

## Summary of humpback Sightings

2025 was busy as we had whale watching from April 14 through October 7 with 162 days on the water and 1,016 Discover Alaska’s Whales science tours. We found whales on every water trip of the year and documented a record number of humpback whales in our Juneau Waters

***This report includes only those whales that are identified with a photograph.***

Identification is based on matching photos to the Juneau Flukes Catalog or by using HappyWhale’s identification software. Most of them are from fluke patterns, and a few are from dorsal fin shapes or scarring where the pattern is obvious. All sightings with identifiable photographs are uploaded to HappyWhale. Photos follow beginning page 5.

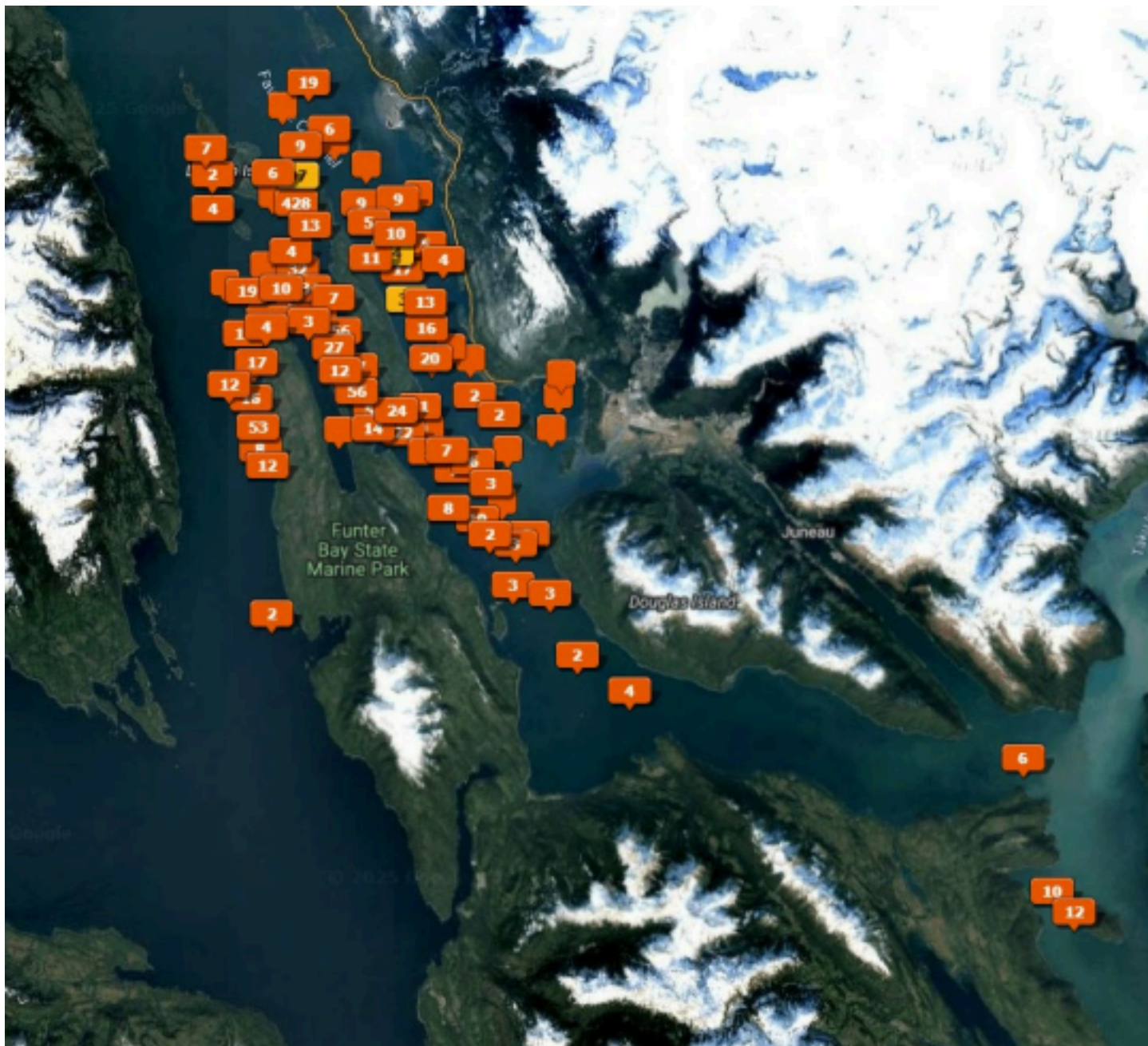
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Total number of whale sightings identified</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>785 (↓15%)</b>
<b>Number of individual whales identified</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Percent increase in number of whales identified</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Average number of individual whales identified per day</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Most whales identified on a single day</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Days without an identification photograph</b>	<b>16 (10%)</b>	<b>16 (10%)</b>
<b>Unidentified whale photographs</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>Bubble net days</b>	<b>15 (↑9%)</b>	<b>13 (↓8%)</b>
<b>Number of bubble net whales</b>	<b>33 (39%)</b>	<b>39 (35%)</b>
<b>Number of calves identified</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>New whales for Gastineau Guiding</b>	<b>21 (↑25%)</b>	<b>29 (↑38%)</b>

The number of whales seen on any given day varies markedly. When the core bubble netting group comes in, the number of whales rises significantly as this summary shows how many whales were seen on a given number of days. The left column is the number of whales; the right column is how many days we saw that number of whales.

#Whales	#days	#Whales	#days	#Whales	#days	#Whales	#days
25	1	13	4	8	8	3	20
23	1	12	2	7	11	2	20
20	1	11	1	6	8	1	16
18	1	10	4	5	19	0	16
15	2	9	6	4	19		

## 2025 Whale Sighting Geography

The long-established pattern of the “Shelter 500” played out again this year.



The numbers are the number of photographs taken at that spot, not the number of humpback whales.

Our usual locations for whales are Saginaw and Favorite Channels, North Stephens passage and the “back side” of Douglas Island. North Pass is the single most visited location. The locations along the west shore of Mansfield Peninsula in the Lynn Canal are for bubble net groups.

During October, the whales in our viewing area became sparse and for three days trips headed to new territory around Douglas Island around “Four Corners” into Stephens Passage along the northern end of Glass Peninsula of Admiralty Island to Doty Cove. Here we encountered many of the “new” whales to Gastineau Guiding.

## Identified Humpback Whales of 2025 arranged from most to least sighted

BLUE cells are new calves, cells are new whales for Gastineau Guiding, RED cells are bubble net whale

JF-119	SEAK-NMFS-JRM-20170801-1-01 5	Kelp	u	HI	0			14	77
SEAK-2070		Barnacles	f	HI	0	2000-08-1 2	2023-09-2 8	23	69
SEAK-1538		Flame	f	HI	0			19	60
SEAK-2348		Eyelet	u	HI	0	2014-07-2 3	2024-02-0 1	9	39
SEAK-5304		Riddler	m	MX	1			9	38
SEAK-1820		Nibblet	f	HI	1	2004-08-1 3	2023-12-3 1	19	37
SEAK-1447		Juneauite	f	HI	0	2004-02-0 9	2023-12-0 6	19	34
SEAK-1879		Sasha	f	HI	0	1998-01-0 4	2023-12-0 6	25	33
SEAK-2170		Vendetta	u	HI	0	2005-02-1 9	2023-09-0 5	18	33
SEAK-2006		Magma	f	HI	1			20	30
SEAK-1879_calf_2025		Cha Cha	u	HI	0	2025-02-2 0	2025-10-0 9	0	17
SEAK-1306		Pizza	u	HI	0	2004-06-2 4	2023-08-1 2	19	13
SEAK-1538_calf_2025		Match	u	u	1				13
JF-123	HW-MN0401390	Helix	f	HI	0			2	12
SEAK-1703		Bullethole	f	HI	0	1993-09-0 3	2023-09-1 6	30	12

SEAK-0229		Angstrom	f	HI	11		9	27	11
SEAK-1465	bubble blower	Parcheesy	m	HI	10		2	30	11
SEAK-1703_calf_2025		Bullseye	f	u	2	2025-05-02	2025-08-13	0	11
SEAK-1783		Tucker	f	u	0	2010-07-06	2023-12-07	13	11
SEAK-2037		Voldemort	m	HI	1		9	15	11
SEAK-1786	not in JF (LSR)	SvenOllie	u	HI	9	2000-08-01	2024-02-01	23	10
SEAK-0204		Stamp	f	HI	9		2	35	9
SEAK-1441		Razorback	m	HI	8		1	26	9
SEAK-2006_calf_2025		Ash	u	u	0	2025-06-12	2025-09-18	0	9
SEAK-1628		Mimilo	u	HI	6		3	19	7
SEAK-1671		Twin Peaks	f	MX	0		1	22	7
SEAK-1753		SkartFarcus	u	u	7	1997-07-15	2023-08-11	26	7
SEAK-1821		Eocene	m	HI MX	7		1	20	7
SEAK-2258		Combover	m	HI	0		7	15	7
SEAK-2609		Everest	u	u	1	2013-09-06	2023-09-09	10	7
SEAK-0996		Cornucopia	m	HI	5		0	28	6
SEAK-0590		Heart	m	HI	5		5	37	5
SEAK-0933		Chip	m	MX	5		1	36	5
JF-136	BCX1770	Goomba	u	u	0		5	7	4
SEAK-1061		Merlot	m	HI	4		5	29	4
SEAK-1382	not in JF (LSR)	Somaj	u	HI	2		5	18	4

SEAK-1447_calf_2025		Fritz	u	HI	0	2025-02-28	2025-08-12	0	4
SEAK-1476		Winter	u	MX	4		50	18	4
SEAK-1707		Yukon	u	HI	4	1996-08-26	2023-10-26	27	4
SEAK-2659		Nephele	u	HI	0	2024-12-31	2025-07-27	0	4
SEAK-0397		Flying W	f	HI	03		45	34	3
SEAK-0875		Arpeggio	m	HI	03		47	35	3
SEAK-2171		Hilda	m	HI	4		47	16	3
SEAK-2460		Popeye	m	HI	0		79	8	3
SEAK-2610		Chromosome	u	HI	03		11	9	3
SEAK-2654		Siara	u	u	0	2008-07-08	2023-07-21	15	3
AWF-MMA-20190719-077	not in JF		u	HI	0		53	10	2
HW-MN0401507	not in JF		u	u	0		43	0	2
SEAK-0197		Vulture	u	MX	2		30	41	2

SEAK-0217		Darktanion	m	HI	2	1997-02-09	2024-01-14	26	2
SEAK-0276		WappiSimba	m	HI	2	1987-02-26	2024-01-13	36	2
SEAK-0461		Polonius	f	HI	2	2004-06-30	2023-08-13	19	2
SEAK-1391	bubble blower	Darwin	m	HI	2	1996-02-07	2023-09-21	27	2
SEAK-1770		Auke	m	HI	0	2004-03-19	2024-03-02	19	2
SEAK-1812		Comet	f	HI	0	2004-06-17	2023-05-11	18	2
SEAK-1907		Inertia	f	u	0	2005-09-26	2023-09-28	18	2

SEAK-5203		Tussle	f	HI	0	2017-05-30	2023-09-25	6	2
SEAK-5307			u	HI	0	2014-09-29	2022-05-20	7	2
JF-105		Cotton	u	HI	1	2014-11-13	2023-09-21	8	1
SEAK-0341			f	HI		1986-02-24	2025-10-07	39	1
SEAK-0465	not in JF (LSR)	Peltegial	u	HI MX	0		7 2	29	1
SEAK-0475		Spirit Guide	m	HI	0	1995-08-17	2025-10-06	30	1
SEAK-0493		Alcildour	m	HI	0	1988-01-10	2025-10-07	37	1
SEAK-1088		Bitey	u	HI	1	2004-05-11	2023-09-27	19	1
SEAK-1124		Apollo 11	u	HI	0	1988-01-24	2023-07-29	35	1
SEAK-1167		Maltease	m	HI	1		9 0	36	1
SEAK-1325	not in JF (LSR)	Rakes	f	HI	0	2000-08-17	2024-02-06	23	1
SEAK-1426	not in JF (LSR)		m	HI MX	0	2004-07-14	2023-09-12	19	1
SEAK-1479	not in JF (LSR)	Olowalu	u	HI	0	2002-01-22	2023-06-21	21	1
SEAK-1505		CatsPaw	m	HI MX	0	2000-08-28	2025-08-26	24	1
SEAK-1533		Nakalele	f	HI	0	2010-09-25	2024-02-16	13	1
SEAK-1542		Kerryogamy	u	HI	0	1995-08-18	2024-01-14	28	1
SEAK-1605		Ruffles	f	u	0	2004-08-11	2023-07-24	18	1
SEAK-1671_calf_2025			u	u	0		3 5'		1
SEAK-1725		Dumetella	f	u	0	1993-08-18	2025-04-14	31	1
SEAK-1766		Dolorosa	u	HI	0	2005-04-20	2022-08-31	17	1
SEAK-1852			m	HI	0	1994-09-10	2023-08-19	28	1
SEAK-1879_calf_2011			u	u	0	only 2011			1
SEAK-2001		Admiral Frank	m	HI MX	0		0 t	19	1

SEAK-2029			m	HI	0	2014-10-07	2024-01-25	9	1
SEAK-2060	SEAK-1075_calf_2009		u	HI	0	2017-09-02	2023-12-17	6	1
SEAK-2079		Castilleja	u	HI	0	1995-08-18	2025-09-29	30	1
SEAK-2089		Kojima	u	u	0	2003-08-06	2025-10-06	22	1
SEAK-2223			f	u	0	2004-11-10	2025-10-06	20	1
SEAK-2226		Sassafras	u	u	0	1997-08-05	2025-09-30	28	1
SEAK-2314			u	HI	0	2004-08-03	2022-09-07	18	1
SEAK-2455			f	HI	1	2012-07-20	2023-09-12	11	1
SEAK-2470		Daily	u	u	1	2013-09-05	2023-08-01	9	1
SEAK-2565		Freedom	u	HI	0	2011-02-19	2023-08-20	12	1
SEAK-2584		Mustard	u	HI	0			9	1
SEAK-2585		Mist-ical	u	HI	0			5	1
SEAK-2617	not in JF (LSR)	JaxDoodle	u	HI	0	2023-06-17	2023-09-03	0	1
SEAK-2637			u	MX	0			21	1
SEAK-2687			u	u	0	2019-08-11	2025-08-16	6	1
SEAK-2747	not in JF (LSR)		m	u	0	2014-05-29	2023-08-29	9	1
SEAK-2753	JF-105	Cotton	u	HI	0	2014-11-13	2025-10-02	10	1
SEAK-5170			u	u	1	2010-09-23	2023-09-16	12	1
SEAK-5174	not in JF (LSR)		F	HI	0	2004-12-07	2023-07-19	18	1
SEAK-5210			u	HI	0	1997-01-26	2025-10-07	28	1
SEAK-5267			u	u	0	2020-05-30	2025-06-18	5	1
SEAK-5343			u	HI	0	2015-07-09	2025-08-12	10	1
SEAK-5360			u	HI	0	2008-01-08	2025-10-07	17	1

SEAK-5422			u	HI	0	2018-06-12	2023-12-29	5	<b>1</b>
SEAK-5531			u	HI	0	2014-11-15	2025-10-07	10	<b>1</b>
SEAK-5533			u	HI	0	2020-03-06	2025-10-07	5	1
SEAK-5646			u	u	0	2014-11-14	2025-10-07	10	1

## Identified Humpback Whales of 2025 by photograph

First Line: Catalog number and name

**Black** are whales previously identified in Juneau waters. **Maroon** are new whales to Gastineau Guiding. **Blue** are 2025 calves new to Juneau.

Second Line: sex, migration, times identified









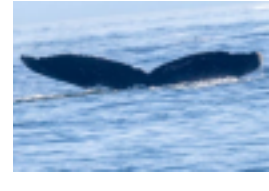
male ◆, female ◆, unknown "U"


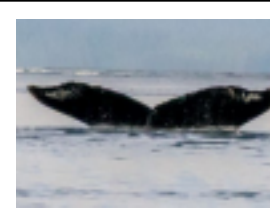
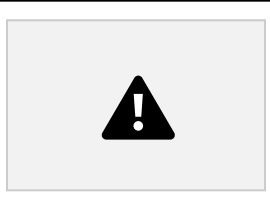




Migrates to HI (Hawai'i), MX (Mexico), HI-MX both locations

Compared to 2024: ↑ more sightings, ↓ fewer sightings, ↔ same



























Initials of photographer (list at end of photos)

















Bottom lines: notes

				
<b>AWF-MMA-20190719-077</b> U HI 2 SR 7 Juneau sightings	<b>HW-MN0401507</b> U U 2 ↓KS 29 sightings in Juneau waters	<b>JF-105 Cotton</b> U HI 1 - TS Only 7 Juneau sightings of 54 in Alaska	<b>JF-119 Kelp</b> U HI 77 ↑ SR Voted "employee of the year" for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> time. 1 <sup>st</sup> time our most sighted.	<b>JF-123 Helix</b> <span style="color: maroon;">◆</span> HI 12 ↑ SG Propeller scars distinctive. Showed tail this year!
				
<b>JF-136 Goomba</b> U U 4 ↓ SR First seen 2021, became a regular in 2024 but stayed away in 2025	<b>SEAK-0197 Vulture</b> U MX 2 ↔ GB 6 Juneau sightings of 106 Alaska sightings	<b>SEAK-0204 Stamp</b> <span style="color: maroon;">◆</span> HI 9 ↑ SR Core bubble netter here only when netting	SEAK-0217 Darktanion <span style="color: blue;">◆</span> HI 2 ↔ GB 18 of 74 Alaska sightings in Juneau	<b>SEAK-0229 Ångstrom</b> <span style="color: maroon;">◆</span> HI 11 ↑ SR 1 <sup>st</sup> seen 2009, sporadic since, in bubble net group 2024 and 2025















				
<b>SEAK-0276</b> <b>WappiSimba</b>  HI 2 ↑ GF In bubble net group 2024 and 2025	<b>SEAK-0341</b>  HI 1 CC Only 1 GGC sighting, 3 in SEAK June, Sept, Oct	<b>SEAK-0397 Flying W</b>  HI 3 ↑ TS Most sightings with bubble net group	<b>SEAK-0461 Polonius</b>  HI 2 ↓ GB Only 26 sightings in Juneau, 2 <sup>nd</sup> year for GGC. This whale covers all of SEAK.	<b>SEAK-0465 Peltigial</b> U HI-MX 1 – CC Only 2 JNU GGC; 12 HW sightings
















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<b>SEAK-0475 Spirit</b> <b>Guide</b>  HI 1 SH Only 3 HW sightings in JNU, most Stephens Passage S	<b>SEAK-0493 Alcildour</b>  HI 1 CC Only JNU, mostly Stephens Passage South	<b>SEAK-0590 Heart</b>  HI 5 ↑ TS 1 <sup>st</sup> seen 1996, 55 sporadic through 2025	<b>SEAK-0875 Arpeggio</b>  HI 3 ↓ CC Only here for bubble netting as a core netter	<b>SEAK-0933 Chip</b>  MX 5 ↑ CC Core bubble netter only in JUN 19 times
				
<b>SEAK-0996</b> <b>Cornucopia</b>  HI 6 ↑ SR Core bubble netter, here only when netting	<b>SEAK-1061 Merlot</b>  HI 4 ↑ DR Primarily a Juneau whale that wanders, joined netters	<b>SEAK-1088 Bitey</b> U HI 1 ↑ SR Widely scattered in SEAK, 52 HW sightings here	<b>SEAK-1124 Apollo 11</b> U HI 1 ↑ DR Only two years in JNU GGC, 14 HW	<b>SEAK-1167 Maltease</b>  HI 1 ↓ CC GGC 2018, 2024, 2025 sporadic, bubble net group
				
<b>SEAK-1306 Pizza</b> U HI 13 ↑ SR Sporadic, but usually a late season arriver	<b>SEAK-1325 Rakes</b>  HI 1 ↑ CS HW has 4 JNU, with the other 38 split between Icy Strait and Frederick Sound	<b>SEAK-1382 Somaj</b> U HI 4 ↑ NM GGC since 2000, sporadic and widespread in SEAK	<b>SEAK-1391 Darwin</b>  HI 2 ↓ SR Core bubble netter here only when netting	<b>SEAK-1426</b>  HI-MX 1 ↑ CC only sighting this year, 2 <sup>nd</sup> JNU, mostly Stephens Passage






				
<b>SEAK-1441 Razorback</b>  HI 9 ↑ SR 1 <sup>st</sup> in AK 1997, long history of sporadic sightings	<b>SEAK-1447 Juneauite</b>  HI 34 ↑ SR Seen every year, all season	<b>SEAK-1447_calf_2025</b> <b>Fritz</b> U U 4 SR	<b>SEAK-1465 Parcheesy</b>  HI 11 ↑ SR Core bubble netter here only when netting	<b>SEAK-1476 Winter</b> U MX 4 ↑ SD Part of a bubble net group with a long history of sporadic visits to JNU
				
<b>SEAK-1505 CatsPaw</b>  HI MX 1 JH Mostly Icy Strait	<b>SEAK-1533 Nakalele</b>  HI 1 ↔ SH Only JNU sighting this year, but a long history in SEAK	<b>SEAK-1538 Flame</b>  HI 60 ↑ SR Knocked out of 1 <sup>st</sup> by Kelp! Back with 9 <sup>th</sup> calf!	<b>SEAK-1538_calf_2025</b> <b>Match</b> U U 13 SR	<b>SEAK-1542 Kerryogamy</b> U HI 1 ↑ KL 7 JNU HW sightings





















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<b>SEAK-1605 Ruffles</b>  U 1 ↑ DR 1 GGC sighting 2025, 25 HW JNU sightings	<b>SEAK-1628 Mimilo</b> U HI 7 ↑ SR GGC 2022-2025, 16 HW, usually bubble netting	<b>SEAK-1671 Twin Peaks</b>  MX 7 ↓ EG Sporadic but all over JNU waters	<b>SEAK-1671_calf_2025</b> U U 1 SR	<b>SEAK-1703 Bullethole</b>  HI 12 ↑ SR Seen every year, all season
				
<b>SEAK-1703_calf_2025 Bullseye</b> U U 11 SR	<b>SEAK-1707 Yukon</b> U HI 4 ↑ KS Core bubble netter, only here when netting	<b>SEAK-1725 Dumetella</b>  U 1 ↑ DR New GGC whale on 1 <sup>st</sup> day of 2025 season!	<b>SEAK-1753 SkartFarcus</b> U U 7 ↑ SR 1 <sup>st</sup> 1997 but very sporadic, part of a bubble net group in 2024	<b>SEAK-1766 Dolorosa</b> U HI 1 ↑ AH Only 2 <sup>nd</sup> GGC sighting, 8 HW in JNU

				
<b>SEAK-1770 Auke</b> ◆ HI 2 ↓ SR Sporadic, often in or near Auke Bay, hence his name	<b>SEAK-1783 Tucker</b> ◆ U 11 ↑ NM Regular	<b>SEAK-1786 SvenOllie</b> U HI 10 ↑ SR Core bubble netter here only when netting	<b>SEAK-1812 Comet</b> ◆ HI 2 ↑ DR 1 <sup>st</sup> 2004, sporadic in JNU only twice this year	<b>SEAK-1820 Nibblet</b> ◆ HI 37 ↓ SR Seen every year, all season, sometimes bubble nets
				
<b>SEAK-1821 Eocene</b> ◆ MX-HI 7 ↑ SD Core bubble netter here only when netting	<b>SEAK-1852</b> ◆ HI 1 SH October Stephens Passage, SP and Frederick Sound	<b>SEAK-1879 Sasha</b> ◆ HI 33 ↓ SR Seen every year, all season	<b>SEAK-1879_calf_2025 Cha Cha</b> U U 17 SR	<b>SEAK-1907 Inertia</b> ◆ U 2 ↓ KL Sporadic over the years, 1 <sup>st</sup> in JNU August 2024
				
<b>SEAK-2001 Admiral Frank</b> ◆ HI-MX 1 DR HW 3 JNU, rest Chatham Strait	<b>SEAK-2006 Magma</b> ◆ HI 30 ↑ SR Seen every year, all season	<b>SEAK-2006_calf_2025 Ash</b> U U 1 SR	<b>SEAK-2029 Grandpa Cookie</b> ◆ HI 1 KS 3 JNU, others mostly Icy Strait	<b>SEAK-2037 Voldemort</b> ◆ HI 11 ↑ SR Sporadic 2011-2022 2023-2024 all season

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<b>SEAK-2060</b> U HI 1 ↑ TM 10 JNU, mostly Icy Strait	<b>SEAK-2070 Barnacles</b> ◆ HI 69 ↑ SR Seen every year, all season	<b>SEAK-2079 Castilleja</b> U HI 1 KS Only JNU sighting! Frederick Sound area	<b>SEAK-2089 Kojima</b> U U 1 SH Oct only sighting Stephens Passage, Frederick Sound whale	<b>SEAK-2170 Vendetta</b> ◆ HI 33 ↑ SR Sporadic over the years, very common 2025


















				
<b>SEAK-2171 Hilda</b> ◆ HI 3 ↓ KS Seen every year, all season	<b>SEAK-2223</b> ◆ U 1 SH October in Stephens Passage only 5 in AK since 2004!	<b>SEAK-2226 Sassafra</b> U U 1 TM Chatham and Frederick Sound Whale, only this sighting in JNU	<b>SEAK-2258 CombOver</b> ◆ HI 7 ↓ SR Sporadic late season arriver until 2024 all season	<b>SEAK-2314</b> U HI 1 DR October Stephens Passage, mostly Frederick Sound
				
<b>SEAK-2348 Eyelet</b> U HI 39 ↓ SR 2014-2022 late season 2023-2024 all season	<b>SEAK-2455</b> ◆ HI 1 ↑ CM Only JNU sighting, Icy & Chatham Strait & Frederick Sound	<b>SEAK-2460 Popeye</b> ◆ HI 3 ↓ KSh Sporadic over the years arrived in June 2024	<b>SEAK-2470 Daily</b> U U 1 ↓ SR Very sporadic until 2024 all season	<b>SEAK-2565 Freedom</b> U HI 1 ↑ CC 6 JNU, mostly southern Stephens Passage and more south
				
<b>SEAK-2584 Mustard</b> U HI 1 ↑ CC Only GGC sighting this year for a whale with 38 JNU sightings!	<b>SEAK-2585 Mist-ical</b> U HI 1 ↓ CC Only GGC sighting this year for a whale with 54 HW JUN sightings	<b>SEAK-2609 Everest</b> U U 7 ↓ SR Very sporadic until 2024 all season, pattern continues into 2025	<b>SEAK-2610 Chromosome</b> U HI 3 ↑ GB Three sightings, all bubble netting with the core group, Mostly Icy and Chatham St	<b>SEAK-2617 JaxDoodle</b> U HI 1 ↓ CW Only sighting this year, 29 HW JNU sightings
				
<b>SEAK-2637</b> U MX 1 CC October Stephens Passage Frederick Sound whale	<b>SEAK-2654 Flash</b> U U 3 ↑ SR JNU & Stephens Passage	<b>SEAK-2659 Nephele</b> U HI 4 JE All HW sightings for 2025 except 2024-12-31 in Hawai'i	<b>SEAK-2687</b> U U 1 RF 5 HW sightings 2019,2024,2025	<b>SEAK-2747</b> ◆ U 1 EG 7 years of JNU sightings 2024-2025

				
<b>SEAK-2753 Cotton</b> U HI 1 SR Mostly Icy Strait & Sitka Sound	<b>SEAK-5170</b> U U 1 ↑ DR Single sighting as a bubble netter, Frederick Sound	<b>SEAK-5174</b> ◆ HI 1 ↑ CC October Stephens Passage Frederic Sound	<b>SEAK-5203 Tussle</b> ◆ HI 2 ↑ KS Sporadic since 2017, mostly JNU & Frederick Sound	<b>SEAK-5210</b> U HI 1 DR October Stephens Passage Frederick Sound
				
<b>SEAK-5267</b> U U 1 AG 16 sporadic encounters mostly JNU with Icy & Clarence Strait & Sitka Sound	<b>SEAK-5304 Riddler</b> ◆ MX 38 ↑ SR Sporadic until 2021 then frequent. Showed more tail than usual this year.	<b>SEAK-5307</b> U H 1 ↑ KL Only 9 HW sightings, 7 in JNU 2014-2015	<b>SEAK-5343</b> U HI 1 GF Single JNU sighting all 14 others in Frederick Sound	<b>SEAK-5360</b> U HI 1 CC October Stephens Passage, SP and Frederick Sound
				
<b>SEAK-5422</b> U HI 1 ↑ CC0 JNU & Frederick Sound	<b>SEAK-5533</b> U HI 1 CC October Stephens Passage, only three AK sightings!	U U 1 CC October Stephens Passage, only 2 HW sightings, other 2014-11-14 in Frederick Sound!		
2025 Missing in Action			<b>SEAK-1234 Van Bubbles</b> ◆ HI 0 MIA 2025	<b>SEAK-1818 Ozymandius</b> ◆ HI 10 MIA 2025

Key to captions: initials of photographer; notes

AG--- Acadia Graham	GB--- GG Belsito GF	NM---Nyah Martin
AH--- Alyssa Hetherington	--- Grace Fawbush JE	SD----Stella Dawson
CC --- Chelsea Copley CM	---- Juliana Eno JH----	SG----Sara Garrido
-- Claire McCarty CS----	Jose Hernández KL----	SH----Sophia Harvey
Corban Stearns CW --	Kyra Lussier KP --	SR ----Scott Ranger
Chase Watson DR --	Keith Pahlke KSh--	RF ----Ray Flynn
Donna Rowe	Ken-ichi Shay KS ---	TM ---Theresa Miller TS
EG --- Emma Good	Kiley Stevens	----Tanner Stertzbach

## Unidentified whales

These whales have proven difficult to identify. Many of the photographs are of poor quality, but several of them contain enough pattern information that identification should be possible. We've not been able to match them to Juneau Flukes and HappyWhale automated identification software usually comes up with bizarre choices.

## Bubble Netting 2025

2025	2024	2023	2022	2021*	2019	2018	2017	2016
13	15	37	9	3	10	14	19	51

\*2021 was an attenuated season that began on July 23 for a dramatic reduction in observations. There was no whale watching in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic

<b>Count of whales per day</b>		39											7		
SEAK-0229	Angstrom	11	b	b	b		b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	
SEAK-1465	Parcheesy	10	b			b	b		b	b	b	b	b	b	b
SEAK-0204	Stamp	9	b	b	b	b			b		b	b	b	b	
SEAK-1786	SvenOllie	9	b	b	b	b	b	b	b		b			b	
SEAK-1441	Razorback	8			b	b	b		b		b	b	b	b	b
SEAK-1753	SkartFarcus	7	b		b		b	b	b	b	b				
SEAK-1821	Eocene	7	b			b	b		b		b		b	b	
SEAK-1628	Mimilo	6			b	b	b	b	b		b				
SEAK-0590	Heart	5	b						b	b	b			b	

SEAK-0933	Chip	5	b					b	b			b			b	
SEAK-0996	Cornucopia	5			b	b		b	b		b					
SEAK-1061	Merlot	4	b					b	b		b					
SEAK-1476	Winter	4				b	b						b	b		
SEAK-1707	Yukon	4				b	b		b		b					
JF-119	Kelp	3						b					b	b		
SEAK-0397	Flying W	3							b						b	b
SEAK-0875	Arpeggio	3							b		b		b			
SEAK-2610	Chromosome	3			b	b			b							
SEAK-0197	Vulture	2				b		b								
SEAK-0217	Darktanion	2							b		b					
SEAK-0276	WappiSimba	2											b	b		
SEAK-0461	Polonius	2							b		b					
SEAK-1382	Somaj	2				b		b								
SEAK-1391	Darwin	2							b		b					
SEAK-1703_calf_2025	Bullseye	2		b				b								
SEAK-2348	Eyelet	2		b									b			
JF-105	Cotton	1													b	
SEAK-1088	Bitey	1														b
SEAK-1167	Maltease	1											b			
SEAK-1820	Nibblet	1													b	
SEAK-2006	Magma	1							b							
SEAK-2037	Voldemort	1	b													
SEAK-2171	Hilda	1													b	
SEAK-2353		1														b
SEAK-2455		1	b													
SEAK-2470	Daily	1														b
SEAK-2609	Everest	1											b			
SEAK-5170		1	b													
SEAK-5304	Riddler	1											b			

Bubble net groups ranged from a small of 4 to a maximum of 20! The average number of whales per group was 10. The number of days each whale bubble netted ranged from 1 to 11.

Identifying the “**core bubble net group**” from 2025 data is a bit complicated and misleading. To get a clear picture of who these whales are, this sort of chart needs to be compared over several to many years. For 2025 we can clearly

SEAK-022 9	Angstrom
SEAK-146 5	Parcheesy
SEAK-020 4	Stamp
SEAK-178 6	SvenOllie
SEAK-144 1	Razorback
SEAK-175 3	SkartFarcus
SEAK-182 1	Eocene
SEAK-162 8	Mimilo
SEAK-059 0	Heart
SEAK-093 3	Chip

SEAK-099 6	Cornucopia
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identify the “core” group that showed up in this table.

Five of our long-time “core” bubble netters participated in four or fewer days of netting: SEAK-1707 Yukon; SEAK-0397 Flying W; SEAK-0875 Arpeggio; SEAK-1382 Somaj; SEAK 1391 Darwin; and SEAK-2171 Hilda.

Hilda is the most curious of this grouping as he (yes, Hilda is a male!) is usually here for nearly all the days of bubble netting and he was only identified three times by Gastineau Guides the whole season. HappyWhale shows him arriving on April 30 and staying until October 4 with 24 sightings, 19 in our Juneau waters. There are only five mentions of bubble netting, so Hilda apparently was just “one of the Juneau crowd” this year.

Darwin is similar, only identified on two days by Gastineau Guides, both as a bubble netter. HappyWhale only two days in Juneau and one in the Lynn Canal. His six August sightings are all in Chatham Strait with the “core bubble net group”

Flying W, only identified on three days by Gastineau Guides as a bubble netter.

HappyWhale has the whale in Juneau waters only five times of 24 total sightings. This whale spent most of his summer in Icy Strait, especially near Point Adolphus.

## Cow and Calves 2025

### SEAK-1447 Juneauite with Fritz



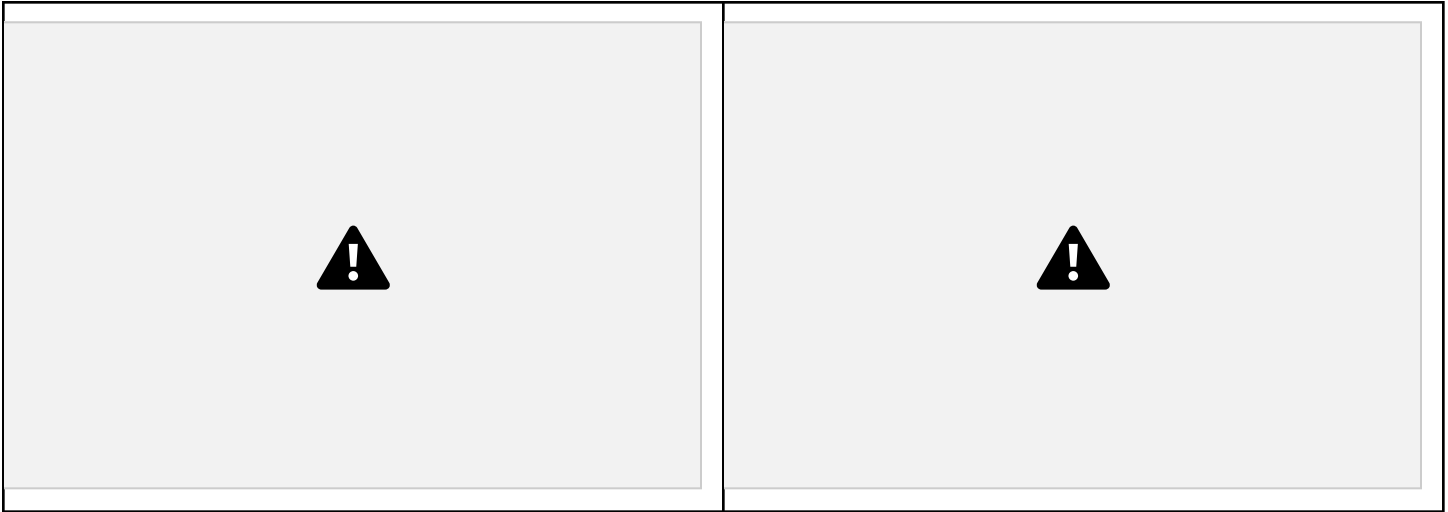
Fritz was first identified in Au'au Channel between Lāna'i and Maui in Hawai'i on February 28 and arrived with Juneauite on May 15. Of all our 2025 calves, Fritz was the least "frisky" as we have no photos of the calf breaching, tail waving or any other of the fun behaviors. Juneauite was something of a "helicopter mom" with Fritz and the two of them were rarely more than 100 yards apart. Fritz' last sighting was August 12 while mom was seen until October 9. Did Fritz take on the precocious behavior of Match?

### SEAK-1538 Flame with Match



Flame’s behavior this year was different. For all her previous eight calves, she was a *laissez faire* (“allow to do”) mom, letting the kids wander off early in the season. For example, in 2022 while Flame was feeding in North Pass, Cinder would be down at the Barlow Islands some five miles away. Not in 2025 with Match as the two were nearly inseparable. That is, until Match disappeared with the calf’s last sighting on July 12. Match made it to Icy Straight in May and June and Port Frederick in May. Match may be more precocious than we thought!

SEAK-1671 Twin Peaks with unnamed calf



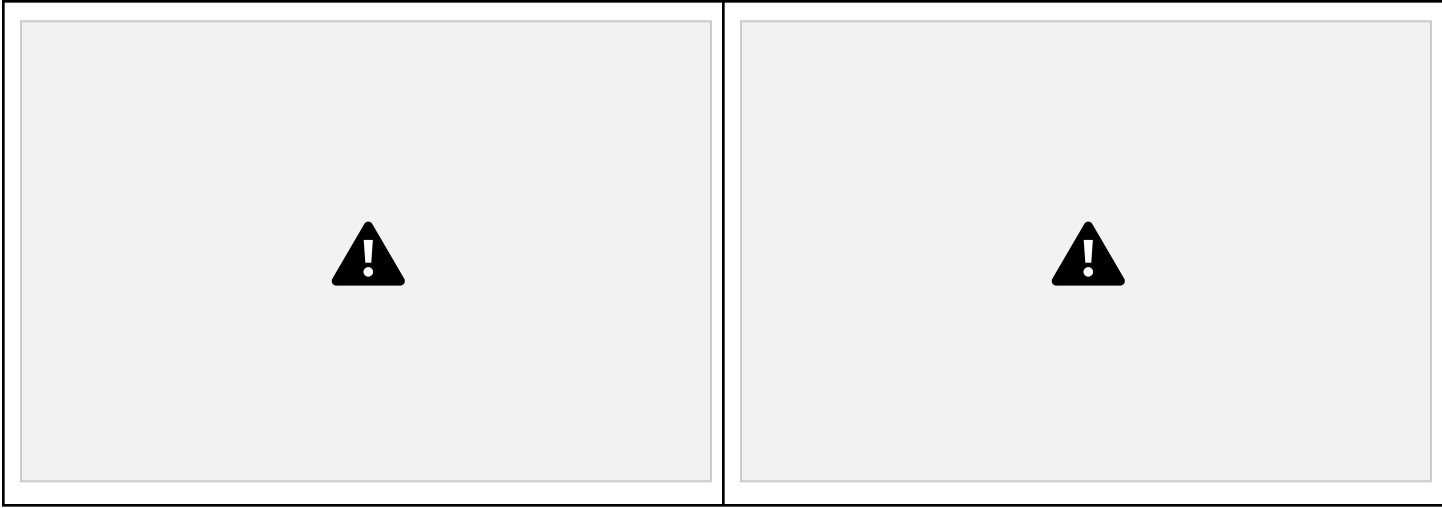
Twin Peaks 2025 calf didn’t get a name because they weren’t around very much. Mom was seen from July 9 through July 28 on 10 days, then again for three days September 28, 29, and 30—without calf. On this day, the calf was frisky!

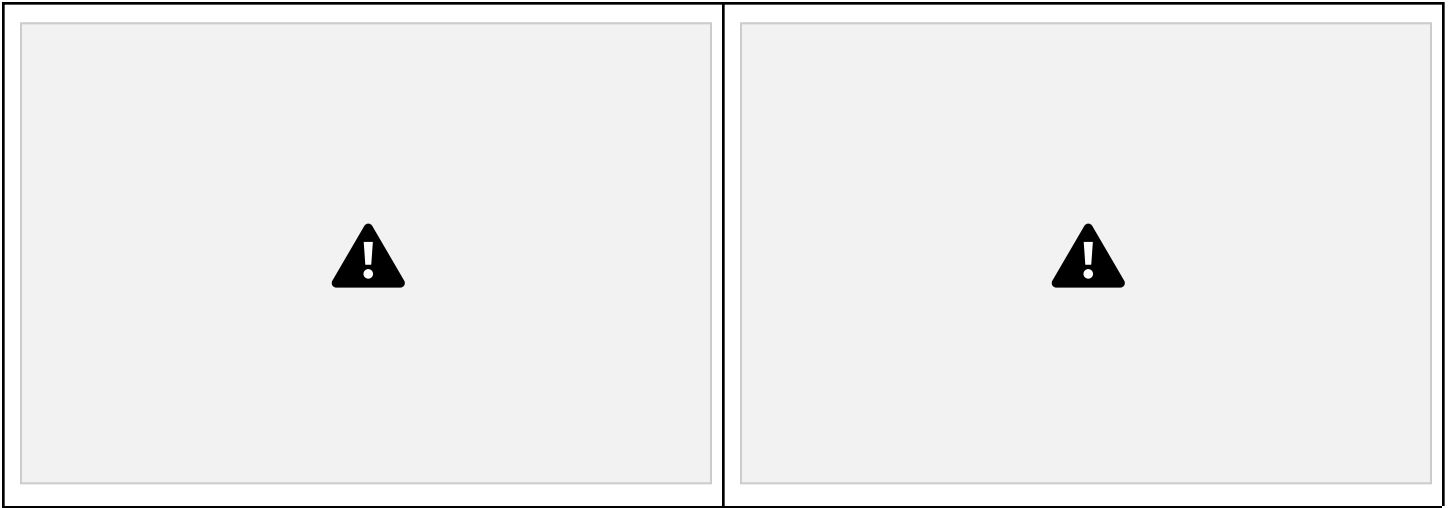
SEAK-1703 Bullethole with Bullseye



The pair showed up on May 2 and the last sighting of Bullseye was August 13. During that time, they were very active in our Juneau waters and went over to the Lynn Canal to join the bubble net group on July 17 and August 12. Bullseye was very frisky doing lots of tail slapping and baby breaches.

SEAK-1879 Sasha with Cha Cha





Remarkably, Cha Cha was first seen on February 20 in Ka'anapali, Maui, and came to Juneau on April 30 and was last sighted on October 9. Mom, Sasha, is known for coming to Juneau early and staying late. These two were inseparable during the summer and wandered all around our whale watching area. Cha Cha wasn't particularly "frisky". On May 9, Sasha, Cha Cha, Bullethole and Bullseye did echelon feeding for krill at the Sand Spit off Shelter Island!

The question to ask—without hopes of an answer—why did Sasha become pregnant after only two years (her pattern has been four or more years between pregnancies)? See her report in "Notable Behavior" below.

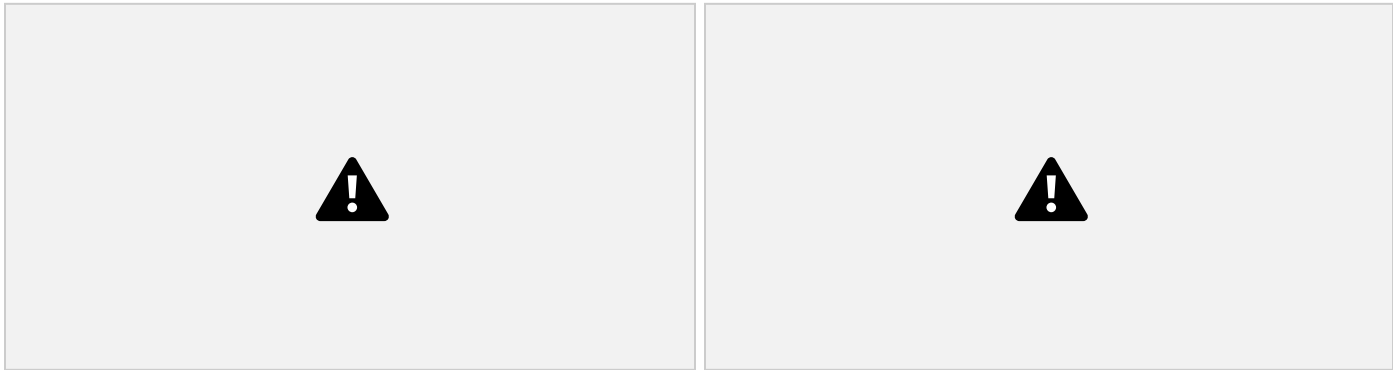


Magma and Ash arrived on June 12 and were last sighted on September 24. All but one of their sightings were in the “Shelter 500” area of Favorite and Saginaw Channels. They wandered south of Funter Bay to Lizard Head on July 10 (not a bubble net feeding day), a long ways away from the other sightings. The two are inseparable, always within a few hundred yards of each other. Ash loves to do tail waves with a few splashes, but mostly just waves.

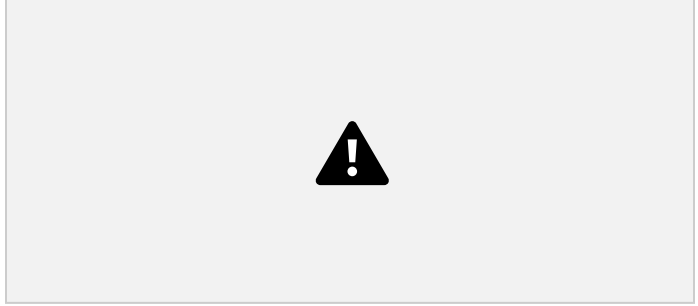
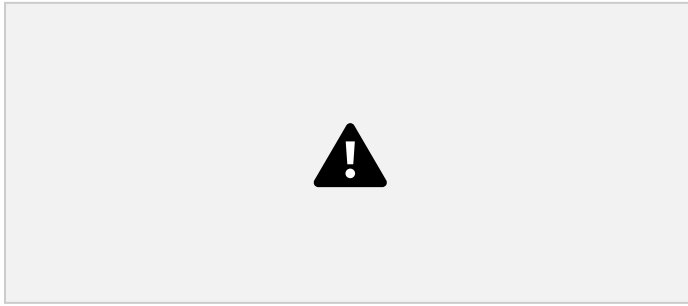
Juneauite & Fritz photos by Sophia Harvey, all others by Scott Ranger

### Notable Behavior

#### SEAK-2070 Barnacles and SEAK-5304 Riddler



Since 2019, Barnacles and Riddler are frequently seen together. The 2024 photo on the left is of them with Urchin and the right 2019 photo shows them with Bullethole. It has now become standard that when we see one, we look for the other. The patten continues into 2025 with the two of them photographed together 27 times!



Magma and Hilda seemed almost inseparable in 2024. They often dove synchronously (left photo). Many of us were “curious” about this behavior and wondered if it might lead to mating in Hawai’i over the winter. On June 12 we found Magma gave birth to Ash! Was Hilda the father? Unfortunately, we’ll probably never know as the patrilineage of humpbacks is barely known. Inquiring minds want to know!

### SEAK-1879 Sasha

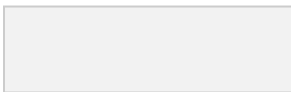
Sasha lost her calf, Tango, sometime during the night of August 25, 2023. Sasha is recognized for being something of a loner, seeming to prefer her own company.

2024 brought a noticeable change in her behavior. She was often in the presence of other whales and her range expanded into Favorite Channel as far north as Gull Island.

Did she have a “bounce back” affair in Hawaii and become pregnant? Her last sighting here in 2023 was on December 6. If she sped back to Hawaii in 30 days, that puts her at the tail end of estrus giving her just enough time to mate. The time between her four known calves is four, five, and three years. A one-year interval is well out of her pattern.

Is she mourning the loss of Tango and spending some social time with other whales for comfort? As the number of whales increases in Juneau waters, the opportunity for socialization is increasing rapidly. Her history suggests that she spurns socialization, yet the sudden loss of a calf might be what causes a change in her behavior.

What we do know is that on April 30 she returned with Cha Cha. Her reasons for breaking tradition with the time between calves is known only by her.



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