

Welcome to Tonquin Trail

Can you spot any of these marine mammals?

Located within the Ha-houlthee (traditional land) of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations and designated Tribal park, the Tonquin Trail is a great place to observe wildlife in a remarkable archipelago of rocky islands, coves and reefs that support the world's largest marine creatures. Incredibly, many of the largest are dependent on the smallest creatures for food.



Humpback Whale / ʔiituup
(*Megaptera novaeangliae*)

LENGTH 11-15 m/37-50 ft

DORSAL FIN Small, nubby fin with broad base

APPEARANCE Black body, bumps or knobs on head, long pectoral fins with white underside

BEHAVIOUR Medium-sized, bushy blow; usually surfaces 2-5 times between deep dives; often raises tail flukes on final dive

STATUS Threatened



California Sea Lion
(*Zalophus californianus*)

LENGTH 1.5-2.5m /5-8ft

APPEARANCE Dark brown colouration; mature males have a light-coloured sagittal crest on the head

BEHAVIOUR Spends time on land and in water; often seen in large groups on rocky haul outs. Vocalizations sound like a bark.

STATUS Not at Risk



Sea Otter / kʷa kaʕ
(*Enhydra lutris*)

LENGTH 1.5m (5ft)

APPEARANCE Dense fur ranging from light beige to dark brown. Paddle-shaped hind limbs and a flat tail.

BEHAVIOUR Rarely seen on land, spend a lot of time floating on their backs.

STATUS Special Concern



Steller Sea Lion / tukʷuk
(*Eumetopias jubatus*)

LENGTH 2-3 m/6-9 ft

APPEARANCE Light tan to blond, darker on belly, large front flippers, small ear flaps visible on the head, mature males much larger than females with a clearly defined forehead and thick neck and mane,

BEHAVIOUR Spends time on land and in water, often seen in large groups on rocky haulouts

STATUS Special Concern



Harbour Seal / kiʕanas
(*Phoca vitulina*)

LENGTH 1-1.5m (3-5ft)

APPEARANCE Varies from blonde to brown and black; short body, large head and short limbs

BEHAVIOUR Spend time on land, and in the water; form loosely gregarious groups when hauled out

STATUS Not at Risk



Grey Whale / ciʕciʕ ni
(*Eschrichtius robustus*)

LENGTH 12-14 m/39-46 ft

DORSAL FIN No dorsal fin

APPEARANCE Mottled grey colour; covered with barnacles; 9-13 knuckle-like bumps on back; bowed, elongated head

BEHAVIOUR May travel and feed close to shore, travels in groups of 1-3 animals

STATUS Special Concern



Killer Whale / kakaʕwin
(*Orcinus orca*)

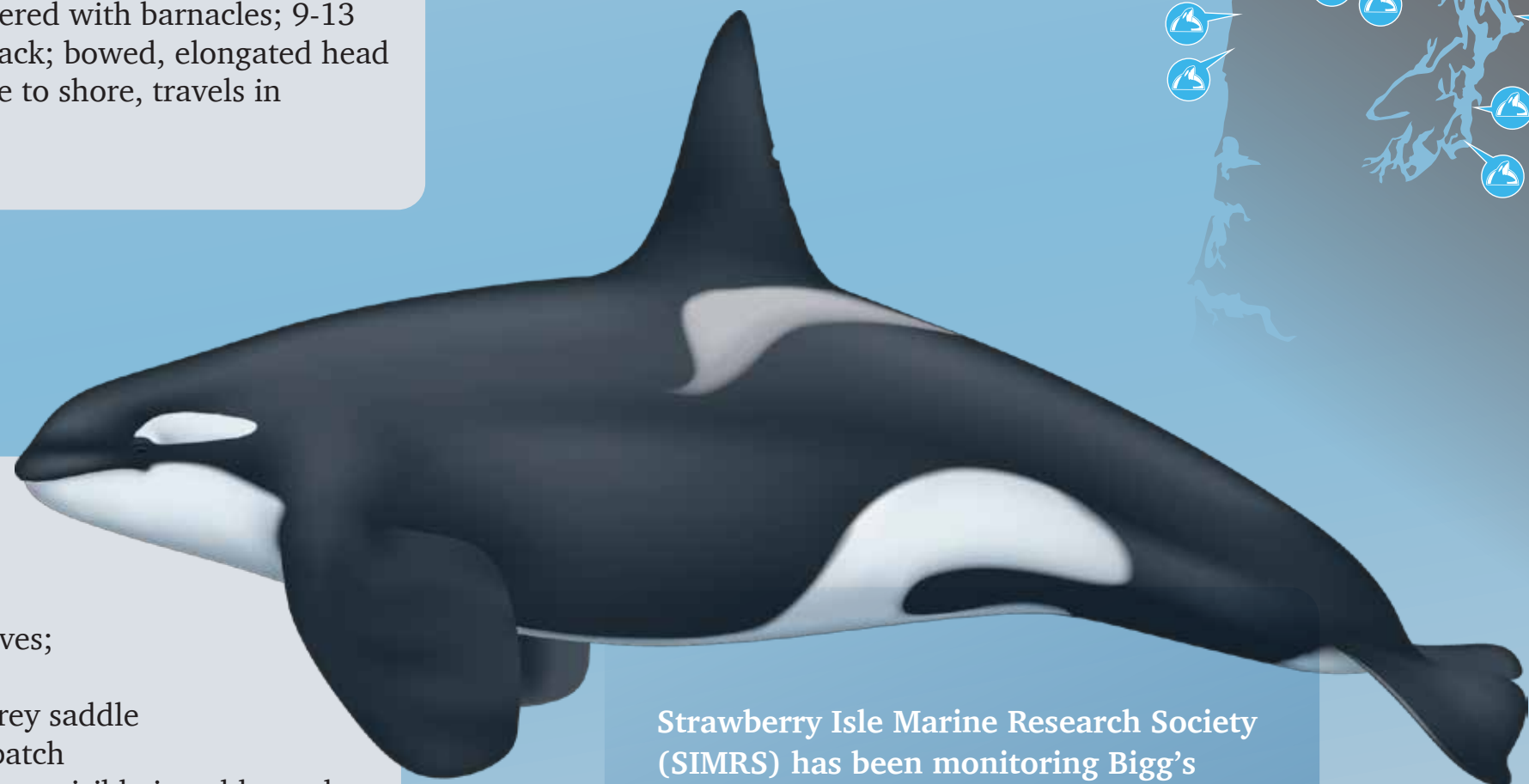
LENGTH 6-9 m/18-28 ft

DORSAL FIN Black; triangular in females and calves; tall, distinctive in adult males

APPEARANCE Black body with white underside, grey saddle patch behind dorsal fin, white eye patch

BEHAVIOUR Usually in groups of 3-25, bushy blows visible in cold weather

STATUS Southern residents Endangered; northern residents, Bigg's (transients) and offshores Threatened



Harbour Porpoise / ʕicwin
(*Phocoena phocoena*)

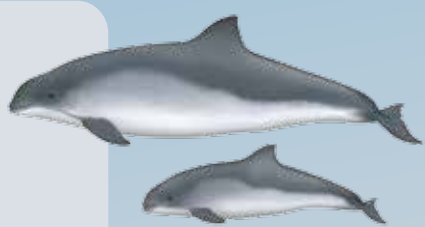
LENGTH Less than 2 m/6.5 ft

DORSAL FIN Dark, triangular

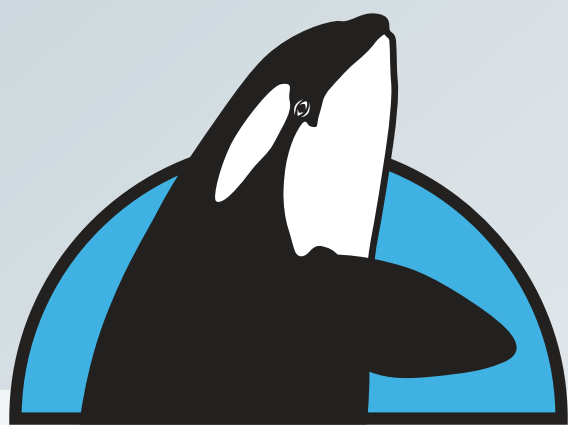
APPEARANCE Dark-grey back with lighter underside

BEHAVIOUR Inconspicuous; travels slowly, generally alone or in small groups of 2-3

STATUS Special Concern



Strawberry Isle Marine Research Society (SIMRS) has been monitoring Bigg's killer whales in Clayoquot Sound for over 26 years. Through a large citizen science program locals on the water report sightings of killer whales in our area and using photo identification we track who is visiting and how often. SIMRS also records behaviors such as: feeding, socialization, and on a few special occasions, births! Killer whales visit Clayoquot Sound all year-round and often travel through Templar Channel right in front of the Tonquin Trail.



the **whaletrail**

Follow The Whale Trail to watch whales and other marine mammals from shore. From Victoria to Prince Rupert, what will you discover?



Be a Citizen Scientist - Report your Sightings!

Many populations of marine mammals and sea turtles are at risk in B.C. Report your sightings of whales, dolphins, porpoises and sea turtles to help us better understand the distribution and abundance of these species. **Report your sightings to:**



wild whales
b.c. cetacean sightings network

www.wildwhales.org
1.866.I.SAW.ONE
sightings@vanaqua.org



Download the WhaleReport app for iOS or android



Please report sick, injured, distressed or dead marine mammals and sea turtles to **1.800.465.4336**



Scan, scroll and listen to these incredible animals vocalizing (sound clips kindly provided by JASCO Applied Sciences, www.jasco.com)

