

North Atlantic Killer Whales of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula

Photo-Identification Catalogue – 2016 Winter Edition By Marie Mrusczok



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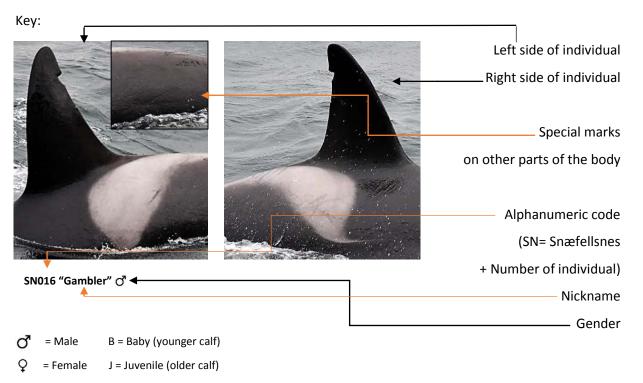
SN075 right side Jan van Twillert
SN106 right side Dirk Boden
SN107 left side Uwe Wendel
SN109 left side Uwe Wendel
SN126 left and right side Jan van Twillert

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Access at: http://orcaguardians.org/orca-id-catalogue/ http://lakitours.com/about/conservation-and-research/

Introduction and Catalogue Key

The following catalogue presents photo-identification images of 192 North Atlantic Killer Whales sighted off the Snæfellsnes Peninsula from January 2014 to October 2015. The catalogue is divided into summer (June - October), winter (October - March), and spring (March - June) sightings, since observations thus far suggest that family groups visiting the area in the winter (p. 22-41) are different ones from the spring (42-50) and summer season (p. 3-21). Individuals believed to form a family group are listed together on one or more pages. Mother-calf-pairs are represented by consecutive alphanumeric codes, with the mother followed by the offspring (calves marked with a "J" or "B"). Furthermore, the alphanumeric code shows in which order the individuals were discovered – the higher the number, the later the first record of the individual.



This catalogue has been compiled and made publicly available to researchers, whale watchers, and whale-watch operators to enhance observations and facilitate identification of the Icelandic killer whale population. We hope that the catalogue will help us follow the seasonal movements of the Icelandic orca population as it can be used by the whale-watching public to identify killer whales during sightings all over Iceland.

The catalogue is a second edition and work in progress, and, therefore, far from complete. Missing pictures will be added in upcoming seasons as sightings allow, and the catalogue will be expanded to include additional pictures of individuals not yet photographed.

All pictures were taken under strict compliance with the IceWhale Code of Conduct for responsible whale watching (photographs are cropped and enlarged). The catalogue compiles both boat-based and land-based observations. As a non-invasive research project it advocates the acquisition of knowledge of the Icelandic orca population through a conservation approach.



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SN025 "Gem" (J)

SN026 "Horizon" ♀



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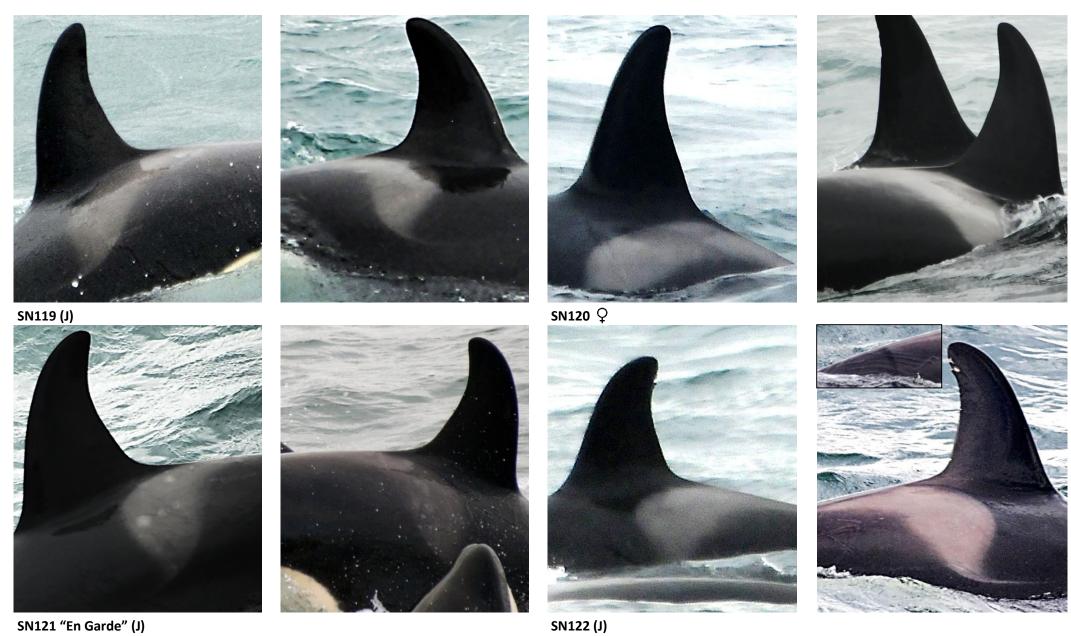
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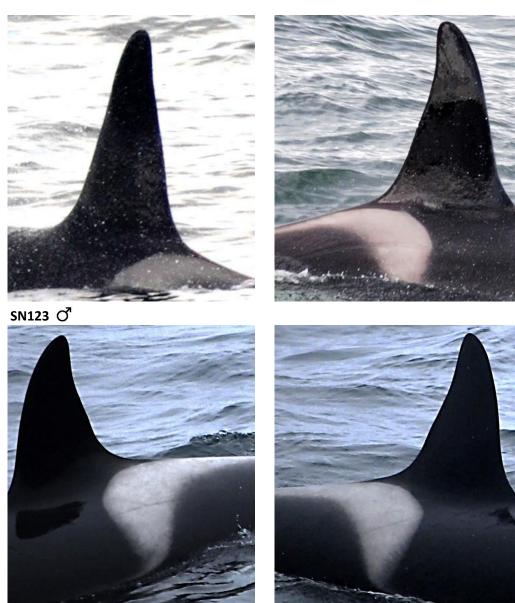
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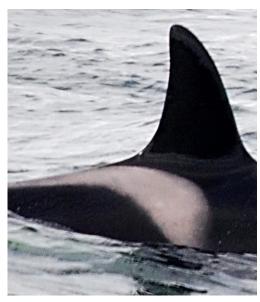


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SN125





SN124

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SN135 "Keiko II" 🗖

SN136 "Amsterdam" ♂



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SN146



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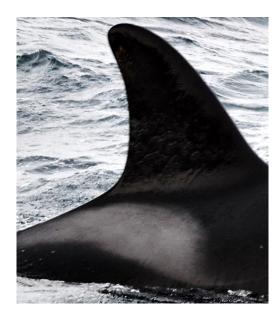


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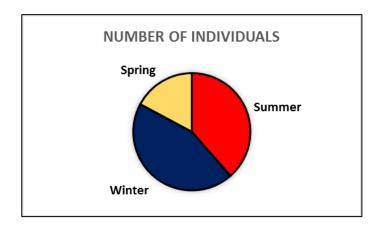




SN051 "Blackjack" o

SN052 "Orient" ♀

Out of 192 individuals in this catalogue, 74 orcas were sighted during the summer months, 85 during the winter, and 33 during springtime (see chart). When comparing these three times of the year, a noticeably higher number of identified males could be found around Snæfellsnes during the winter months (37% of all individuals sighted during that time – compared to 26% in the summer and 18% in the springtime). In contrast, the highest number of identified subadults occurred during the summer months (24% of all individuals sighted during that time – compared to 12% both during winter and springtime). Further long-term observations will determine changes in these statistics that may occur after more individuals have been identified by gender and yet unknown individuals have been recorded. Please note: The number of individuals sighted during a certain time of year is not equatable to the amount of sightings during this same time period.





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SN164 "Delusion" \cite{Q}

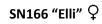


SN165 "Freckles" Q

















SN168 "Freyja" ♀

SN169 "Magni" 💍





SN171

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SN172 ♀



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