale Id: Pointed Dorsal Hump/Knuckles

Pinnacle

Pinnacle was first identified off Depoe Bay in August of 2008. This whale has a very pointy second knuckle that looks like a "pinnacle." A nick-name of this whale is "Up yours." Pinnacle also has a couple of

prominent white spots and does bubble net feeding. See page -45 for more information and pictures. Pinnacle was attacked by transient killer whales and was courted by Eagle Eye.

Left dorsal hump-notice orca tooth rakes, white dot and pointed knuckle



Right dorsal hump



Sharking behavior notice the orca tooth rakes



Fluking up and scaring a cormorant



Fluking up



Ventral fluke



Whale Id: White Whales or White Flukes

Ghost

A new resident whale that showed up in 2004, 2005 and 2008 off Depoe Bay. Just like the name implies, Ghost would come

out of nowhere and then disappear only to reappear in a totally different area. Ghost is a large whale that is very light in color.



Ribbon

Ribbon is a large whale who is a long time resident off Newport and Depoe Bay. Ribbon showed up most recently in August of

2009. The trailing fluke edges of this whale are trimmed with a ribbon of white pigmentation.



Whale Id: White Whales or Flukes

Dine and Dash

Dine and Dash was first identified off Depoe Bay in August of 2007. This whale has a pattern of a “fish on a platter” on the left side and a dash on the right side of the dorsal

hump. This whale and Scarback have been seen together. My guess is that they are both old females since Dine and Dash also has very white flukes.



Blanco

Blanco was first identified in 2012. He stayed off Depoe Bay for six months, leaving in mid November. He was named for his predominately white pigmentation over his whole body. He has a white spot on his left dorsal hump and a black spine pattern along his knuckles. Blanco was nick named our "male gigolo." He tried courting ever female

that came into the area. He courted Comet, Valentine, Morisa, Aurora and many others. He apparently never read the gray whale book that females can't get pregnant until December or January. He did numerous antics during his time in Depoe Bay from sneaking up on my boats numerous times to breaching, kelping and showing off his pectoral flippers, a rare treat.



Blanco's rostrum showing orange whale lice



Right dorsal hump-notice black spine



Left dorsal hump-notice white spot

Notice the very white dorsal fluke



Blanco approaching the boat and...



Whale and dog almost nose to nose



Notice the digits in Blanco's flipper.



Blanco and Kida had a “love/hate” relationship during June of 2013. Blanco would approach my boat repeatedly and tease my dog, Kida. I sincerely believe Blanco wanted the interaction with Kida since this behavior occurred at least a dozen times.

Whale Id: White Whales or White Flukes

Snowflake

Snowflake was first identified off Depoe Bay in August of 2008 and was seen again in 2010. This whale has “flakes of snow” along both dorsal humps and a very white dorsal

and ventral tail fluke. The whiteness on the tail fluke may possibly be an indication of old age just like Scarback.

Right dorsal hump



Left dorsal hump



Notice the trailing white edge on Snowflake's fluke

Notice the extremely white underside of Snowflake's ventral fluke



Whale Id: White Whales or White Flukes

Angel Wings

Angel Wings is a new resident as of 2010. This very large whale showed up in August of 2010 and remained in residence for the next 2 months. When this whale fluked you could see the beautiful white tail fluke, hence the name Angel Wings. There is also

an eye pattern on the left dorsal hump. My guess is that this is an old female due to the large size and whiteness of the flukes. Time will tell me if I am correct or incorrect in this assumption.



Whale Id: Dark Whales

CRC #91

8-Ball

8-Ball is a large, very dark female with a single white spot. The large white spot is natural pigmentation and found on the left side of the back. In 2004 and 2008, 8-Ball was seen with a calf. We named her 2004 calf Freckles because of the spotted markings. 8-Ball and Freckles were very

skittish and hung out very close to shore, far away from any whale watching boats. 8-Ball has been seen skim feeding on porcelain crab larvae. 8-Ball may be confused with Chunky who is a dark whale with a white dot on the right side.



(Above) Left dorsal hump, notice the white spot.

(Right) Right dorsal hump. 8-Ball always sticks close to shore so it is difficult to approach her.



8-ball rostrum



8-ball's 2004 calf Freckles



Sharking behavior, showing orca tooth rakes



Chunky a.k.a. Chocolate Chunk

An extremely large, friendly whale first seen in 2004, then again in 2005, 2008 and 2009. Chunky comes extremely close to boats and many times dives right under them. Chunky is a lefty and known for sticking the right tail fluke high above the water. Chunky has a small, white spot beneath the right dorsal hump and a white wound between the dorsal hump and first knuckle. It appeared that she had a calf in 2008. She was named Chunky for her large size and dark color.



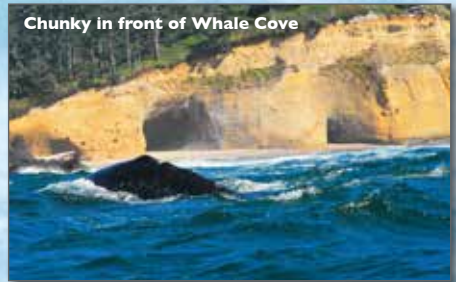
Right dorsal hump



Left dorsal hump



Chunky in front of Whale Cove



Ventral fluke



Sharking high



Whale Id: Dark Whales

Orion

Orion was first identified off Depoe Bay in August of 2007. This very dark whale with the smooth dorsal hump and knuckles has a pattern of 3 barnacle scars in a row like "Orion's belt." Orion also survived a killer whale attack.



Right dorsal hump with three barnacle scars .



Whale Id: Dark Whales

Tracker

Tracker was first identified in 2003 and then did not show up again until 2009. This very dark whale is characterized by having 3 white lines beneath the left dorsal hump and then a “railroad” track line pattern beneath the right dorsal hump. In 2009, this

whale was very skinny with the dorsal hump protruding far above the knuckles. Tracker also got attacked by transient killer whales as evidenced by the tooth rakes on the tail fluke and a missing tip to the fluke.

Skinny whale showing depression in back



Left dorsal hump



Right dorsal hump



Tail fluke bit off by an orca



Fishbone

Fishbone was first identified in 2012. This dark whale is characterized by having numerous killer whale tooth rakes all over

the body from the dorsal hump, down the knuckles and to the tips of the tail flukes. This survivor was chased by various females during his summer stay off Depoe Bay.



Whale Id: Unique Fluke Patterns

Sea Star a.k.a. Starfish

Star was first identified off Depoe Bay in August of 1999. Star has a dash on the left dorsal hump and a fish that looks like a fantail guppy on the right dorsal hump. The underside of the tail fluke is very

distinctive with a barnacle star-shaped pattern on the right fluke. Sometime between 1999 and 2006, Star was attacked by transient killer whales as evidenced by the tooth rakes on the tail flukes.

Star and buddy Comet



Notice the 'fantail guppy' fish on the left dorsal hump of Star.



Left dorsal hump



Dorsal fluke-notice orca tooth rakes



Drawing by Ayseha Guzeli

Ventral fluke-notice star pattern and orca tooth rakes



Star fluking up near Whale Cove

Whale Id: Unique Fluke Patterns

CRC #317

O' Valentine

O' Valentine was first identified off Depoe Bay in August of 2003 and was seen again in 2004, 2007, 2008 and 2010. We initially called it Lestin Smudgely for the less than pattern on its left dorsal hump and the smudged white pattern at the end

of the fluke. In 2004, the white pattern on the underside of the right fluke changed slightly and now it looks exactly like a heart with an "O" by the dorsal hump, hence the name change.



Gray Whale and Wildlife Resources

Other Wildlife Opportunities

• **Monterey Bay Whale Watch** is an excellent charter that offers whale watching year-round. If visiting the Monterey Bay area in California, jump aboard their vessels to see blue whales, humpbacks, grays, orcas or various dolphins and porpoises.

#831-375-4658 or www.gowhales.com

Adopt a Gray Whale

The Adopt-a-Gray Whale package includes an 8-by-10 identification photograph of the gray whale of your choice, personal biography of your whale, gift certificate and a \$10.00 coupon off a future whale watching trip. Oregonwhales.com or 541-912-6734

Baja California Excursions to see the Friendly Gray Whales.

Every February, Carrie will lead a group of people down to San Ignacio to see and touch the friendly gray whales.

Other Wildlife Books Written by Carrie Newell

- A Depoe Bay Gray Whale Adventure
- An Educational Guide to Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises Along the Northwest Coast
- An Educational Guide to Seals, Sea Lions and Sea Otters Along the Northwest Coast
- An Educational Guide to Sea Birds and Shorebirds Along the Northwest Coast

Visit the Whale, Sealife and Shark Museum

This two-story museum has a room dedicated to whales, seals and sea lions, birds and much more. The museum offers interactive displays on sharks, whales, sea lions, seabirds and much more including a theater room and tidepool exhibit.





This guide book features NOT just anybody's grays, but Oregon's Gray Whales. It is the culmination of years of research and photography. It covers every aspect of Oregon's little known summer resident whales. I have named most of these resident whales and over the years I have had the opportunity to know them as individuals with their unique personality quirks. You can see these same individuals migrating along the West coast from Washington to California and Mexico.

Blanco

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that came into the area. He courted Comet, Valentine, Morisa, Aurora and many others. He apparently never read the gray whale book that females can't get pregnant until December or January. He did numerous antics during his time in Depoe Bay from sneaking up on my boats numerous times to breaching, kelping and showing off his pectoral flippers, a rare treat.

Notice the very white dorsal fluke



Blanco's rostrum showing orange whale lice



Blanco approaching the boat and...



then diving right under the boat



Left dorsal hump-notice white spot



Right dorsal hump-notice black spine



Whale Id: Killer Whale Tooth Rakes

Lucky

Lucky first came to Depoe Bay the beginning of June in 2012 and stayed until October of that year. There were four calves present in the area that summer and only Lucky showed up without a mom. While traveling northward, Lucky and mom possibly encountered killer whales around Monterey Bay where many attacks occur. This poor little whale was brutally attacked by killer whales as evidenced by the tooth rakes on the tail and sides of the body. His

mom probably gave her life to save him. We gave this whale its name because it was "Lucky" to have escaped with its life. Lucky was probably born around January 15th in the lagoons of Mexico. Lucky was extremely friendly all summer and would approach the boats very close numerous times throughout the summer. Periodically he would just disappear before your eyes, a behavior that probably saved his life. This whale did various behaviors including breaching, spyhopping, skim feeding, and sharking.

Ventral fluke - notice tooth rakes



Dorsal fluke - notice tooth rakes



Skim feeding



Notice the wound from a killer whale attack



Left dorsal hump



Right dorsal hump

