

Wildlife Report July 28

Transient Orcas

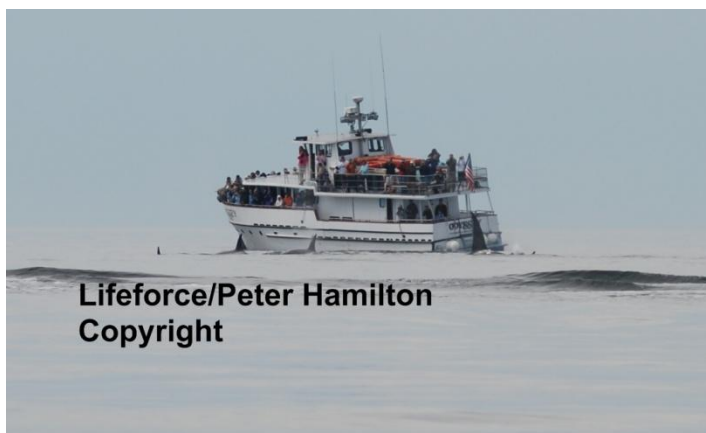
A group of seven transients were travelling in Washington waters from Rosario Strait to Point Roberts on July 28th. The waters were beautifully calm. Transients will eat other marine mammals unlike Residents who will eat only fish. Transients' diets include fish, porpoises and seals. They have even been seen attacking Gray whales and Minke whales. These are the "sea wolves".

Based on Lifeforce photographs orca expert Graeme Ellis, Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, identified the orcas as T020 (a male est. Birth 1963), T021 (a female est. Birth 1968), T090 (a female Born 1980), T090B (sex unknown, Born 2006), T124 (a female est. Birth 1967), 124D (sex unknown, Born 1996), and 124E (sex unknown, Born 1999).

Male T020 born approximately in 1963.



For approximately 30 minutes the transients stayed in the area of a cluster of approximately 10 whale watch boats and a few pleasure craft. It is thought that these clever hunters of the sea **may use boats as part of their herding strategy or may find seals and fish hiding by the boats.**



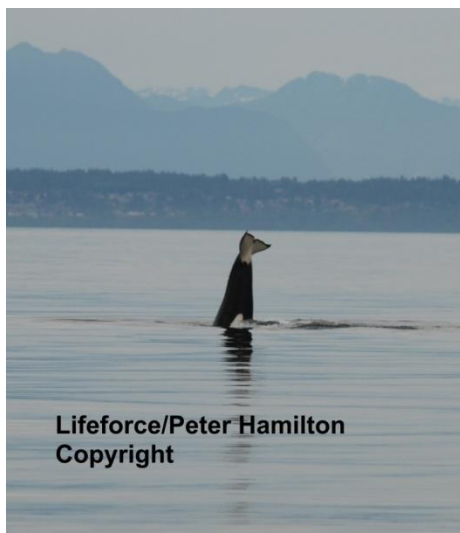
One Liferforce photo shows a harbour seal on the rostrum of the orca on the left.

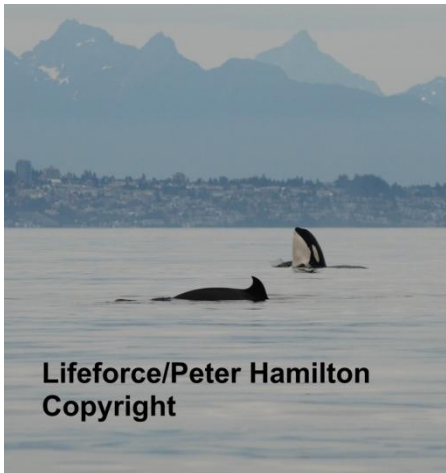


One of these orcas has a “puncture” wound just behind the saddle patch..



The Ts foraging and socializing.





For Freedom,

Peter Hamilton

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