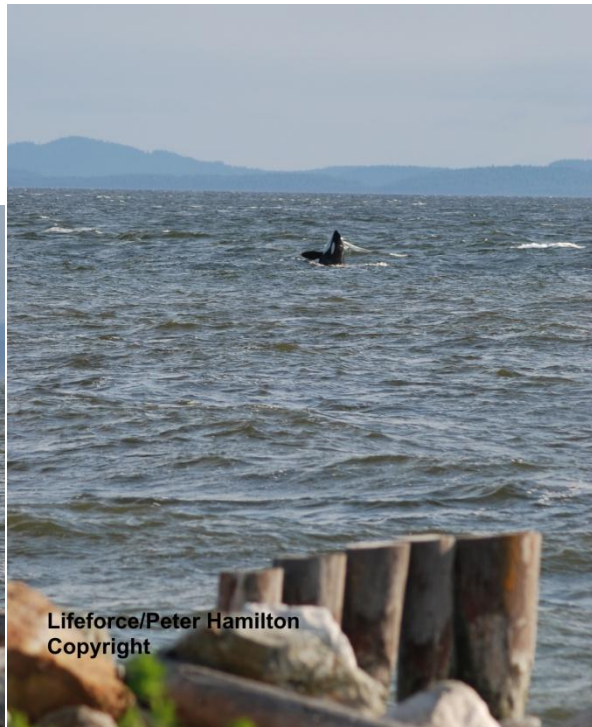


May 20 Wildlife Report

The seas were very rough and the strong winds made it difficult to photograph behaviours but that didn't stop J pod from doing some socializing at 1740 on May 20 off Lighthouse Marine Park, Point Roberts, WA. They had headed North earlier in the day at 1245. I have often watched them forage at this deep spot off the Point but rarely have seen them stop to meet and play. Perhaps this was because there were no boats present.

As they approached the Point a young orca did several impressive breaches. Then some Js congregated in small groups as close as a hundred feet offshore as three Harbour seals watched. As one group drifted on another group would follow. They were rubbing against each other, doing some Head Viewing (aka Spy Hops), Breaching, Tail Slaps, Pectoral Slaps, Resting/Logging and milling about.

One interesting behaviour was the two youngsters who repeatedly surfaced with their heads directly beside each other and possible rubbing (difficult to determine because of the high waves). Another one, did the same type of half breaches (three times in a row) that I also documented on May 18th.





For Freedom,

Peter Hamilton

Lifewatch Boater Awareness Program

Lifeforce Whale and Dolphin Hotline

604.649.5258

lifeforcesociety@hotmail.com

www.lifeforcefoundation.org

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