

Whale Id: Prominent White Spots

CRC #89

Doorknob

Doorknob was first identified off Depoe Bay in July of 2006. The white “doorknob” is a prominent feature seen on the right dorsal hump along with a “paintbrush” pigmentation pattern. On the left dorsal hump, there

is a “half closed eye.” Doorknob is a male since we saw his 6 foot long “pink floyd.” He has been seen off Depoe Bay every year since 2006 including 2011.



Rostrum



Right dorsal hump

Paintbrush



Left dorsal hump showing “half closed eye” pattern.

(Right) Doorknob in front of Whale Cove



Dorsal fluke



Ventral fluke



Whale Id: Prominent White Spots

Tad-Pole

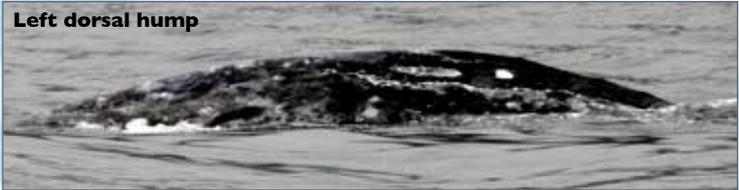
Tad-Pole was first identified off Depoe Bay in July of 2007 and seen again in August of 2008. The distinguishing pattern on the left

dorsal hump shows a “tadpole” followed by a cross section of a white “pole”. On the right dorsal hump, there are two dash marks.

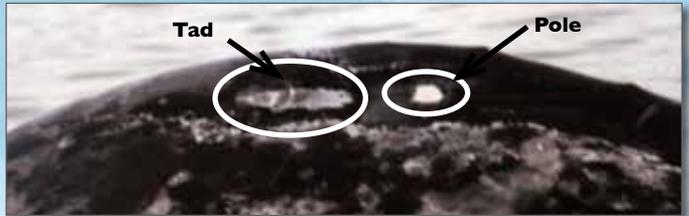
Notice the scapula showing in 2008



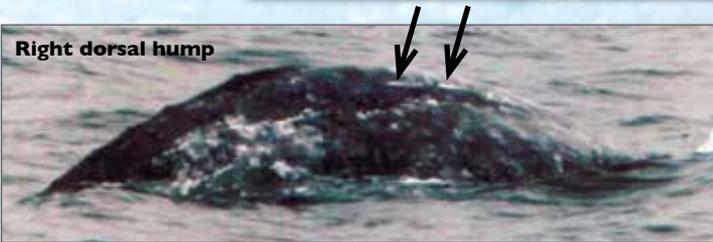
Left dorsal hump



Tad-Pole has the outline of a tadpole on the left dorsal hump and the cross-section of a “white pole” as the spot.



Right dorsal hump



Ventral fluke



Dorsal fluke



Whale Id: Prominent White Spots

Wilson

Wilson was first identified off Depoe Bay in July of 2009. Wilson has a white, volleyball-sized (or larger) natural pigmentation mark on the left side of the dorsal hump. This is reminiscent of the volleyball named Wilson in the Tom Hanks



movie, "Castaway." This whale has been seen various places along the gray whale migration route since it is so easy to identify. Researchers in Mexico have pictures of a whale that appears to be Wilson. White spots this large are uncommon in our summer resident gray whales.



CRC #43

Snake Eyes

Snake Eyes is the mother of Eagle Eye. In 2004 she fed continually in kelp beds just north of Gull Rock. Snake Eyes was

extremely friendly and approached the boats within a few feet. Snake Eyes is a large female with a white dot in front of the dorsal hump on both sides, hence the name Snake Eyes.

Snake Eyes cruising below the Otter Crest Gift Shop near Cape Foul weather, showing her left dorsal hump



Right dorsal hump - notice the white spot



Whale Id: Prominent White Spots

CRC #280

Beacon

Beacon was first identified off Depoe Bay in August of 2007. This whale was named Beacon because of the round white spot on

the right dorsal hump. This whale also commemorates our local newspaper, "The Beacon" that enlightens the locals as to what goes on in our little city.

Rostrum and back



Left dorsal hump



Left dorsal hump



Kida and Beacon have a close encounter



Bubble Blaster

Bubble Blaster is a new resident as of 2004. Bubbles was given this name because of the pattern of white on the side that gives the appearance of numerous bubbles bubbling

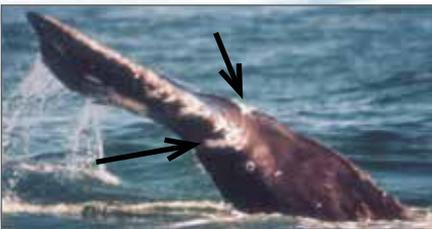
to the surface. This whale also has a unique quirk of blowing underwater just before surfacing. Bubbles got caught in netting or a rope of some kind as evidenced by the wounds on the tail stock.



Right dorsal hump



(Below) Notice the cuts on the tail stock.



Left dorsal hump

Whale Id: Prominent White Spots

CRC #364

Bullseye

Bullseye is a long time resident who has arrived as early as mid-May. We saw Bullseye in 2010 feeding near Gull Rock. Bullseye has a white spot in front of the dorsal hump

on the right side with what appears to be a near miss of a “white dart” just below the spot. The left side of Bullseye has a two-toned appearance.



Rostrum and back

Rostrum and Back: Notice the clumps of barnacles and whale lice on the right side of the head. There are also numerous barnacle scars on the back.

On the right notice the two-toned pattern on the left dorsal notice the white “bullseye” with the dart hitting the “target” near the bottom.



Left dorsal hump

Right dorsal hump showing “arrow” missing white bullseye



Dorsal fluke



Ventral fluke



Bullseye with calf in 2012 - notice how small the calf is compared to mom



Left dorsal humps of mom and calf



Bullseye feeding on nearshore mysid swarms



Ventral fluke



Whale Id: Prominent White Spots

Tea Cup & Autumn

Tea Cup showed up with her calf in June of 2012. Mom and calf stayed around for 3 months from June-August. Autumn was a large, playful calf that would breach and

spyhop various times throughout the season. It was difficult at times to distinguish Tea Cup from Bullseye since they both had calves and both have a large white dot on their right dorsal hump.



Left dorsal hump of
Tea Cup

On the right dorsal hump notice the white spot that is flat on the top like a Tea Cup



Right dorsal hump of
Tea Cup

Tea up followed closely by Autumn



Pectoral flipper



Tip of fluke showing
orca tooth rakes



Tea Cup with calf in 2012 - notice how large the calf is compared to mom and the numerous barnacles on Autumn's rostrum



Right dorsal hump of Tea Cup and back of Autumn



Right dorsal humps of calf



Tea Cup lying on her side showing flipper and fluke while feeding on nearshore mysid swarms



Whale Id: Barnacle Scars

CRC #94

DD

DD was first identified off Depoe Bay in August of 2008 and returned again in 2010, 2011 and 2012. This whale was given this name due to the fact that there are dots just before and after the dorsal hump. "DD" refers to these dorsal dots. DD does bubble blasting, has killer whale tooth

rakes on her back with missing fluke tips (bitten off by orcas) and has been courted by Eagle Eye. The bubble blast or "net" blown by DD is similar to the bubble net feeding of humpbacks. Bubbles are blown underwater and then sharking behavior occurs around the ring of bubbles where the mysids have probably been trapped.



When feeding on mysid shrimp, DD often produces a bubble blast which traps the prey. This is similar to the bubble net of a humpback.

(Right) DD received a 3rd barnacle scar sometime during 2011-2012. It is important to ID each whale every year because they undergo changes just like us.



Whale Id: Barnacle Scars

CRC #860

Dotty

Dotty was first identified off Depoe Bay in 2008 and returned again in 2009. Dotty was named because of the numerous barnacle scars that are found all over the body. On both the right and left sides

of the body you can see the barnacle scars and in certain areas they make horseshoe-shaped patterns. Dotty is a very friendly whale having approached my boat numerous times.

Rostrum and back showing barnacle scars



Left dorsal hump



Right dorsal hump



(Above) Inset showing "horseshoe" shape of barnacle scars located on the left below the dorsal hump and on the right side near the mid back.

Dorsal fluke



Ventral fluke



Whale Id: Barnacle Scars

CRC #532

Paws

Paws was a new resident as of 2010. This large whale has a unique barnacle scar pattern in the form of an animal footprint or "paw." As Paws traveled by Depoe Bay, we noticed how skinny this whale was with its scapula protruding through the skin.



Whale Id: Barnacle Scars

CRC #1127

Deuce

Deuce was first identified off Depoe Bay in July of 2008. This whale is a very small and friendly whale having approached my boat various times. Deuce has a very white

rostrum covered by barnacles and barnacle scars. The name Deuce was given to this whale for the pairs of barnacles all over the back and on the dorsal flukes.

Deuce approaching my boat showing the refraction of the white rostrum in the water.



Right dorsal hump - notice all the barnacles and barnacle scars



Right dorsal hump



Left dorsal hump



Dorsal fluke



Ventral fluke



Whale Id: Barnacle Scars

CRC #302

Minus 8

Minus 8 was first identified off Depoe Bay in August of 2008 and showed up again in 2009. This whale has two barnacle scars close together above its eye that form the number 8. On the left side, below the third knuckle, there is a “minus sign” and on the right side there is a white “pelican”

pigmentation pattern. The dorsal hump and knuckles of this whale are not distinctive. Minus 8 is a very friendly whale approaching my boat closely many times. Before diving, Minus 8 does a high head lift and looks at us with its orange-sized eye. Minus 8 also does bubble net feeding.



Rostrum

Notice the eye (lower white arrow) taking a good long look before a deep dive and notice the #8.



Notice the “minus sign” below the 3rd knuckle



Notice the pelican pigmentation pattern

Right dorsal hump



Dorsal fluke



Ventral fluke

Whale Id: Barnacle Scars

Buckshot

Buckshot is a new resident to Depoe Bay as of 2010. This whale has various “buckshot” patterns of barnacles and barnacle scars

all over its body. The rostrum and neck region are covered with various patches of barnacles and whale lice.

Rostrum



Right dorsal hump



Left dorsal hump



Dorsal fluke



Ventral fluke



Whale Id: Mottled Sides

CRC #786

Jenny Lace

Jenny Lace was first identified off Depoe Bay in September of 2007 and has returned in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. This friendly and beautiful whale was named after good friends of mine who lost their daughter, Jenny, in a car accident shortly after going on a boat ride with me. The line of barnacle scars on the right and

left dorsal humps appear to have a thin “lacy” texture. There is also a distinctive white dot below the left dorsal hump. Jenny Lace was extremely thin in 2009 and 2010. She had no tooth rakes on her body in June of 2010 but then returned in August of 2010 with killer whale tooth rakes around her 3rd knuckle. A similar looking whale is McFlurry.



(Left) Notice in this photo from 2009 how skinny she was along the right dorsal hump. She appeared the same in 2010.



(Left) Killer whale tooth rakes received in July or August of 2010—a lucky escape.



Dorsal fluke



Ventral fluke

(Below) Jenny Lace riding a swell as her rostrum comes out of the water.



Whale Id: Mottled Sides

CRC #206

McFlurry

McFlurry was a new resident as of 2005. Food resources were scarce in 2005 and McFlurry was the only whale to stay in the area. For 33 days McFlurry remained in the area doing a very predictable feeding pattern. Since mysids were only found in Boiler Bay and by the condos, she would feed morning and evening in Boiler Bay and then spend late morning and early afternoon in front of the condos. Late

afternoon McFlurry would return to Boiler Bay. McFlurry returned to Depoe Bay every year from 2007 through 2012. She has a mottled pattern of "snow flurries" along the midline of her body. On the right dorsal hump, it also appears that there is a pattern of a "gun." McFlurry has a satellite tag scar on her back. She was courted by Blanco during 2012. This whale may be confused with Jenny Lace.

Right dorsal hump - notice gun pattern



Left dorsal hump



(Left) Notice the satellite tag wound on the back.

Dorsal fluke



Ventral Fluke



Whale Id: Mottled Sides

Rusty Tempest

Rusty Tempest was a new whale as of 2010. This small whale showed up mid summer and remained off Depoe Bay for three months. The most distinguishing feature of this whale was its orange head. The head coloration was due to an encrustation of whale lice and barnacles. The name

Rusty refers to the orange coloration. Tempest refers to the dorsal humps which have a pigmentation pattern resembling a storm-a tempest. Rusty would surprise you with an extremely close encounter about every third day.



Whale Id: Mottled Sides

Jersey

Jersey was first identified Memorial Day of 2010. This small whale was feeding off Fogerty Beach and as soon as it saw my boat, it T-Boned towards us and then spyhopped over half a dozen times next to us to the delight of myself and the passengers. Unfortunately, I had to leave this awesome

spectacle in order to participate in the Fleet of Flowers. Jersey is very young and was named Jersey relating to the orangish patches on the head and mottled appearance on the side that reminds me of a jersey cow. Could this calf have a mother who is a "Friendly?"

Patchy clumps of barnacles and whale lice on the rostrum.



Spyhopping-notice ventral groves



Left dorsal hump



Right dorsal hump



Spyhop off Fogerty Beach

Whale Id: Dorsal Hump Mark

CRC #234

Olivia P. Dorsi

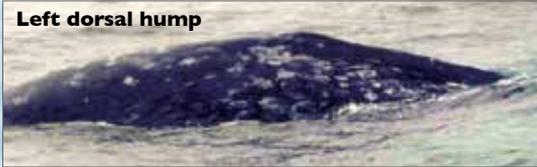
Olivia P. Dorsi is a very friendly whale with a white patch on the top of her left dorsal hump, hence the name P (P=Patch) and Dorsi (dorsal hump). Olivia P. Dorsi has a white cut halfway down her knuckles. She was identified in 2001 and has been seen frequently since that time. She approached the Miss Raven closely in 2001 (right).

She was named Olivia because she became very friendly with a captain named Olivia. During the summer of 2001, she exhibited friendly behavior for weeks by rubbing against boats and spyhopping (head out of water). While lying on her back, Olivia showed us her genital area which proved that she was, in fact, a female. It appears that

Olivia tries to entice male whales into mating behaviors. Many times in the fall she will have two whales following her. She swims extremely fast with the males racing after her. Suddenly she stops and the water begins to boil with possibly mating behavior and then off she goes again, males in close pursuit.



Left dorsal hump



Right dorsal hump



Notice scratch marks and pattern of six barnacles on the ventral fluke. Each year Olivia's fluke gets whiter especially at the edges.

Spyhop!



Below: Olivia showing us her dorsal fluke.

Whale Id: Two Toned Appearance

CRC #1154

Milkyway

Milkyway is the 2004 calf of Scarback. Milkyway would stick very close to Scarback throughout the 2004 summer season. Later in the season Scarback taught Milkyway how to feed on the mysids. Scarback would roll on her right side and her calf would mimic her as they went into a swarm of mysids. Milkyway was attacked by transient killer whales sometime

between 2004 and 2009.

Milkyway was named by my daughter since the sides of the dorsal humps look like the side view of our Milky Way Galaxy. We were very excited to see Milkyway return in August of 2009 to feed on the mysid swarms that she learned about from her mother. Just like her mom, Milkyway exhibited friendly behavior. Milkyway turned 5 years old in 2009.

Right dorsal hump



Left dorsal hump



Mother Scarback with calf, Milkyway, in close proximity



Killer whale tooth rakes



Dorsal fluke showing killer whale tooth rakes



Ventral fluke



Stretch

Stretch was named a new resident in 2002 after spending two weeks off the coast and putting on a spectacular breaching and spyhopping show in November of that year. Stretch has returned every year, including 2010. Stretch was named for two reasons: first, this whale stretches out of the water while breaching and second, there are long white “stretch” marks (pigmentation patterns) on both sides of the dorsal hump. Stretch breached for three

years in a row to the delight of whale watchers. When breaching, Stretch tends to do a back arch. Notice the pictures from 2002 and 2004, where Stretch did the same back arch in almost the same spot just south of the Depoe Bay Bridge. In September of 2009, Stretch was the lead whale in a courtship ritual (read the account on page 44). This indicates that Stretch is probably female. A similar looking whale is Streaker.



Stretch blowing as it begins a breach



Breach in 2002 just south of the Depoe Bay bridge. Notice the back arch.



Breach sequence from fall of 2004. Notice ventral grooves on the underside of the throat and the same back arch behavior as in 2002.



Stretch breaching in front of the Yaquina Bay Bridge in 2003



Whale Id: Horizontal Lines

Streaker

Streaker was first identified off Depoe Bay in July of 2008 and appeared again in 2009 spending the latter part of the summer in front of the Whale Center. This whale

looks very similar to long-time resident Stretch. The long parallel pigmentation marks have a round white circle on the right dorsal hump.



Whale Id: Horizontal Lines

Centerline

Centerline was first identified off Depoe Bay in August of 2008. The characteristic pattern on the left dorsal hump of this whale is a horizontal line with 2 dots along

this “centerline.” Centerline apparently got tangled in rope as evidenced by the rope scars on the tail fluke.

Rostrum and back



Left dorsal hump showing “centerline”



Right dorsal hump



Notice the rope scars just below the tail fluke



Matrix Slasher

Matrix Slasher is a long time resident around Depoe Bay. When she brought a calf with her in 2004, we finally knew that she was a female. Her calf, Nifer, has evidence of being attacked by a killer whale because of the tooth rakes on its neck. Matrix must have done an incredible job of protecting her calf and one can only imagine the fury of a mom protecting her young calf from certain death. They were attacked sometime on their northbound migration

from Mexico to Depoe Bay. They arrived in Depoe Bay the beginning of July 2004. Nifer was probably born around February in one of the three breeding lagoons in Baja, California.

Matrix Slasher is unique by having a long white horizontal slash beneath the right dorsal hump, a slash in front of the dorsal hump and numerous other slash marks on her back and rostrum. Matrix was in a big "sword" fight and got the worst of it.

Matrix Slasher cruising just south of Depoe Bay



Blows and dorsal humps of mom, left and calf off Depoe Bay





**Matrix Slasher
doing a head
lunge after
feeding on
mysids**

**In 2003 Matrix
Slasher had a
depression
behind her
blowholes
indicating
she was
underweight**



**This 2004
photo shows
Matrix Slasher
as a plump whale
with a distinct
barnacle saddle**



**Left dorsal hump showing slash in
front of the dorsal hump**



**Right dorsal hump showing
a long slash**



**Matrix Slasher
with partial
fluke up show-
ing Nifer how
to feed.**



Whale Id: Unique Dorsal Hump Patterns

Eagle Eye

Eagle eye was first identified in 2004. He was named for the natural “eye” pigmentation pattern on the left dorsal hump. Eagle Eye was born in 1994 to Snake Eyes. He has been seen off Depoe Bay from 2004-2009. In 2004, he spent 4 months, and in both 2006 and 2009, he remained over 2 months in Depoe Bay. Eagle Eye exhibits friendly behavior having approached my boat closely numerous times over the years. He also

likes to play with the sea lions. Eagle Eye is a male since he is small, (male gray whales are about 5 feet shorter than females). I also have seen him courting and he was in the rear since males typically trail the females during courtship. He was courting DD and Pinnacle late in the summer of 2009. DNA results have now confirmed his sex. He and Scarback are my two favorite whales. I named my second boat after this awesome little whale.



Eagle Eye's left dorsal hump - showing the distinctive “eye”



Right dorsal hump



Rostrum and back



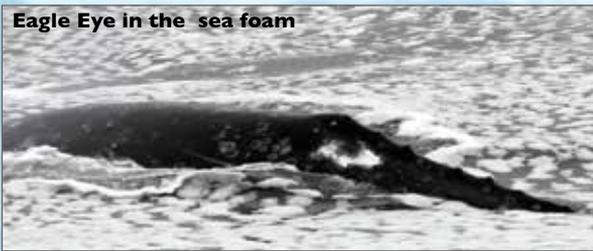
Dorsal fluke





(Above) Eagle Eye fluking up near North Point.

(Left) Eagle Eye in the sea foam.



(Right) Eagle Eye feeding near shore



(Bottom) Kida keeping an eye on Eagle Eye...



A patron gets a close approach.



Rare "Flukage Poopage" as Eagle Eye begins to fluke up while releasing reddish fecal material.



Whale Id: Unique Dorsal Hump Patterns

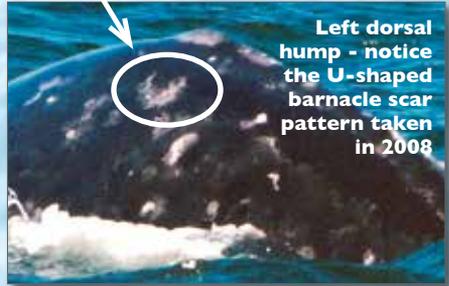
U-Fish

U-Fish was first identified off Depoe Bay in August of 2008 and showed up again in 2011 and 2012. This whale has a white "fish" pattern on the right dorsal hump and a "U-shaped" pattern on the left dorsal hump made out of barnacle scars. In 2012, I discovered the the "barnacle U" had faded.

U-Fish also has a U shape to its flukes. U-Fish has been an extremely friendly whale in the three years that it has been around. This whale is a favorite of one of my interns, Emily, who analyzed some of my research about U-Fish and received a scholarship for doing it.



Left dorsal hump - notice the fading of the U-shaped barnacle scar pattern taken in 2012



Left dorsal hump - notice the U-shaped barnacle scar pattern taken in 2008



Right dorsal hump - notice the fish pattern taken in 2012



Right dorsal hump - notice the fish pattern taken in 2008



Right dorsal hump - notice the fish pattern



Notice the U shape of the flukes



Dorsal Fluke



Ventral Fluke

Whale Id: Unique Dorsal Hump Patterns



Raptor

Raptor is a small whale that spent over two months off Depoe Bay during the summer of 2007. This whale was named Raptor for the “raptor” pattern on the left dorsal hump

that also resembles the Seattle Seahawks logo. This very friendly whale has a sense of humor. Read the story on p. 43.



Whale Id: Unique Dorsal Hump Patterns

Witchy

Witchy was first identified off Depoe Bay in August of 2007. This whale has a pattern on the left dorsal hump that resembles a

“witch’s face” with her long nose and flowing white hair. The rostrum is covered with barnacles, barnacle scars and whale lice.



Rostrum covered with lots of barnacles and whale lice.

Notice the “witch’s face” and the hair circled on the left dorsal hump.



Right dorsal hump



Whale Id: Unique Dorsal Hump Patterns

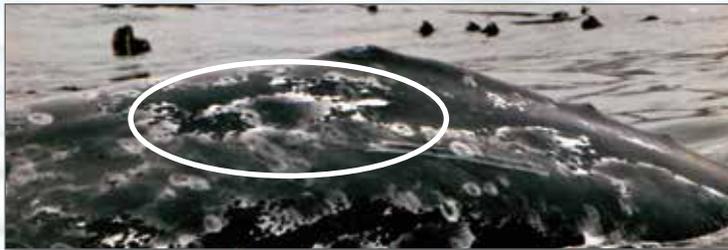
Road Runner

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.

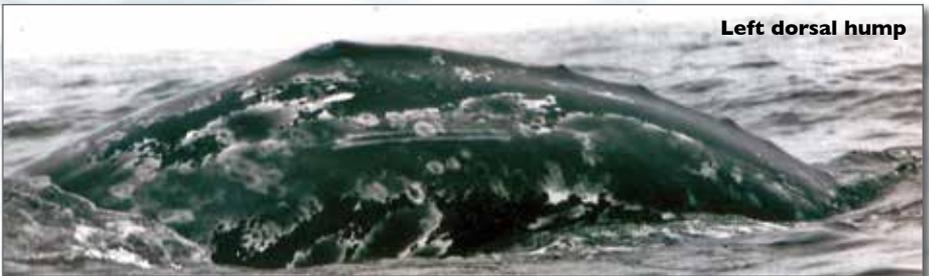
Roadrunner coming towards the boat



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

