

Sept 19th Transient Orcas Report

On September 19th at 1400 I first saw the orcas just south of Active Pass. The three transients were outnumbered by about three to one by whale watch boats that “positioned” themselves all around them in hope that they will “pop up” for air by their boat. One operator later said that he likes to keep on one side so why didn’t they?

The Orca Hunt - Three transient orcas surrounded by Whale Watch boats



The Orca's Hunt

At one point the orcas started to hunt for a Harbour porpoise. As they sped swam, circled, and dove the porpoise tried to escape. The end of the hunt was seen as one female breached with the porpoise in her mouth (see photos below)





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The Hunt Ends with a Harbour Porpoise in the female's mouth.



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On September 20th a group of 12 transients were in Hammond Bay just north of Nanaimo. Graeme Ellis and John Ford were out identifying them. A Vancouver whale watch business owner alerted the half dozen or more boats heading there that Graeme Ellis, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, was present. After saying that Ellis was not “a great follower of whale watching” he finished by saying “so be careful in there (the bay).” In other words don’t get caught breaking the law.

This is further proof that at least these Vancouver whale watch operators do not follow the rules and regulations when they are not being monitored by enforcement people. It is absolutely disgusting when you think that they profit from the orcas but have no respect for the orcas’ space and peace.

For Freedom,

Peter Hamilton

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