



Saturday July 03, 2004

No orcas present.

Good afternoon and welcome back! The A36 matriline of the A1 pod was seen earlier today in Queen Charlotte Strait. Two humpbacks are making their way west along

Hopefully, the boat noise will end & the calls will become closer & clearer over the next couple of hours.

Paul

03 Jul 2004 22:32:14 PDT



Cracroft Island in Johnstone Strait but are still east of Robson Bight. The orcas (specifically the C10s) returned June 10 and since then several groups have come in for brief visits.

Helena

03 Jul 2004 16:19:15 PDT

No orcas present.

There are 2 humpbacks going west, just passed CP.

Tomoko@CP

03 Jul 2004 17:52:08 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We have just received a report that all the "A" matriline except for the A36s are headed east past Port McNeill and Alert Bay... if they continue, they will be within range of our hydrophones within a few hours... stay tuned!

Paul&Helena&Anna@OL

03 Jul 2004 20:44:14 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We've started hearing distant "A" calls amidst constant boat noise in Johnstone Strait... it sounds like the groups of orcas that were heading east past Port McNeill earlier are now coming within range of our hydrophones.



Sunday July 4, 2004

No calls but orcas nearby

After making beautiful calls on CRPT hydrophone area, the whales (A12s, A30s, A4s and A5s) kept going east. We are waiting for them to come back within range of the hydrophone network.

Tomoko

04 Jul 2004 01:11:50 PDT

Orcas hunting fish.

The A12s just hurried through Blackney heading North past the lab. The A36s were calling on Flower Island and the two groups met up in Blackfish Sound.

Tomoko and Mary

04 Jul 2004 06:03:51 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

After the A12s went through Blackney Pass this morning and met up with the A36s in Blackfish Sound the calls faded as the whales continued on the ebb tide to the west. There was a later report just after 8am that there was a group of orcas seen in Queen Charlotte Strait off Donegal Head. We think this is probably the A12s and the A36s. So they are still not too far away, just out of range of our hydrophones. The A4s, A5s and the A30s who also came in last night with the A12s have not been seen this morning and are presumed to be still in the east (south of Robson Bight).

Helena

04 Jul 2004 09:01:03 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s have been seen off Kelsey Bay headed west. There is speculation that the A4s (including Springer) and the A5s are headed back to the east but were possibly off Camp Point early this morning. We believe the A12s & the A36s are still to the west of us. At 10:52 am they turned east at Black Bluff and started to come back in our direction. Today there are several humpbacks moving around the area as well. It was asked earlier if all the A12s were back - Yes! and A34 has a new baby with her as well - this means the group has 8 members now.

Helena

04 Jul 2004 12:46:50 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

It looks like the A12s and the A36s are approaching the western end of Blackfish Sound and may come down past the Lab eventually.

Helena

04 Jul 2004 13:08:44 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The whales changed their minds, two of the A36s made it almost to Double Bay but the A12s regrouped off Stubbs Island and started to move into Weynton Passage. This means they will not go past the Lab after all but hopefully we will pick them up on the "other side".

Helena

04 Jul 2004 13:22:06 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s are making their way to the east, about a mile east of Blinkhorn. The A36s are more midstrait and also travelling east.

Anna@CP

04 Jul 2004 14:29:32 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A36s & the A12s entered Johnstone Strait just before 2pm and have been making their way to the east ever since. They are opposite the entrance to Blackney Pass with the A12s closer to the Vancouver Island side and the A36s mid strait. Their calls are getting louder.

Helena

04 Jul 2004 14:53:31 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A12s and A36s have cleared to the east and are quickly approaching Robson Bight...

Anna@CP

04 Jul 2004 15:34:45 PDT

Distant calls audible.

A12 just entered the Reserve at the western boundary followed by the rest of the group. The A36s are still more mid strait. Both groups are still east bound.

Helena

04 Jul 2004 15:56:39 PDT

**Orcas hunting fish.**

The A12s are getting close to the Critical Point hydrophone - we're hearing echolocation from them and have sent a "Messenger" alert. Soon, they may be approaching the rubbing beaches.

Paul

04 Jul 2004 16:32:50 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s and the A36s went into the beaches. Apparently they used all three rubbing beaches. And a short while ago, they pulled away from the beaches and continued to the east. It looks like A55 joined the A34s.

Helena

04 Jul 2004 17:31:46 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The whales have turned (east of the reserve) and are heading back to the west...

Anna@CP

04 Jul 2004 17:56:48 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A12s and A36s are approaching Critical Point...

Anna@CP

04 Jul 2004 18:43:28 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A36s and A12s are very spread out and making their way to the west, approaching the western end of the reserve... The A30s have been heard on Critical Point.

Anna@CP

04 Jul 2004 20:23:24 PDT

Superb sounds!!

We are now hearing the A30s coming up behind the the A12s & the A36s as they make their way to the west. The A30s spent most of their day travelling west through the eastern regions of Johnstone Strait. It sounds like they are very close to Critical Point now.

Helena

04 Jul 2004 20:25:27 PDT

Boat noise

The A12s and the A36s turned back towards the A30s who remained in the vicinity of Robson Bight for a while while the others came closer. We recently heard the A36s clearly as they neared Critical Point.

Unfortunately, loud boat noise has taken over the distant calls so we are not sure what the



whales have planned, whether or not they will take advantage of the ebbing tide and come back west once more or whether they will disappear to the east to meet up with the A4s and A5s. The two humpbacks are in view of the Lab again.

Helena

04 Jul 2004 22:22:07 PDT

**Monday July 05, 2004****Orcas relaxing.**

The A12s and A36s went north through Blackney Pass earlier, but the A30s stayed in the strait, have made some beautiful resting calls in Robson Bight. We are still listening their calls on CRPT hydrophone.

Tomoko

05 Jul 2004 03:22:48 PDT

No orcas present.

Two humpbacks are heading to the east passed CP...

Anna@CP

05 Jul 2004 06:42:35 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We were experiencing technical difficulties - hopefully they are resolved now. Meanwhile, here is what happened last night: we believe the A30s stayed in the Strait last night and possibly went back to the east. The A4s and A5s remained east yesterday and did not follow the A30s back to the west. The A12s and A36s however paid attention to the A30s when they reached Robson Bight around 8pm and turned back to meet them. Later that night the groups returned west and headed west to Blackfish Sound between 2am & 3am. The A12s and the A30s are now returning and travelling east through Blackfish to Blackney.

Helena

05 Jul 2004 10:43:22 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Sorry we lost the connection again briefly but it seems to be working again. While this was happening the A12s travelled south through Blackney pass close to the Lab. All the group looked very fine, A55 had kept streaming off his dorsal fin and A34s new calf (quite big already!) was next to mum and A74. They cleared out of our sight by 11:20am headed for Johnstone Strait. The A30s are expected soon, following the same route as the A12s. We are getting the first calls now.

Helena

05 Jul 2004 11:52:15 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A12s are just passing CP. A12 is in the lead. A33 just moved out into the strait a bit. The A34s are following closely and the baby is playing and slapping its tail. They are heading east at a relaxed pace.

Mary@CP

05 Jul 2004 11:52:23 PDT



**Superb sounds!!**

The A30s are heading passed CP to the east and crossing over to the Vancouver Island shore.

Anna@CP

05 Jul 2004 12:55:51 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s are back in the "River" (the Tsitika River area of Robson Bight) and are making their way slowly back to the west.

Helena

05 Jul 2004 15:57:57 PDT

Boat noise

The whales are heading back to the west, approaching Izumi Rock and travelling close to the Vancouver Island shore.

Anna@CP

05 Jul 2004 16:51:20 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A30s have turned back to the East. They have moved out to midstrait and are currently just off the Sophias. We are hearing them on both the Cracroft and Critical hydrophones.

Anna and Mary@CP

05 Jul 2004 18:20:28 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A5s and A4s are currently in at the rubbing beaches.

Anna and Mary@CP

05 Jul 2004 19:33:00 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The orcas are now approaching CP from the east. They are very spread out from the Cracroft Island shore to the Vancouver Island side. All the whales are heading west.

Anna & Mary@CP

05 Jul 2004 21:07:12 PDT

About the calls, the A1's have a medium length A call, while the A4's tend to have longer calls, and the A5's are a little bit hurried up and shorter. Both the A4's and A5's have a "hook" at the end of their N9 calls that the A1's do not have. Hope that helps.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon (previously @Bay Area)

06 Jul 2004 10:07:01 PDT

**Tuesday July 06, 2004****Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.**

Just as it was getting dark last night, all the whales (A4s, A5s, A12s, and the A30s) headed out through Blackney Pass and up into Blackfish Sound. They picked up the A36s and headed back into the strait. This morning they are down to the east at the rubbing beaches. We are not sure if they are heading east or west yet.

Anna@CP

06 Jul 2004 07:50:08 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

The A12s, A35s, A36s, and A5s are still approaching CP from the Sophia Islands. The A11s and A73 are heading north through Blackney Pass.

Anna@CP

06 Jul 2004 09:27:12 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

After swimming past CP and the Lab, the A4s, A5s, A12s, and A36s continued west. Last we heard, they were at Bear Point on Malcolm Island and still westing.

Anna & Mary@CP

06 Jul 2004 14:37:26 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s are on their way back into the Strait via Weynton Pass. The others are still up by Malcolm Island heading west.

Anna & Mary@CP

06 Jul 2004 15:36:42 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A12s have made their way back into Johnstone Strait and are heading east along the Vancouver Island shore, opposite the Blackney Pass gap.

Anna & Mary@CP

06 Jul 2004 16:50:13 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A12s are approaching Critical Point and heading to the east... The A36s, A11s, and A30s have turned back to the east along the backside of Malcolm Island.

Anna and Mary@CP

06 Jul 2004 18:32:07 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A36s are heading passed OrcaLab and making their way towards Johnstone Strait.

Anna and Mary@CP

06 Jul 2004 21:21:53 PDT



**Wednesday July 07, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

We had a busy night last night. After the A12s headed east, the A36s swam by the Lab and then out into the Strait, heading east, silent the whole time. We heard blows during the night, also easting, and believe that everyone made it back into the strait, but they were all silent. This morning the whales are headed back west and we should soon have a chance to figure out exactly who came in last night.

Anna & Mary@CP

07 Jul 2004 08:47:33 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

We are seeing some whales heading up the strait towards CP. We should have the A12s and at least one other group.

Anna & Mary@CP

07 Jul 2004 09:21:02 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s are up at the top end of Hanson Island, foraging and making their way to the west.

Anna@CP

07 Jul 2004 10:40:56 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s are up off of Lizard Point and slowly making their way to the west. Orcas have been reported down to the east and heading east.

Anna@CP

07 Jul 2004 14:52:56 PDT

Thursday July 08, 2004**Distant calls audible.**

The A30s are making their way back to the west, along the Vancouver Island shore at Kaikash Beach. The A12s are still (we think) up to the west and the A4s, A5s, and A36s were spotted yesterday heading through Seymour Narrows to the east. The A30s were reported with them at the time, so we don't know if everyone has turned back or not.

Anna@CP

08 Jul 2004 06:26:14 PDT

Boat noise

The A36s have been heard in the strait as well.

Anna@CP

08 Jul 2004 07:00:12 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s and A36s have been reported opposite Telegraph Cove. No direction was given.

Anna@CP

08 Jul 2004 08:00:19 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s, A36s and maybe the A12s are up off the top end of Hanson Island. They are very spread out and slowly heading to the east.

Anna@CP

08 Jul 2004 08:45:09 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The whales are moving towards Weynton Pass, some have cleared in but we are not sure if all the groups have decided to go up into Blackfish Sound.

Anna@CP

08 Jul 2004 09:14:54 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

The A36s and A30s have been resting all morning. The A36s are near Lizard Point on Malcolm Island and still westing. The A30s are in Cormorant Channel near Alert Bay and they have turned back to the east. The A12s were last reported near Pine Island. Another group of orcas, including the A4s, is slowly making its way west. That group was last reported at St. Vincent's Bight.

Anna & Mary@CP

08 Jul 2004 15:28:31 PDT

Boat noise

We are hearing A4 and A5 calls on CRPT as the whales head up the Strait from the east. They are near Robson Bight right now. There are also A1 calls on CRPT as the A30s head down the Strait from the top end of Hanson Island. There are two big cruise ships coming down the Strait, so boat noise may get worse soon.

Anna & Mary@CP

08 Jul 2004 17:58:45 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s are off the Blackney Pass gap, mid strait and heading quickly to the east. The A4s are approaching Izumi Rock, a little off the Vancouver Island shore. They are quickly heading to the west.

Anna & Mary@CP

08 Jul 2004 18:33:06 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We are hearing the A30s and A4s as they head west up the Strait.

Anna & Mary@CP

08 Jul 2004 19:44:03 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We believe the A30s and the A4s may have gone "out" through Weynton Pass - just to the west of Hanson Island on the Johnstone Strait side. We are waiting to hear if they come out on the Blackfish side in a while.

Helena

08 Jul 2004 21:13:12 PDT

Pax, Yes all the calls can be distinguished from one another. The "N" calls are for the northern residents and some pods share calls (these pods are considered to be in an acoustic "clan"), and others don't share any calls, and are in different clans. For example, all the A's are in A clan and share some calls with each other, but they don't share any calls with the G's of G clan. You can email me at dbriggsa12@verizon.net for more info. Hope that helps.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon (previously @Bay Area)

08 Jul 2004 10:06:56 PDT

Pax, I was thinking more about your question and maybe didn't answer what you were asking, so here's some more info. Some of the A calls are similar for each of the 3 A pods, and some have slight differences (accents, or a different ending, for example) making it possible to recognize which pod you are listening to, and there are some calls that only A1, or A4, or A5 make making identification possible.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

08 Jul 2004 10:15:47 PDT



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Friday July 09, 2004

Distant calls audible.

Sorry, we forgot to post a comment last night. The A30s and the A4s came back east in the Strait and past Robson Bight by 11pm. This morning the A4s have come back and are passing CP right now.

Helena

09 Jul 2004 07:38:34 PDT

Blackney A38

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s are there as well with the A4s.

Helena

09 Jul 2004 07:46:06 PDT



Pointer A38



No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s and the A4s continued west in Johnstone Strait. They are now past the entrance of Blackney Pass headed west parallel to the Hanson Island shore.

Helena

09 Jul 2004 08:11:58 PDT



No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s and A11s are approaching the Blackney Pass gap, mid strait and slowly heading to the east. They are grouped up together and in a large resting group.

Anna@CP

09 Jul 2004 09:08:40 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A4s and A30s are off the Baron Reefs, still slowly heading to the east in a tight resting group.

Anna and Mary@CP

09 Jul 2004 10:41:15 PDT

No orcas present.

The A30s and A4s are opposite the Sophia Islands and still (very slowly) heading to the east.

Anna@CP

09 Jul 2004 11:41:58 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30S and A4s turned about an hour ago and have been slowly making their way back to the west. Right now they are approaching CP, mid strait and still resting.

Anna and mary@CP

09 Jul 2004 14:33:32 PDT



T14 has been reported heading towards CP from the east and should be getting near to the Sophia Islands. The A4s and A30s turned at Weynton Pass and are crossing towards the Vancouver Island shore.

Anna and Mary@CP

09 Jul 2004 17:23:05 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s are travelling to the east along the Vancouver Island shore, opposite the Blackney Pass gap. T14 has cleared out of our sight, into Blackney Pass. We are hearing A4 calls up on Flower Island.

Anna and Mary@CP

09 Jul 2004 18:08:17 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A4s must have come back and picked up the A30s. They have all headed into Blackfish Sound. Only a few relaxed calls as they cleared out of view. It is almost dark and we could just make out the fins but not the individual features on the fins or saddle patches. Slight drizzle and misty evening.

Helena

09 Jul 2004 22:27:23 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The whales have begun to call in Blackfish Sound. Some very interesting calls!

Helena

09 Jul 2004 22:32:00 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

After a brief vocal period, the A30s & A4s have gone quiet again as they (probably) make their way north via Blackfish Sound.

Paul & Helena

09 Jul 2004 23:36:23 PDT



Tail A4S and A30s

Hi Jan, It made it this time, and from what I can tell they are N3's from the A's. Very stretched out and pronounced N3's though. Makes you wonder what was happening. Sometimes we hear calls like that and wonder what was going on, if everyone was ok, a little bit ill, social stuff,...? Maybe just stretching...? But it sure sounded like N3's to me.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

09 Jul 2004 23:21:18 PDT

Jan, I just saw Helena's comment, so she's hearing something unusual too. maybe she'll share in a later comment what she heard. It wasn't an ordinary N3, that's for sure, but that as close as I can get.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

09 Jul 2004 23:24:52 PDT

Jan, and everyone still awake (although for some of you, it's morning already) - g'nite and happy listening. An unusual night out there: transients and residents earlier, unusual calls tonight, wish I knew more about recognizing the calls...maybe we'll be more clear later on. Nite all!

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

09 Jul 2004 23:30:10 PDT

**Saturday July 10, 2004****Orcas relaxing.**

We are listening to resting calls(A pod) on CRPT hydrophone.

Tomoko

10 Jul 2004 04:03:08 PDT

Superb sounds!!

They woke up...We are listening to the A30s and A4s. They are in CRPT hydrophone area.

Tomoko

10 Jul 2004 04:11:48 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The Whales decided to go north with ebbing tide...Their calls are now on LL hydrophone.

Tomoko

10 Jul 2004 05:17:05 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s and A4s went north through Blackney pass. They're still making resting calls in Blackfish Sound. Cold foggy morning.

Tomoko

10 Jul 2004 05:32:52 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

After a quiet morning without hearing any calls, we have just heard a report that the A12s are heading back "in". They are on the north side of Malcolm Island, heading east towards Lizard Point, slowly, in a resting line. If they keep going, they should be within range of our hydrophones within a couple of hours.

Paul

10 Jul 2004 11:28:17 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s are approaching Donnegal Head & Blackfish Sound from the north and should be within range of the Flower Island hydrophone soon. They have been travelling slowly & are silent at this time.

Paul

10 Jul 2004 14:54:49 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s have finally reached the "top" of Blackfish Sound & are still moving slowly & quietly eastwards.

Paul

10 Jul 2004 15:44:48 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s turned back to the west in mid Blackfish Sound about an hour ago, and are now headed north again, towards Foster Island. They made a few calls shortly before they turned, but have been mostly silent for hours.

Paul

10 Jul 2004 17:34:14 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s came back into Blackfish Sound a short while ago, and were heard on the Flower Island hydrophone. We are no longer hearing their calls, so it's possible they have gone silent again, or that they are heading towards Johnstone Strait via Weynton Pass.

Paul

10 Jul 2004 20:19:48 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We're beginning to think that the A12s must have headed north from Blackfish Sound again, rather than going into Johnstone Strait. We are waiting.

Paul

10 Jul 2004 22:07:32 PDT

**Sunday July 11, 2004****No orcas present.**

We've heard no calls overnight and are not sure where the A12s ended up last evening. It's a very foggy morning here, with boat noise below and a calm surface to the ocean.

Paul

11 Jul 2004 06:05:01 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls or reports of orcas so far today. We are waiting.

Paul

11 Jul 2004 10:28:23 PDT

No orcas present.

Still no reports of orcas nearby today... still waiting.

Paul

11 Jul 2004 14:11:40 PDT

**No orcas present.**

Finally, after a day without orca sightings or calls, the A12s are reported to be about 8km to the west of Pulteney Point (west end of Malcolm Island) and are headed east, i.e. towards us. If they keep going, they should come into range of our hydrophones before midnight.

Paul

11 Jul 2004 17:26:40 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls today but think the A12s are heading back "in", so we hope to hear them sometime tonight... we are waiting.

Paul11 Jul 2004 23:15:04 PDT

Monday July 12, 2004

**Distant calls audible.**

We are hearing very faint A1 calls on CRPT. The A12s might come back through Weynton Pass.

Tomoko

12 Jul 2004 02:53:50 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Sounds like the whales (possibly A12s) slowly going east. We are hearing faint calls on CP hydrophone.

Tomoko

12 Jul 2004 04:30:06 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A12s have made their way to the east, in Robson Bight now. We are listening to their calls and echo location on CRPT hydrophone.

Tomoko

12 Jul 2004 06:02:52 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The A12s are in the rubbing beach.

Tomoko

12 Jul 2004 07:04:21 PDT

Distant calls audible.

After going into the rubbing beaches twice, the A12s have turned back to the west again. We're hearing their calls on the Critical Point hydrophone... sounds like they are mid-Strait off Robson Bight.

Paul

12 Jul 2004 08:32:28 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A12s are approaching CP from the east. It is still a little foggy but I can hear blows around the Baron Reefs.

Anna@CP

12 Jul 2004 09:16:25 PDT

Boat noise

The A12s have moved off the Cracroft Island shore and are now spread out from mid strait to the Vancouver Island side. They are between Izumi Rock and Kaikash Beach heading to the west.

Anna@CP

12 Jul 2004 09:47:31 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

A34 is foraging off CP with her 2 youngest kids - Anna is filming them (Channel A). The other A12s are spread out across to the Vancouver Island side of Johnstone Strait. They are generally westbound.

Paul

12 Jul 2004 10:21:43 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

The A12s are still spread out and foraging off Big Bay. There is a report of whales incoming off Bere Point...

Anna@CP

12 Jul 2004 11:25:36 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A12s turned about 30 minutes ago and are heading east to the east off the top of Hanson Island.

Anna@CP

12 Jul 2004 13:08:19 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A12s are approaching CP from the Blackney Pass gap and heading east.

Anna@CP

12 Jul 2004 13:47:26 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A12s headed west in Johnstone Strait



and are presently off Big Bay. They have just turned back to the east again. As they turned, they became vocal. We're hearing their calls on the Critical Point hydrophone. Meanwhile, other orcas are heading "in" from Queen Charlotte Strait... sounds like the Bs & possibly the Ws. If they keep coming our way, things could get even more exciting around here later today!

Paul

12 Jul 2004 15:17:58 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A12s are in Robson Bight, making their way eastwards & have become quite vocal over the past few minutes. There is boat noise also, but hopefully it will be gone soon. Meanwhile, other orcas (Bs, Ws?) are making their way towards Blackfish Sound and could be within range of our hydrophones soon.

Paul

12 Jul 2004 17:13:03 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A12s have turned at Critical Point and are now heading back to the west, very quickly.

Anna@CP

12 Jul 2004 17:40:43 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

The A12s (A12 and A33 in the lead, followed by the A34s) just cleared from Johnstone Strait into Blackney Pass.

Anna@CP

12 Jul 2004 19:18:57 PDT



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No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s came back into JS and are now heading east towards the Sophia Islands.

Anna@CP

12 Jul 2004 19:54:18 PDT

Superb sounds!!

At last, the Bs have arrived in Johnstone Strait... they came in via Weynton Pass & we are listening to their calls on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

12 Jul 2004 20:31:02 PDT

Boat noise

Now we are only hearing boat noise, but the Bs are in Johnstone Strait and so are the A12s... hopefully, the boat noise will end soon & we will hear the orcas calling again.

Paul

12 Jul 2004 20:43:32 PDT

Boat noise

We're still hearing only boat noise (more on the way) but one of the B males has been spotted to the west of Blackney Pass, near Blinkhorn. The other Bs are probably not far away, but the light makes it difficult to see in that direction from CP. Meanwhile, the A12s have moved over from the Sophias towards Kaikash, and are moving slowly eastwards. Possibly, they are waiting for the Bs to come down to where they are.

Paul

12 Jul 2004 21:29:52 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The Bs have moved in closer to Critical Point and the Bight. Despite the boat noise the calls are very strong and clear.

Helena

12 Jul 2004 22:35:50 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The boat noise has finally gone & we're listening to just the great sounds of the Bs close to the Critical Point hydrophone. We've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

12 Jul 2004 23:14:09 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The Bs have now gone past Critical Point and



we can no longer hear them... soon, however, we may hear them again when they reach the rubbing beaches.

Paul

12 Jul 2004 23:28:04 PDT

Woobies, The "fog horn" call is probably the N1, a very strident call of the B's. All the A clan can do the N1, but the B's, C's, D's, H's, and the I1's, 17's and 18's do it differently from the A1'1, 4's and 5's. They do it very strongly. It's one of my favorite calls! Sounds like it must carry for many miles.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

13 Jul 2004 08:10:03 PDT

Good morning Dave, Thank you for the info about the B calls. I was just wondering if their was a distinctive call to recognize the B's from. Is it just the N1 (foghorn) or are their other typical "B calls"?

Jan@Netherlands

13 Jul 2004 08:26:39 PDT

Hi Jan No the N1 of the B's (there's one now!) is similar to the N1 of the C's and D's. I can't remember the number for the distinctive B calls. I'll dig up my notes and email you.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

13 Jul 2004 08:34:13 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We sre listening to the B calls on CRPT hydrophone.

Tomoko

13 Jul 2004 05:41:11 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We think that the Bs headed east past Critical Point late last evening, and that they are now on their way back to the west & are in the vicinity of Robson Bight - perhaps on the Cracroft Island side of Johnstone Strait. We don't think they went into the rubbing beaches on their way east. We don't know what happened to the A12s.

Paul

13 Jul 2004 06:13:06 PDT

Superb sounds!!

It sounds like the Bs are approaching Cracroft Point - these calls are on the CP hydrohone. Unfortunately, the fog is very heavy this morning, so it won't be possible to see them. We're sending a Messenger alert.

Paul

13 Jul 2004 06:53:06 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The Bs are passing CP in the fog. It sounds like they are about mid strait and are going to continue to the west in Johnstone Strait.

Anna@CP

13 Jul 2004 07:28:44 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Whales have been reported heading west towards the east end of the reserve. The Bs have not been heard from since they cleared up to the west at 7:30 this morning

Anna@CP

13 Jul 2004 10:00:22 PDT

Boat noise

The A12s were sighted earlier in the afternoon by Forward Bay and heading to the east. No boats are following them any more. The Bs were not sighted after they left Johnstone Strait but we presume that they continued up to the west.

Anna@CP

13 Jul 2004 17:10:13 PDT

Tuesday July 13, 2004

**Wednesday July 14, 2004****No orcas present.**

It's a very foggy morning here & we've heard no calls overnight. We are waiting.

Paul

14 Jul 2004 06:54:35 PDT

No orcas present.

An update on the orcas to the east came in just after I posted the last comment... it seems the orcas are headed west into Johnstone Strait, which means there's a good chance we'll hear/see them later today!

Paul

14 Jul 2004 10:44:13 PDT

No orcas present.

It is difficult to hear the radio reports from the east because everyone is so far away but the last audible report said that the A12s were east bound again 1 mile west of Nodales Channel. Nodales is almost the most eastern part of the Johnstone Strait system. Meanwhile, there is a humpback off Bold Head in Blackfish Sound.

Helena

14 Jul 2004 14:45:28 PDT

No orcas present.

Still no whales but a beautiful evening. The fog came and went today and when it had lifted it was really hot. We are hopeful, in the meantime, that the A12s will turn and come back up the Strait.

Helena

14 Jul 2004 21:45:36 PDT

Thursday July 15, 2004**No orcas present.**

It's another very foggy morning here, and once again we've heard no orcas calling overnight. We are waiting.

Paul

15 Jul 2004 07:09:50 PDT

No orcas present.

We've still heard no orca calls so far today. However, there have been 3 humpbacks in Blackney Pass & 2 of them have gone out into Johnstone Strait... Channel A.

Paul

15 Jul 2004 11:55:40 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

Good News! The A36s are back and moving into Blackfish Sound.

Helena

15 Jul 2004 16:17:56 PDT

Distant calls audible.

And they just began to call as well.

Helena

15 Jul 2004 16:19:09 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

A46 has just cleared from view of the lab and should be coming up to CP very soon. A37 and A32 are still up in Blackfish Sound and making their way South.

Mary@CP

15 Jul 2004 17:05:05 PDT



Superb sounds!!

Sorry folks! A46 just came into sight of CP; he was near the Hanson shore. Before he got into the Strait, he turned and headed back into Blackney in a very rushed manner. His brothers, A32 and A37, have stopped up in Blackfish Sound and may be waiting for A46 to catch up to them. It looks like they may be changing their plans.

Mary@CP

15 Jul 2004 17:30:35 PDT

Distant calls audible.

This has been interesting to say the least!. A46 came into Blackney Pass all by himself and travelled through to the Strait. The other two stayed in Blackfish Sound and we never saw them but they kept in touch by calling. After an excited bout of calls from A46 he came back through Blackney and cleared into Blackfish at 5:41pm. Now the three are calling in Blackfish. The A12s have been reported heading west at 3:38 off the Broken Island group which is still a ways to the east. If they come back on the ebbing tide they won't be long and we will see if they get together with the A36s. We haven't heard them yet.

Helena

15 Jul 2004 17:52:17 PDT

Performing maintenance

The live streams seem to be down for the moment... sorry! We are investigating.

Paul

15 Jul 2004 19:00:22 PDT

Distant calls audible.

A46 hurried and caught up with his brothers in Blackfish Sound. All together they travelled between the Plumpers and Hanson Island to end up in the Strait heading east. Meanwhile the A12s entered the reserve and did some foraging before heading west along the Vancouver Island side of the Strait.

Mary@CP

15 Jul 2004 22:28:50 PDT

Ok Cathyb, Here it is again, The 12's and 36's are both in the A1 pod, so they share all their calls (make all the same calls), but the 12's have what Helena (of OL) named the "A12 special", a variation of the N5. The 12's version has an upsweep at the end, while the 36's is more of a single tonal call. Listen for the 2.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

15 Jul 2004 22:49:37 PDT

Hi Dave, thanks for the explanation. Is the N5 "A12 special" on the CD?

Jan@Netherlands

15 Jul 2004 22:53:24 PDT

Hi Jan, Yes, the last calls of that track are the A12 special.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

15 Jul 2004 22:57:41 PDT



A12

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A36s

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**Friday July 16, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

We're listening to the A12s & A36s on the Cracroft Point & Critical Point hydrophones as they make their way east in Johnstone Strait, after entering via Weynton Passage about 4am. Earlier, around 1am, these 2 groups had left the Strait together via Blackney Pass. It's another calm morning here, this time without fog.

Paul

16 Jul 2004 05:00:26 PDT

Distant calls audible.

A12 came in pretty close to CP. She did some foraging in the Blackney gap and then went right by us. The boys are up in the lead and the A34s are just opposite CP and close to the VI shore.

Mary@CP

16 Jul 2004 06:12:59 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We've had a busy morning. The A36s and A12s got down to Critical Point and spent some time in the reserve. The A36s turned to the West and went by CP pretty close. They grouped up in Weynton and look to be heading out again. Meanwhile, the A12s have turned to the West as well. The A34s are just off the Sophias while A12 is tight to the VI shore. A33 is somewhere in the middle and they are all making thier way West.

Mary@CP

16 Jul 2004 10:18:36 PDT



A34 & HER BABY

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NACHO & SALSA

FOR NON COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL USE ONLY

Distant calls audible.

We just had the A12s go west past CP. They milled a bit in the entrance to Blackney. A12, A33, and A62 were pretty tight to the Vancouver Island side of the Strait, but A34 and her new baby came in close to CP. They moved back out to join up with A55, A67, and A74. Together the group slowly continued to the west.

Mary@CP

16 Jul 2004 11:11:39 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s got up to Blinkhorn and then turned back to the east. They are making their way back slowly. The A36s are still on their way out. They were last reported at the top end of Blackfish Sound.

Mary@CP

16 Jul 2004 12:57:15 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s are in a resting line and slowly making their way to the east. They are across from CP right now and about in the middle of the Strait. There is also a dead tree floating near them that has three juvenile bald eagles hanging out on it.

Mary@CP

16 Jul 2004 14:08:58 PDT



No calls but orcas nearby

Two humpbacks just came up off of CP. It looks like it is "Nacho" and "Salsa"; "Nacho" has the nick in his fin. They seem to be heading for Blackney Pass and at a pretty good pace.

Mary@CP

16 Jul 2004 14:13:45 PDT



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No calls but orcas nearby

The A36s continued out through Weynton Passage earlier. The A12s remained and turned off Blinkhorn and then made their way slowly eastward. They then formed a resting line and slowly drifted mid strait to the east. They are currently opposite Robson Bight and still asleep.

Helena

16 Jul 2004 16:39:22 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A12s have moved in closer to Critical Point in Robson Bight. They are calling while foraging for an afternoon bite.

Helena

16 Jul 2004 17:11:21 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A12s are spread out in Robson Bight. They have more or less turned to the west, foraging, spy hopping, moving slowly.

Helena

16 Jul 2004 17:31:48 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A34s are eastbound travelling in close to Critical Point. A33 is quite a bit ahead, past critical Point & further offshore.

Helena

16 Jul 2004 17:59:27 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s are angling in toward the Rubbing Beach.

Helena

16 Jul 2004 18:35:14 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Another change of plans. A33 was beyond the eastern boundary of the reserve and at 6:22 he turned back to the West. The rest of the A12s were behind him and they had also turned by 6:30. The group is now heading back in this direction along the Vancouver Island shore. If they are vocal we should hear them on Critical Point soon.

Mary@CP

16 Jul 2004 18:54:16 PDT

Superb sounds!!

It sounds like they have arrived back at Critical Point.

Helena

16 Jul 2004 19:07:05 PDT

Boat noise

There are two cruise ships heading down the Strait, but they should be out of range shortly. At 7:30 the A34s were heading west along the VI shore in the reserve. A33 and A12 were further ahead and further off the shore; they were near Chocolate Chip. The last report on the A36s was at 7:10. They were foraging near White Cliffs, which is just above Bold Head.

Mary@CP

16 Jul 2004 19:58:43 PDT



Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

A12 just surprised us by coming right past CP. We thought that we had all of the A12s on the Vancouver Island side of the Strait. She headed into Blackney Pass right after Notcho and Salsa (the humpbacks) came out of the pass and into the Strait. The other A12s were last seen on the Vancouver Island side of the Strait approaching the Kaikash area and still heading west. These calls are on Parson Island. Note from earlier: Chocolate Chip is a bump of a mountain between Robson Point and the mouth of the Tsitika River. It is the little bump right above the western end of the reserve from our point of view.

Mary@CP

16 Jul 2004 21:39:30 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Salsa and Notcho are heading up the Strait towards Weynton Pass. They are approaching Big Bay and are on the Hanson Island side.

Mary@CP

16 Jul 2004 21:58:33 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A12s have now passed through Blackney Pass and into Blackfish Sound. A33 led most of the way with A12 not far off. The A34s were mostly together. There were a couple of half breaches as they travelled fairly fast and comfortably to the north.

Helena

16 Jul 2004 22:15:28 PDT

We used that mountain, a hill really, as a zone boundary dividing the western part of the bight from the central bight area, and so we had to describe it's location to every new person we had work for us, and one day while trying to describe which green, tree covered hill above the bight we were talking about, either myself or one of my crew said that it was the one shaped like a chocolate chip. You see, we had been camping a long time by then, and you know how good chocolate is while camping. Well, the name stuck...

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

16 Jul 2004 22:41:46 PDT

Superb sounds!!

We're listening to the A12s on the Critical Point hydrophone... sounds like they've entered Johnstone Strait via Weynton Pass & are headed east. The lovely pre-sunrise scene we're watching is from the rubbing beaches. We've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

17 Jul 2004 05:13:03 PDT



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No calls but orcas nearby

No orcas are presently within range of our hydrophones, but some of them are not far away - the A12s headed east in Johnstone Strait past Robson Bight around 6am.

Paul

17 Jul 2004 09:22:01 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A36s have been sighted a little to the north of Blackfish Sound. They are foraging at the moment & generally headed slowly eastwards. There's a good chance they will come within range of our hydrophones soon.

Paul

17 Jul 2004 10:43:58 PDT

No orcas present.

The humpbacks are slowing making their way towards CP. They should be visible soon.

Mary@CP

17 Jul 2004 12:22:53 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Saturday July 17, 2004



Well, the A36s made it into the Strait while we were busy with the humpbacks. The A36s are up at Big Bay, about midchannel, and moving towards CP. They may be visible soon. There were a few distant calls on Critical Point when they first got into range. The last update on the A12s is that they have turned back to the east; they were near Port Neville at the time.

Mary@CP

17 Jul 2004 15:52:06 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Just before 4:00 the A36s stalled a bit and turned back to the west. They are heading through Weynton Pass on thier way out.

Mary@CP

17 Jul 2004 16:13:31 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Last we heard, the A36s were near Blinkhorn, still Westing. We have picked up a few faint calls on Critical Point. Salsa and Notcho (the humpbacks) got down to the Bight area before turing back to the west. They moved past us pretty quickly and are now in the entrance to Blackney Pass. It looks like they will head up the Strait.

Mary@CP

17 Jul 2004 17:38:07 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Sounds like the A36s didn't leave the Strait and still in the vicinity of Blinkhorn foraging. "Notchos" and Salsa are westbound around the Big Bay area.

Helena

17 Jul 2004 17:44:52 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A36s are slowly heading this way. But right now, Notcho and Salsa are about 200 meters off CP.

Mary@CP

17 Jul 2004 18:15:54 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A36s are grouped up and are resting thier way to the east. They are just opposite Little Kaikash right now and about 1/3 off the Vancouver Island shore. It's hard to see them through the heat haze.

Mary@CP

17 Jul 2004 18:52:52 PDT

Orcas near mics.

We're hearing close calls from the A36s on the Critical Point hydrophone. The 3 brothers are making their way to the east in Johnstone Strait and have reached Robson Bight. If they keep going east, they may head into the rubbing beaches soon... if we're lucky, we may see them rubbing before it gets dark !

Paul

17 Jul 2004 21:26:12 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A36s are still in Robson Bight - we're listening to their calls on the Critical Point hydrophone. The calls are clear, & for the moment at least, there is no boat noise.

Paul

17 Jul 2004 22:24:42 PDT

Lisa, The orca can rest for hours sometimes, so resting is done both on the surface and below water; sort of slowed down swimming. Some pods rest by mostly floating on the surface, others swim at a much reduced speed, including 3 short dives followed by 1 longer 1 (their normal dive pattern). Resting can be so beautiful when they line up shoulder to shoulder...

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

17 Jul 2004 19:55:50 PDT

You'll notice CP's comment that the 36's are "grouped up". That's what I meant by shoulder to shoulder. When they rest, they tend to group up close and synchronize their breathing, and swim slowly. That's one of the definitions of resting for these guys. Sometimes several pods, or more will line up all in a row and surface and dive together. It's amazing to see, and hear, all those blows at the same time, or one after another in a few seconds. We've seen over 40 whales in these "resting lines" several times in recent years. Later in the summer, when more whales are here, it's possible to see such an event. We can only hope...

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

17 Jul 2004 20:03:29 PDT

**Sunday July 18, 2004****Superb sounds!!**

The A36s went east, visiting Rubbing beach. Meanwhile, the A12s came back from the east. they are in Robson bight, sounds like having a good time in there.

Tomoko

18 Jul 2004 00:15:42 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A12s have moved west. Now they are almost coming into Blackney Pass. We are listening to their calls and echolocations on PI hydrophone.

Tomoko

18 Jul 2004 03:06:15 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A12s just headed past CP. We heard their blows from 2:30 to 2:50. Two whales came within 25 meters of us, rushing towards Blackney. We could see their fins because they have glowing wakes tonight. There was enough bioluminescence in the water to light up the whales and leave a path behind them. It was beautiful. It sounded like A33 was farther off CP, but still in the entrance to Blackney. He followed the others and was the last to clear.

Mary@CP

18 Jul 2004 03:07:22 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A12s went north through Blackney pass. Their calls are on FI hydrophone now.

Tomoko

18 Jul 2004 04:12:57 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A12s are keep going north. We are listening to their calls on FI hydrophone. BUT there are 3 big blows(?A36s) heading north in Blackney pass. they are quiet right now.

Tomoko

18 Jul 2004 04:49:23 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Two groups of orcas are reported easting between Donegal Head and Penfold Island. We aren't sure who is there yet, but it is probably the A12s and A36s. If they are vocal, we should hear them on the Flower Island hydrophone once they get down into Blackfish Sound.

Mary@CP

18 Jul 2004 09:38:08 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s & A36s have been sighted a little to the north of Blackfish Sound - near Lizard Point on Malcolm Island. They are headed east, i.e. they are headed back "in". If they keep going, they should be within range of our hydrophones in (perhaps) a couple of hours from now.

Paul

18 Jul 2004 09:59:29 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s are closer than we thought - they are near Donegal Head on Malcolm Island, i.e. just to the north of Blackfish Sound. If they are vocal, there's a good chance we'll hear them soon.

Paul

18 Jul 2004 10:03:31 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s have turned back to the west at the "top" of Blackfish Sound, so they're headed away again, at least for the moment. The tide turns to flood in less than an hour, so perhaps they'll be back again before long.

Paul

18 Jul 2004 10:45:35 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s and the A36s have turned back to the east and are now slowly moving toward Donegal Head.

Helena

18 Jul 2004 11:53:17 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s & A36s are moving quickly through Weynton Pass on the flooding tide... they should be in Johnstone Strait within a few minutes.

Paul

18 Jul 2004 13:11:21 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

The A12s & A36s are steadily making their way east in Johnstone Strait & are now past Blinkhorn. After making a few calls as they entered the Strait, they have become silent again.

Paul

18 Jul 2004 14:04:42 PDT

A12 just came past CP foraging along the way. The rest of the A12s and the A36s are on the other side of the Strait, spread out along Kaikash Beach.

Mary@CP

18 Jul 2004 15:00:50 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We began hearing calls from the A36s on the Critical Point hydrophone a short while ago. The A36s & most of the A12s are on the Vancouver Island side of the Strait, eastbound, mid way between Izumi Rock & the western boundary of the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight. A male is mid-Strait (possibly A33) and A12 is on the Cracroft Island side.

Paul

18 Jul 2004 15:32:03 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A12s & A36s have become more vocal as they head towards Robson Bight. There is very little boat noise at the moment, so we're going to send a Messenger alert.

Paul

18 Jul 2004 15:51:33 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The whales are at the rubbing beaches - Channel A.

Paul

18 Jul 2004 16:33:24 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The whales (the A12s at least) are headed back to the west after their nice rub.

Helena

18 Jul 2004 17:39:32 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls for several hours and are not sure where the A12s & A36s ended up today. We are waiting.

Paul

18 Jul 2004 23:16:31 PDT

Orcas hunting fish.

We're hearing echolocation close to the Critical Point hydrophone in Robson Bight, along with some more distant calls. It sounds like the A12s & A36s are headed back west again and are doing a little fishing along the way.

Paul

18 Jul 2004 23:40:15 PDT

Karen, From the work of Lance Lennard-Barret and fom observations by many, it appears that females mate with whales from other pods (long believed to be the case, because breeding with one's own family is bad genetically), and most likely from other clans much of the time. The acoustic system of dialsects serve to tell each other degrees of relatedness. Pods that share calls are in the same clan, and mating may happen more often across clans, where calls are not shared and they are likely to be less related to each other. Little is known however, as observations of mating are few.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

18 Jul 2004 11:15:46 PDT

**Monday July 19, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

We just experienced a mild earthquake at 1:01 am. According to Natural Resources Canada, the epicenter was in the Nootka Sound area, but it was felt across Vancouver Island (and all the way to CP). The whales started calling again right after the earthquake ended.

Mary@CP

19 Jul 2004 01:35:34 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We heard blows heading west last night at 2:14 am. It sounded like the three big blows of the A36s. They crossed Blackney Pass to the Hanson Island side and probably headed up the Strait, but they could have slipped into Blackney instead. Their blows were gone by 2:32 am.

Mary@CP

19 Jul 2004 06:21:15 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

It's another foggy morning here, and we've heard no calls since about 1:30am - these were probably from the A36s heading west in Johnstone Strait. A short while ago we heard 3 blows heading north through Blackney Pass on the ebbing tide... probably, these are the A36s, though we haven't heard any calls from them yet. We are listening.

Paul

19 Jul 2004 09:00:30 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s have been sighted off Lizard Point on Malcolm Island, i.e. to the north of Blackfish Sound, so it's possible the blows we heard in Blackney Pass earlier were from them. It's still foggy, so the A36s could be there as well. The tide turns to flood at noon today, so it's possible we'll see the orcas come back "in" early this afternoon.

Paul

19 Jul 2004 10:56:48 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We just started hearing distant "A" calls on the Flower Island hydrophone... they are from the A12s who have now reached the "top" of Blackfish Sound. The A36s are further north, near Lizard Point, but are also heading eastward and should come within range of our hydrophones before long.

Paul

19 Jul 2004 12:47:51 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

It looks like the A12s have decided to head into Johnstone Strait via Weynton Pass. A12 & A33 are over half way through, moving quickly on the flooding tide. The A34s are quite a bit behind, near Stubbs Island, but should follow them. There's a good chance we'll hear calls soon, when A12 & A33 enter the Strait.

Paul

19 Jul 2004 13:33:42 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We're beginning to hear distant calls from the A12s as they enter Johnstone Strait and make their way east.

Paul

19 Jul 2004 14:07:15 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A12s are in front of CP. They were going east but have since stopped and are now milling/ foraging. The A36s are there as well, mid strait, opposite Kaikash Creek.

Helena

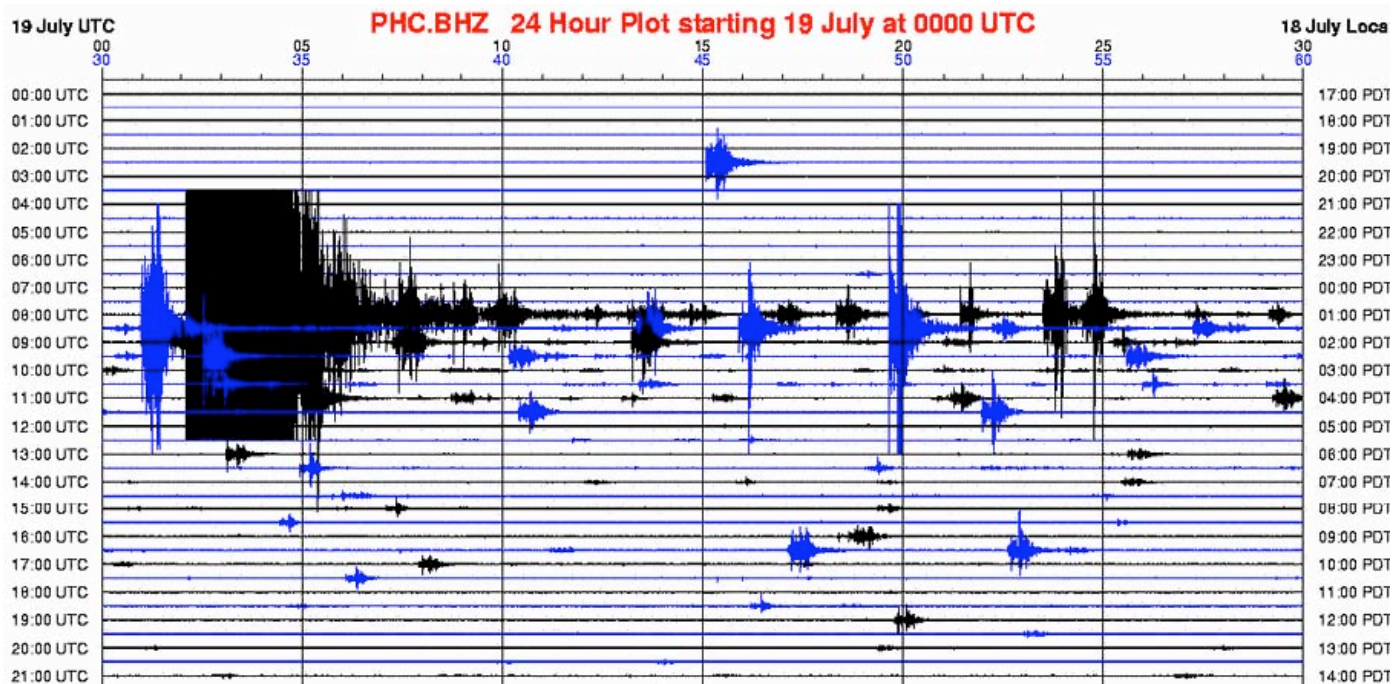
19 Jul 2004 15:36:52 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A12s have turned back to the west and are heading up the Strait past the entrance to Blackney. The A36s have turned as well and are following the A12. A46 came in pretty close and the other A36 boys are further out in the Strait.

Mary@CP

19 Jul 2004 15:51:04 PDT



**Distant calls audible.**

The whales are still working their way west in the Strait. Three males are about a third off Hanson and there are another four whales right along the Hanson Island shore. There are some Dall's porpoises feeding near the whales. They are roostertailing and making those splashes.

Mary@CP

19 Jul 2004 16:18:27 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A12s have reached Robson Bight and are getting closer to the Critical Point hydrophone... they will probably pass beyond it soon, and perhaps half an hour later may arrive at the rubbing beaches. We're sending a Messenger alert.

Paul

19 Jul 2004 17:29:22 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

A12 and A33 passed the rubbing beach. A12 angled in for the fastest rub ever. She just went from the west end of the beach to the east and then moved out to midstrait with A33 and continued to the east. The A36s have passed the beach; they didn't come in, but we saw them on the camera. The A34s are taking their time in getting to the beaches. We'll have to wait to see if they will rub.

Mary@CP

19 Jul 2004 19:32:16 PDT

Monday July 20, 2004**No orcas present.**

After thier short rub, the A12s and A36s continued east. There are still to the east as far as we know and there have been no reports yet this morning.

Mary@CP

20 Jul 2004 08:25:18 PDT

No orcas present.

We just heard a report from the east that the orcas (A12s and A36s) are still easting at Ripple Rock. We will have to wait and see what happens during the rest of the day.

Mary@CP

20 Jul 2004 09:00:40 PDT

No orcas present.

We heard no calls overnight. A short while ago we heard a report that the A12s & A36s are far to the east in Johnstone Strait & are still headed eastwards. We are waiting for their return. Meanwhile, we are enjoying a quiet morning with patches of blue among the clouds that brought us much needed rain yesterday.

Paul

20 Jul 2004 09:02:05 PDT

Orcas near mics.

We started hearing close calls & echolocation on the Critical Point hydrophone a few minutes ago - sounds like the A36s have come back from the east! There was no boat noise at the time, so we sent a Messenger alert... but unfortunately, boat noise has now intruded.

Paul

20 Jul 2004 09:28:22 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A36s are off Cracroft Point after heading across from the Vancouver Island side at Kaikash. They were preceded by T14 who has now gone into Blackfish Sound after travelling northward through Blackney Pass.

Helena

20 Jul 2004 11:34:12 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

The A36s moved in closer to the hanson Island side as they continued to the west in Johnstone Strait. They are almost half way up the Hanson shore by now.

Helena

20 Jul 2004 12:54:44 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A36s are foraging now in Blackfish Sound (after coming through Weynton Pass earlier) and "Notchos" and Salsa (the humpback pair) are heading past the Lab to Johnstone Strait.

Helena

20 Jul 2004 16:09:14 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The humpbacks are continuing to the east and heading towards the Sophia Islands

Anna@CP

20 Jul 2004 17:07:05 PDT

No orcas present.

The A36s most likely continued west into Queen Charlotte Strait. The evening whale watch boat didn't locate them. They watched the humpbacks feeding in Blackney Pass instead.

Helena

20 Jul 2004 20:15:53 PDT

No orcas present.

The A36s most likely continued west into Queen Charlotte Strait. The evening whale watch boat didn't locate them. They watched the humpbacks feeding in Blackney Pass instead. Nothing of the A12s who we think are still coming back from the east.

Helena

20 Jul 2004 20:16:49 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A36s have just been sighted (by the evening whale watch boat) a little to the north of Blackfish Sound. They are headed east, so there's a good chance they'll come within range of our hydrophones soon.

Helena

20 Jul 2004 20:46:37 PDT

Orcas hunting fish.

We're listening to close echolocation on the Critical Point hydrophone & think the A12s have probably made it to Robson Bight on their way back to the west... we've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

20 Jul 2004 22:28:37 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

After being very vocal in Robson Bight, the A12s, the A12s have become silent... they are probably still making their way to the west in Johnstone Strait.

Paul

20 Jul 2004 23:34:05 PDT



**Wednesday July 21, 2004****Superb sounds!!**

We are listening to the A12s on CP hydrophone.

Tomoko

21 Jul 2004 00:49:47 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

There are blows outside of Orcalab. Sounds like the A12s are going to the north through Blackney Pass.

Tomoko

21 Jul 2004 01:29:37 PDT

Distant calls audible.

There are blows outside of Orcalab. Sounds like the A12s are going to the north through Blackney Pass.

Tomoko

21 Jul 2004 01:30:47 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

After making some resting calls in Blackney Pass, the A12s became quiet. Their blows have gone to north. Now they are in the area of FI hydrophone, so we are waiting for them to start calling again.

Tomoko

21 Jul 2004 02:13:48 PDT

Orcas relaxing.

They start calling again...We are listening to their resting calls on FI hydrophone.

Tomoko

21 Jul 2004 02:21:44 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls since early this morning, but think that the A12s & A36s are somewhere to the north of us. They are probably not far away. We are waiting.

Paul

21 Jul 2004 08:34:50 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s & A36s are moving slowly eastwards in fog & are between Donegal Head & Lizard Point on Malcolm Island. They are resting and silent, but if they continue, they should come into range of our Flower Island hydrophone within a few hours. The tide will change to "flood" a little after 1pm, making it easier for the whales to move in our direction.

Paul

21 Jul 2004 10:51:15 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We started hearing distant "A" calls on the Flower Island hydrophone a few minutes ago... sounds like the A12s & A36s are at the "top" of Blackfish Sound.

Paul

21 Jul 2004 11:56:32 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A12s and the A36s are making their way to the east, along the Vancouver Island shore and heading passed Kaikash.

Anna@CP

21 Jul 2004 14:55:05 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A36s & A12s turned back to the west a short while ago & they are now near the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

21 Jul 2004 18:06:40 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We're listening to distant calls on the Critical Point hydrophone as the A12s & A36s make their way west in Johnstone Strait. They are presently a little to the west of Kaikash & mostly on the Vancouver Island side of the Strait.

Paul

21 Jul 2004 20:29:15 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A12s & A36s have turned back to the east again and are presently mid-Strait off the Blackney Pass "gap". We've been hearing their calls on the Critical Point, Cracroft Point, & Parson Island hydrophones.

Paul

21 Jul 2004 21:00:01 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

We've heard no calls since around 9pm when the last comment was posted... at that time the A12s & A36s were moving slowly eastwards in a group, silent and resting.

Paul

21 Jul 2004 22:45:20 PDT

Thursday July 22, 2004**Distant calls audible.**

We are listening to the A36s calls on CRPT hydrophone.

Tomoko

22 Jul 2004 02:53:49 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A36s just went passed CP and cleared into Blackney Pass

Anna@CP

22 Jul 2004 06:29:47 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A36s began calling a short while ago after travelling north through Blackney Pass silently. The calls are being heard on the Flower Island hydrophone.

Paul

22 Jul 2004 07:34:17 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A36s are gradually moving northward into Queen Charlotte Strait. Not too far off there are two humpbacks closer to Donegal. The A12 s are headed west but still east of the Ecological Reserve.

Helena

22 Jul 2004 11:36:00 PDT

No orcas present.

The reports for the A12s and the A36s haven't changed very much. But after travelling eastward briefly (really a cross of the Strait) the A12s continued westward and are now 1/2 way between the "overturned boat" and Boat Bay on the Cracroft Island side. The A36s haven't changed direction and are still moving slowly northward into Queen Charlotte Strait. They are spending a lot of time foraging.

Helena

22 Jul 2004 13:22:21 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s are now off Boat bay. This means they will soon be in range of the Critical Point hydrophone!

Helena

22 Jul 2004 14:24:27 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

The A12s are slowly making their way to the west & are spread out mid Strait off the Sophias, doing a little foraging as to go along. A34 is on her own in front of the others & appears to be headed over to the Vancouver Island side... we'll soon see if the others follow her.

Paul

22 Jul 2004 15:54:20 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A12s have turned back to the east and have become vocal again. They are roughly mid-Strait off the Sophias... we're listening to their calls on the Critical Point hydrphone.

Paul

22 Jul 2004 19:27:20 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s have made it as far east as Swaine Point, opposite Robson Bight. They are moving very slowly to the east, resting & silent.

Paul

22 Jul 2004 21:59:35 PDT

Superb sounds!!

It sounds like the A12s have finally woken up... we're listening to their lovely calls, without boat noise, on the Critical Point hydropone..

Paul

22 Jul 2004 22:36:36 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We've heard no calls for a while, & think the A12s have probably continued to the east & are now beyond the range of our Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

22 Jul 2004 23:41:30 PDT

Friday July 23, 2004**No calls but orcas nearby**

After a short rub, the whales left the beaches. We are waiting for them to come back.

Tomoko

23 Jul 2004 01:14:58 PDT

Superb sounds!!

We are listening to incoming whales (A30s and I15s at least) calls are on FI hydrophone.

Tomoko

23 Jul 2004 04:45:24 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The I15s are about to enter Johnston Strait, with the A30s behind them... and possibly others behind them! It's a very foggy morning here, so we can't see the orcas, but we can hear their blows & great voices. We've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

23 Jul 2004 05:47:50 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A30s and I15s are down at the rubbing beaches now.

Anna@CP

23 Jul 2004 08:05:07 PDT

Orcas near mics.

We're hearing calls and echolocation on the Critical Point hydrophone again, so it looks like the orcas turned back to the west after their great rub. This was the first rub of 2004 for the I15s! Also present in the orca soup were the A30s & A36s.

Paul

23 Jul 2004 09:23:58 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Blows are being heard off the Baron Reefs and heading for CP. The strait is still very foggy and we can't see very much out there.

Anna@CP

23 Jul 2004 10:46:36 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

The I15s, I33s, A30s, and A36s have just cleared into Blackney Pass.

Anna@CP

23 Jul 2004 13:09:33 PDT



Orcas approaching Orcalab.

The I31s are there as well :)

Anna@CP

23 Jul 2004 13:11:27 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The various groups have passed through Blackney Pass now and are now in Blackfish Sound continuing to the west. The first groups came in slowly, paused, turned and waited for the rest. We were surprised to see the A12s pass fairly close to the Lab. We think we can account for the I31s, A36s, A30s, A12s and I15s. Conditions were not ideal as there was a fog bank on the far side which kept most of the whales hidden.

Helena

23 Jul 2004 14:02:53 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We are still hearing A1 and I15s in Blackfish Sound. The A12s went back into Johnstone Strait at 4:10pm with perhaps the I31s although we have not heard any calls yet.

Helena

23 Jul 2004 16:31:07 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

It sounds like the other groups followed the A12s and the I31s back to the Strait. Re Fife (A60) - he has been seen this year, although not around at the moment, and his wounds of last year seem to have healed very well.

Helena

23 Jul 2004 17:42:54 PDT

Distant calls audible.

There is a large group heading to the VI shore from mid strait, at the eastern end of Kaikash Beach... Not quite sure who is in the group but we have been hearing the A12s, A30s, I15s, and I31/I33 group in the strait this afternoon. The whales seem to be quite excited with lots of surface behaviour going on.

Anna@CP

23 Jul 2004 18:42:00 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The whales are getting closer to Critical Point and the boat noise has become more reasonable. We can clearly hear the A30s, A36s, I31s.

Helena

23 Jul 2004 20:08:07 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The whales have turned west and are approaching CP

Anna@CP

23 Jul 2004 20:22:06 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A30s and some of the I15s have turned back to the east and are heading towards the Sophia Islands. Everyone else turned back as well, in front of Robson Bight.

Anna@CP

23 Jul 2004 20:58:03 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

There are whales (the I31s +) at the Main Beach. But there are also other groups spread out right back to Cracroft Point - over 40 whales today - summer.

Helena

23 Jul 2004 21:12:26 PDT

**Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.**

The A36s are at the Main rubbing beach, with the I15s a little further out. The A30s are also nearby - we're hearing them on the CrPt hydrophone. We've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

23 Jul 2004 21:50:05 PDT

Saturday July 24, 2004**No calls but orcas nearby**

One of the G clan groups was rubbing a short while ago but has now finished. We're not sure what direction they are headed in... however, if we're correct in thinking that the various groups headed east last night, they are probably westbound, so we could hear them on the Critical Point hydrophone soon.

Paul

24 Jul 2004 07:13:00 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We've been listening to the A30s & I15s on the Critical Point hydrophone (amidst boat noise) as they make their way to the west.

Paul

24 Jul 2004 07:58:50 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s and the I15s are very spread out across the strait and heading to the west. The lead groups are just approaching CP now, mid strait and on the Vancouver Island side.

Anna@CP

24 Jul 2004 08:52:16 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

The I15s and the A30s have just cleared into Blackney Pass, heading to the north.

Anna@CP

24 Jul 2004 10:06:55 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The I15s & A30s are almost through Blackney Pass & now entering Blackfish Sound... they are silent at the moment but we could hear them on the Flower Island hydrophone soon.

Paul

24 Jul 2004 10:29:31 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s & I15s are still at the "top" of Blackfish Sound but we haven't heard any calls from them for some time. The tide is still ebbing and will change to flood in about 2 more hours... it's possible the A30s & I15s will head back into the Strait when it does.

Paul

24 Jul 2004 12:36:02 PDT

**Orcas near mics.**

We began hearing "G clan" calls close to the Critical Point hydrophone a short while ago, but boat noise soon intruded & that's mostly what we're hearing at the moment. It sounds like at least some of the orcas that were in the east overnight (I31s, A12s, A36s) are returning to the west. Perhaps they will meet up with the A30s & I15s later this afternoon.

Paul

24 Jul 2004 12:53:33 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We've been hearing occasional distant calls ("pings") on the Critical Point hydrophone as the I31s make their way slowly to the west. Some of them are on the Vancouver Island side & others are on the Cracroft Island side. It's difficult to see them because of glare & a strong westerly wind, but they are probably approaching Kaikash Creek on one side of the Strait & the Sophias on the other. Meanwhile, the A30s & I15s are entering Johnstone Strait via Weynton Pass. It seems quite likely that a meeting will happen.

Paul

24 Jul 2004 14:49:08 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Again, a few "pings" -the G clan "resting" call have been heard. There are some very distant A calls as well. We have heard there is a group drifting around just west of the Blackney Pass entrance. Unfortunately, this is right in the afternoon glare. None of the groups have been east of Hanson Island for most of the day. All in all a very sleepy day - possibly this means they are saving their energy for later tonight.

Helena

24 Jul 2004 19:17:44 PDT

**Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.**

The I31s are off the entrance to Blackney Pass. It's not yet clear if they will go into Blackney or continue to the east, but Anna is going to try filming them anyway. We've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

24 Jul 2004 19:29:50 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We've heard no calls for the past while, though all the groups we were seeing & listening to earlier are still off the Blackney Pass "gap". The I15s seemed headed into Blackney Pass at one point, but then returned to the others. Perhaps they are waiting for the tide to become slack, which will be in just under an hour from now. We've noted some of the comments about the "pings" being made by the I31s, and agree... the orcas were by no means resting when that incredible vocal activity was happening - they were chorusing!

Paul

24 Jul 2004 21:16:01 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

At exactly slack tide, the orcas began to head north into Blackney Pass. It's too dark for us to see them clearly, so we're not sure if all the groups are still together, but it seems likely.

Paul

24 Jul 2004 22:18:05 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The orcas are now in Blackfish Sound... we're hearing "pings" from the I31s along with occasional "A" calls, so probably all the groups that were in the Strait earlier are there.

Paul24 Jul 2004 22:59:15 PDT



Sunday July 25, 2004

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls since just after midnight & think that the groups that were in Blackfish Sound at that time probably continued to the north. It's a sunny windy day here. We are waiting.

Paul

25 Jul 2004 07:52:04 PDT

No orcas present.

The boats have not located any orcas so far but there are three humpbacks getting their attention off of Stubbs Island at the entrance to Weynton Passage. Still very blustery but a beautifully sunny day none-the-less.

Helena

25 Jul 2004 11:26:59 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Just before 1pm there was a report of at least three orcas heading west along the Cracroft Island shore at Forward Bay. We just got another report that these whales have reached Boat Bay! We have not heard anything yet but it may not be long now. The humpbacks travelled through Blackney toward Johnstone Strait a short while ago.

Helena

25 Jul 2004 15:49:30 PDT

Distant calls audible.

One call so far and reports of two males (the A36s) mid strait off Robson Bight doing "head stands" while foraging!

Helena

25 Jul 2004 16:01:36 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A36s are angling into the Sophia Islands on their way to the west.

Helena

25 Jul 2004 16:50:11 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A36s are approaching CP and heading to the west quickly.

Anna@CP

25 Jul 2004 17:40:40 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

The A36s are in front of CP. We sent an alert. It looks like they might head into Blackney Pass.

Helena

25 Jul 2004 17:55:15 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

It seems the A36s just came far enough into Blackney Pass for them to listen to the north... they have now turned back to the south & are heading quickly towards Johnstone Strait again. If they come close to CP, Anna will be filming them, so we're sending a Messenger alert.

Paul

25 Jul 2004 19:03:54 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We believe the A36s continued to the east. They were last seen passing the Sophia Islands.

Helena

25 Jul 2004 21:05:04 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We heard rubbing sounds briefly about half an hour ago & think the A36s went into the beaches for a short rub as they headed east.

Paul

25 Jul 2004 22:45:01 PDT



c. Orca-live - 26.7.04

**Monday July 26, 2004****Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.**

The A36s are rubbing at the beaches.

Anna@CP

26 Jul 2004 07:42:03 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

We're hearing & watching orcas at the rubbing beaches & have sent an alert.

Paul

26 Jul 2004 07:49:16 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

After their rub, the group of about 5 orcas at the Main rubbing beach headed back to the west, close to the Vancouver Island shoreline. Meanwhile, another group that was further out headed to the east... it's possible they will turn back to the west again & follow the others, & if they do so, they may head into the beaches for a rub. We could also hear the westbound group on the Critical Point hydrophone soon.

Paul

26 Jul 2004 08:43:15 PDT

**Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.**

The orcas rubbing on Channel B are some of the I15s - a short while ago we could clearly see the right bend at the top of I41 that helps identify him.

Paul

26 Jul 2004 08:59:18 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

After the rub the whales regrouped and headed to the east. We think it was the I15s - perhaps they are going to look for the A36s.

Helena

26 Jul 2004 09:26:49 PDT

No orcas present.

This might turn out to be an interesting day. The A12s have been located east of the Reserve. This means that there was a fair amount of moving around yesterday and this morning silently. So we are waiting to see how the rest of today unfolds so that we can piece together the movements of the last 24 hours. Right now most of the activity is to the east. However, the humpbacks are continuing to roam near Weynton Passage.

Helena

26 Jul 2004 11:55:26 PDT

No orcas present.

The A12s have been confirmed. They are travelling slowly east off the Adams River with the I15s. The two groups are being very social with each other - lots of rolling around. They are favouring the Vancouver island shore.

Helena

26 Jul 2004 13:17:16 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s & I15s are approaching the rubbing beaches from the east - they are visible on Channel B. We've sent an alert.

Paul

26 Jul 2004 17:08:39 PDT

Orcas near mics.

We're listening to the A12s & I15s on the Critical Point hydrophone as they make their way westwards through Robson Bight.

Paul

26 Jul 2004 18:30:33 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s & I15s are gradually making their way to the west in Johnstone Strait and are now past Robson Bight... some are on the Vancouver Island side, some are in the middle, and some are on the Cracroft Island side. They are silent at the moment.

Paul

26 Jul 2004 19:22:20 PDT

**Superb sounds!!**

Just before the whales became vocal again, the I15s and the A12s turned off Robson Bight and are heading back to the east.

Anna@CP

26 Jul 2004 19:57:23 PDT

Superb sounds!!

We are hearing the I15s close to the Critical Point hydrophone as they make their way back to the east... it's possible they will be back at the rubbing beaches before it gets dark.

Paul

26 Jul 2004 21:13:28 PDT

Boat noise

We're hearing occasional distant calls on the Critical Point hydrophone amidst continuous boat noise. We think that after spending some time in Robson Bight, a couple of hours ago, the A12s & I15s probably headed to the west. If so, they are likely to be in Johnstone Strait west of Blackney Pass.

Paul

26 Jul 2004 22:59:18 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A12s and I15s may be coming into Blackney Pass soon. And we started hearing A4s and A5s on FI!

Tomoko

26 Jul 2004 23:57:44 PDT

Allan, The whistles are really sweet sounds for such a big animal. I once heard the 30's chirp like birds! it was really pretty. Frank Thomsen did a study on whistles in orcas and found they usually do it in social situations, especially ones involving physical contact with each other. Sometimes at night, when groups are together and socializing, you'll hear whistles.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

26 Jul 2004 08:31:37 PDT

Looks like dolphins, possibly breaching as that boat went by, a warning to the group? And wild orcas do have bends and tilts to their fins, but almost never have the completely "flopped over" fins of most captive orcas.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

26 Jul 2004 09:08:56 PDT

Tuesday July 27, 2004**Superb sounds!!**

The A12s and I15s went north through Blackney Pass. We are listening to the A12s, I15s, A4s and A5s on FI hydrophone.

Tomoko

27 Jul 2004 00:49:23 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

As the A4s & A5s came down Blackfish Sound, the A12s & I15s came north through Blackney Pass (from Johnstone Strait) to meet them. They are now all headed south towards the Strait through Blackney together. Their calls are on the Local Left hydrophone & many blows can be heard in front of us. We've sent an acoustic alert.

Paul

27 Jul 2004 02:01:36 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

All the groups have now entered Johnstone Strait and are heading east. The calls are audible on the Parson Island, Cracroft Point & Critical Point hydrophones, but unfortunately, boat noise has now intruded.

Paul

27 Jul 2004 02:47:14 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We're hearing distant calls on the Critical Point hydrophone, along with constant boat noise... it's not clear where the orcas are at this point, but they are probably to the west of Robson Bight.

Paul

27 Jul 2004 07:32:37 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A12s, I15s, I31s, A11s, plus, are heading to the west in Johnstone Strait. They are very spread out from mid strait to the Vancouver Island shore, around the Sophia Islands.

Anna@CP

27 Jul 2004 09:07:21 PDT



Multiple pod calls audible.

This is getting to be a very busy orca day! A new group has just come into Johnstone Strait via Weynton Pass, though it's not yet clear who. As well, the A36s have just been sighted... they are headed west, approaching the Sophias, so they must have come from the east overnight. The groups in the Strait (A12s, I15s, A4s, A5s) have been meandering back and forth between the Sophias and the eastern end of the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight all morning, but they now seem to be generally headed west - probably to meet up with the new arrivals.

Paul

27 Jul 2004 10:37:07 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

On top of everything else that is happening this morning, we have orcas at the rubbing beaches... Channel B. Please note that we're not able to send out an alert at the moment as we have a "full house".

Paul

27 Jul 2004 11:14:34 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

There are groups of orcas up and down Johnstone Strait, some heading west & others heading east. The A4s left the rubbing beaches a short while ago - we think they headed west. Soon after, we heard A5 calls close to the Critical Point hydrophone, and more recently we've heard the A36s A4s, & A5s on CrPt. The newly arrived group has yet to be identified, though it is probably from "G" clan.

Paul

27 Jul 2004 12:12:28 PDT



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Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Some of the orcas may pass close to Cracroft Point soon as they head west. If so, Anna will be filming them.

Paul

27 Jul 2004 13:00:28 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

There are still many groups of orcas in Johnstone Strait, but we haven't heard any calls from them for a while. Some are at the western end of the Strait & appear to be headed for Weynton Pass; others are milling about mid-Strait off the Blackney Pass "gap". It will be slack time in a few minutes, so perhaps we will see some of them going "out" via Blackney or Weynton then.

Paul

27 Jul 2004 14:26:02 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The various groups (A11s, A12s, A36s, A5s, I15s, G17s) ended up going out Weynton Pass & then down Blackfish Sound & back into Johnstone Strait again via Blackney Pass... they are mostly back in the Strait again & are generally heading to the east. We're listening to them on the Parson Island & CP hydrophones.

Paul

27 Jul 2004 17:44:56 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We're not hearing any calls at the moment, though most of the groups are still within acoustic range of our hydrophones. They are still headed east but have slowed down. The A4s are still in the lead & are now mid-Strait off the eastern boundary of the Ecological Reserve, with the other groups behind them. The I15s are on the Vancouver Island side, looking very sleepy & have not quite reached the western boundary of the Reserve. The G17s are still a little behind them, mid-Strait.

Paul

27 Jul 2004 19:36:18 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Some of the orcas heading east have gone into the Main rubbing beach - Channel A. Others may follow, so we've sent an alert.

Paul

27 Jul 2004 19:52:47 PDT

**Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.**

The A5s have moved into the Beaches.
Channel A.

Helena

27 Jul 2004 21:20:01 PDT

No orcas present.

All the groups that were in Johnstone Strait today have probably continued to the east beyond the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight. We are waiting for their return.

Paul

27 Jul 2004 23:32:27 PDT

Wednesday July 28, 2004**Superb sounds!!**

The G clan groups (I15s, G17s) have been moving westwards together in Johnstone Strait for the past while. They are now heading north through Blackney Pass... we're listening to them on the Parson Island & Local Left hydrophones at the moment. Their calls are clear & there is no boat noise, so we've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

28 Jul 2004 01:52:37 PDT

Distant calls audible.

After The G17s and I15s have cleared to north, the A36s came into Blackney followed by A4s, A5s and possibly the A12s. Everybody have gone to north now, their calls are faint on FI hydrophone.

Tomoko

28 Jul 2004 03:29:01 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls since about 4am & think that the groups that went north via Blackfish early this morning probably continued to the north. We are waiting.

Paul

28 Jul 2004 07:04:35 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The A4s, A5s & A12s are entering Johnstone Strait via Blackney Pass - Channel A.

Paul

28 Jul 2004 09:02:19 PDT

Boat noise

We're hearing constant boat noise in Johnstone Strait this morning, mostly because of the fishing "opening" that is happening this week - it includes seine boats today. Despite all the activity and noise, the orcas in the Strait are doing pretty much what they normally do - travelling east, rapidly, with some groups on the Vancouver Island side & others mid-Strait. There are many fishing vessels setting nets close to the Vancouver Island shoreline - as the orcas encounter them, they go around the nets & then back to the shoreline. We're listening to "A1, A4, & A5" calls on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

28 Jul 2004 10:05:54 PDT

**Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.**

The first group of orcas has reached the Main rubbing beach - A4s. Channel A. We're not sending an alert because the house is almost full.

Paul

28 Jul 2004 11:03:36 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The whales changed direction after the rubs and crossed over to the Cracroft Island side. Most are off the east end of Boat Bay although 1 male was seen east of Critical Point still on the Vancouver Island side.

Helena

28 Jul 2004 12:12:06 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Most of the A4s, A5s, A12s and A36s have passed Robson Bight now, heading to the west. The orcas are quite spread out but some are travelling along the Cracroft Island shore, so they may be within range of the camera soon.

Anna@CP

28 Jul 2004 13:17:55 PDT

Boat noise

The whales have all passed CP now and are continuing to the west, both along the Hanson Island shore and mid strait.

Anna@CP

28 Jul 2004 14:28:17 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The whales have continued to the west after passing CP. The I15s were seen near Port Hardy a short while ago. Beautiful fish on Ch. B

Helena

28 Jul 2004 14:29:07 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

All the groups turned back to the east a little while ago and are approaching Kaikash Beach, spread out from the Vancouver Island side to mid strait.

Anna@CP

28 Jul 2004 15:47:49 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s have just turned to the west, mid strait off the rubbing beaches. The rest of the

groups are spread out to the eastern boundary of the reserve. No information yet on whether or not they have turned as well... We are installing a new camera underwater today.

Anna@CP

28 Jul 2004 18:48:34 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The groups of orcas that have been in Johnstone Strait today (A12s, A36s, A4s, A5s) have just travelled north through Blackney Pass & are now in Blackfish Sound. They were mostly silent as they went through Blackney, but began to make some calls as they entered Blackfish.

Paul

28 Jul 2004 22:14:51 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The calls we're listening to are on the Flower island & Local Left hydrophones. It seems that all the groups of orcas stalled as soon as they got into Blackfish Sound... perhaps they are waiting for others to arrive.

Paul

28 Jul 2004 23:19:36 PDT

G'morning Alan, A tip for doing the A's: the A4's sound long and stretched out, while the A5's are short and quick. The A1's are in the middle. That's a qualitative description, not very specific as far as the different calls, but you can hear the difference between the 3 after awhile.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

28 Jul 2004 09:33:52 PDT

Alan, The 5's (and the 4's) also have a "hook" at the end of their N9 calls, the A1's don't.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

28 Jul 2004 09:43:39 PDT

Karen, The N9 is a call that all of the A pods (A1, 4, and 5) make, but the A5's make it differently and so can be identified by that call.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

28 Jul 2004 09:56:01 PDT



Thursday July 29, 2004

Multiple pod calls audible.

It looks like everyone was waiting for the I15s to come back down to Blackfish Sound. We think that all the groups (A4s, A5s, A12s, A36s, I15s) are now headed south through Blackney Pass towards Johnstone Strait. We're listening to their calls on the Local Left & Parson Island hydrophones. A tug went south through Blackney at the same time as the whales, so it was noisy for a while. Now that the sound of the tug' has diminished, we'll send an alert.

Paul

29 Jul 2004 00:54:51 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

Sorry, it looks like we are a bit behind with the notes. A lot went on last night. The As (A12s, A36s, A4s and A5s) all went through Blackney just before dark and met up with the I15s just inside Blackfish Sound. The groups then milled for quite a while in Blackney before heading back toward the Strait. By the time they got into the Strait the slack tide had turned to a strong ebb. It took hours for the whales to make headway to the east. By around 4am the majority of the whales were passing Robson Bight. Then this morning around 6:30 the whales began to finally take advantage of the still ebbing tide and come west. They are passing CP now and we are waiting to see if they will come back into Blackney or continue west.

Helena

29 Jul 2004 08:27:11 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The whales around 8:40 started back to the east. The I15s, the last group, are just past CP. They started to pick up speed at the same time their calls became more pronounced.

Helena

29 Jul 2004 10:26:25 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Some of the whales have gone into the rubbing beaches - Channel B. We've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

29 Jul 2004 11:36:14 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Over the past hour or so, several groups of orcas have been in & out of the Main rubbing beach, going in circles. The A4s were in first, then the A5s with the A4s, then some of the I15s, & most recently, A4s, A5s & A12s. The various groups are going back & forth from east to west at the eastern end of the Ecological Reserve, so the chances are good that more rubbing will happen over the next while.

Paul

29 Jul 2004 12:48:42 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Some of the I15s are at the main rubbing beach - Channel B.

Paul

29 Jul 2004 13:14:27 PDT



No calls but orcas nearby

The I15s left the rubbing beaches a short while ago & are now headed back to the west. The other groups are generally west bound as well, with the A4s in front - they are on the Vancouver island side of the Strait, at the western boundary of the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight.

Paul

29 Jul 2004 14:18:29 PDT



**Orcas near mics.**

We're listening to the A12s as they forage off the Blackney Pass "gap".

Paul

29 Jul 2004 15:34:56 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We've been hearing occasional distant calls from the A4s, A5s, A12s, A36s & I15s as they make their way to the west in Johnstone Strait. A few minutes ago, stretched out between the Stephenson Islets & "Turn Point" at the western end of Hanson Island, they turned back to the east again. If they keep going, their calls will become closer & clearer over the next couple of hours.

Paul

29 Jul 2004 18:30:27 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The I15s are getting close to the Critical Point hydrophone as they make their way back to the east again... possibly, we'll be hearing them back at the rubbing beaches again before long. We think the other groups (A4s, A5s, A12s, A36s) are also headed east in the Strait, though we're not sure where they are at the moment.

Paul

29 Jul 2004 22:39:59 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

We began hearing rubbing sounds a few minutes ago.

Paul

29 Jul 2004 23:39:20 PDT



That call, "eee-eee-ahh" identifies the I15's. Just so you can recognize who it is!

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

29 Jul 2004 13:19:30 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The As and the I15s are moving back to the east., headed back to Robson Bight. Lovely evening sunset.

Helena

29 Jul 2004 20:27:31 PDT



Friday July 30, 2004

Superb sounds!!

We began hearing echolocation close to the Critical Point hydrophone a few minutes ago, followed by calls from the I15s with more distant A4 calls. It sounds like the I15s & A4s are headed back to the west again & are foraging in Robson Bight.

Paul

30 Jul 2004 04:20:51 PDT

Superb sounds!!

We've been hearing A5 & A1 calls along with those of the I15s & A4s on the Critical Point hydrophone, so it sounds like all the groups that were in the Strait yesterday are still together. The calls are close & clear, and there is almost no boat noise, so we've sent an acoustic alert.

Paul

30 Jul 2004 04:40:28 PDT

Boat noise

Almost as soon as we sent an alert, boat noise intruded & the whales went quiet. It's less noisy now but the orcas are more distant from the Critical Point hydrophone as they continue travelling to the west in Johnstone Strait.

Paul

30 Jul 2004 05:05:08 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

After travelling to the west in Johnstone Strait, the various groups of orcas turned back to the east again. Their calls became distant on the Critical Point hydrophone until they went silent a little before 7am. The A4s & A5s are now entering Blackney Pass & will probably move quickly north through it with the ebbing tide. The others (A12s, A36s, I15s) are likely to follow them soon.

Paul

30 Jul 2004 08:49:54 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The A4s, A5s, A12s & A36s are now in Blackfish Sound after travelling quickly north through Blackney Pass... we're listening to their calls on the Flower Island hydrophone. The I15s are still in Johnstone Strait, off the Blackney pass "gap" & appear to be headed slowly east. A73 (Springer) was with A56 & A11 in the middle of the A12s.

Paul

30 Jul 2004 09:38:57 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A4s, A5s, A12s, and A36s have all cleared through Blackney Pass. The I15s are still in the strait, heading very slowly to the east off the Blackney Pass gap, mid strait.

Anna@CP

30 Jul 2004 09:40:15 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The As have swept around Hanson Island and have landed back in Johnstone Strait. They are now headed east and vocal as they do so. The I15s are still just to the east of CP (closer to the Vancouver Island side) taking note no doubt of the others coming back in. "Blue Moon" tonight - what might happen?

Helena

30 Jul 2004 11:06:08 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The groups that circumnavigated Hanson Island earlier this morning are now mid-Strait heading east off the Blackney Pass "gap". Meanwhile, the I15s have turned around off the "Pig Ranch" (east of the Sophias) & may be waiting for the others. The "A" clan calls we're listening to are being heard on the CP, PI, & CrPt hydrophones.

Paul

30 Jul 2004 12:03:26 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The orcas have reached the main rubbing beach now. They are spread out across the strait to the Cracroft Island shore and still heading to the east.

Anna@CP

30 Jul 2004 13:51:25 PDT

**Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.**

Some of the I15s have moved into the Main Beach and are rubbing. The As are across the Strait at Boat Bay close to the Cracroft Island shore. The A36s are a bit further out. All are headed east. We have sent an alert and the rub can be seen on Channel B.

HELENA

30 Jul 2004 13:55:04 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

the rub seems to be over but the whales have not clearly decided what to do. Generally they are still moving east, however, they have already changed direction once. There are still groups on the Cracroft side, the A36s looked like they might cross to the Vancouver side while the I15s were rubbing but it is not clear where they ended up. The tide is still flooding.

Helena

30 Jul 2004 15:06:33 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The orcas are heading to the west again. They are very spread out right across the strait, off the Sophia Islands.

Anna@CP

30 Jul 2004 17:23:56 PDT

Distant calls audible.

At 1914 the whales turned back to the east at Turn Point. They are making their way (very slowly) back to the east and are off the Blackney Pass gap, mid strait.

Anna@CP

30 Jul 2004 19:53:33 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

We heard rubbing sounds a short while ago - it may have been just a brief rub because we've heard nothing more. However, all the groups are generally headed east, and some are on the Vancouver Island side of the Strait, so more rubbing over the next hour or so is a good possibility.

Paul30 Jul 2004 22:41:50 PDT

Saturday July 31, 2004**No orcas present.**

We've heard no calls since about midnight, when we think the orcas were headed east in Johnstone Strait past the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight. We weren't sure of their direction, however. We are waiting.

Paul

31 Jul 2004 07:14:39 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A4s, A5s, and A12s (not sure where the I15s and the A36s are) are silent and off CP, heading to the east off CP.

Anna@CP

31 Jul 2004 10:00:29 PDT

Boat noise

The A4s, A5s, and A12s bunch are now passing Baron Reef and slowly heading to the east.

Anna@CP

31 Jul 2004 10:34:14 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s, A5s and the A4s are still moving east, past Boat bay, closer to the Cracroft side. We haven't heard any calls but at one point the whales woke up and began to porpoise east. We do not know what excited this behaviour but they have since slowed down and resumed their previous quieter speed. Still no word on the I15s or A36s.

Helena

31 Jul 2004 11:57:38 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Sorry, I need to adjust the information. Apparently the whales are moving through the Reserve, not along Cracroft as I thought. They started to angle over from mid strait once past the Cliff and then angled in just west of Critical. They may be headed for the Beaches. Still very quiet.

Helena

31 Jul 2004 12:06:04 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The whales are in at the beaches. We have sent an alert. Channel B.

Helena

31 Jul 2004 12:12:55 PDT

**Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.**

The I15s & A36s are heading quickly towards Johnstone Strait via Blackney Pass - they should be within range of the CP camera soon. Meanwhile, the others (A4s, A5s, A12s) are headed west from Robson Bight along the Vancouver Island shoreline. We're sending a Messenger alert.

Paul

31 Jul 2004 13:23:33 PDT

**Superb sounds!!**

The I15s and A36s have cleared passed CP now and are heading for Robson Bight. The A4, A5, and A12s are still heading to the west around the Critical Point area.

Anna@CP

31 Jul 2004 14:00:17 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A11s are heading for CP along the Cracroft Island shore.

Anna@CP

31 Jul 2004 15:03:15 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A4s, A5s, A12s, A36s, and I15s, have continued up to the west. They are spread out around the Big Bay area, mid strait to the Hanson Island shore.

Anna@CP

31 Jul 2004 16:07:41 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The whales after reaching the Telegraph Cove area milled about a bit & then turned back (against the tide) and are now travelling eastward toward Kaikash Creek.

Helena

31 Jul 2004 18:57:14 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Orcas are at the Main rubbing beach - Channel B.

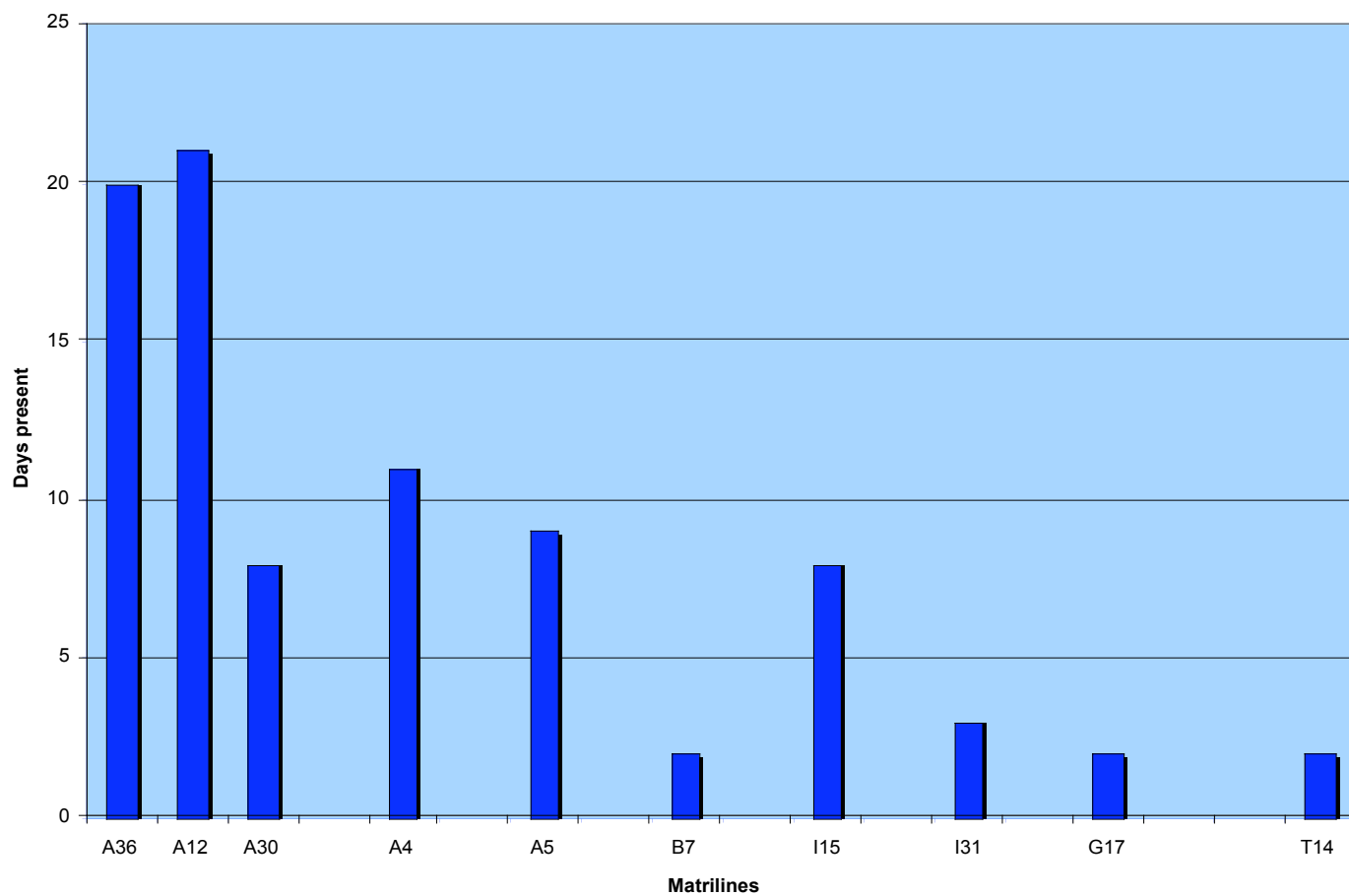
Paul

31 Jul 2004 20:41:29 PDT

Distant calls audible.

It sounds like the whales might be headed back to the west again. They are, however, still very distant on Critical Point.

Helena31 Jul 2004 22:09:46 PDT

**Present matriline in July 2004**

**Sunday August 01, 2004****Superb sounds!!**

The I15s, A36s, A4s, A12s, and A5s are just about all through Blackney Pass and moving west into Blackfish Sound. The groups were spread out across Blackney Pass as they passed. Lovely night, still continuing into Blackfish Sound.

Helena

01 Aug 2004 00:52:28 PDT

Superb sounds!!

After the A12s, A36s, A4s, A5s and the I15s gone to Blackfish sound, the Bs came into the strait. And now, we started hearing A12s, A36s, A4s and A5s again on CRPT hydrophone! They must went through weynton Pass. We haven't heard I15s yet, but may be they will come back too.

Tomoko

01 Aug 2004 02:33:36 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

We started hearing the I15s too. Sounds like everyone who had cleared to Blackfish earlier have came back to meet the Bs.

Tomoko

01 Aug 2004 03:19:26 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Several groups of orcas moved north through Blackney Pass on a swiftly ebbing tide just after daybreak... the A36s, A12s, & I15s were sighted & the A5s were heard. The A4s were probably there as well. We heard the Bs on the Cracroft Point hydrophone at daybreak, but did not see them with the others, so they may still be in Johnstone Strait.

Paul

01 Aug 2004 06:26:19 PDT

Distant calls audible.

I'm still recovering from last night's "wonder full" sounds and the sight of the full blue moon. It was an eventful night and early morning with the I15s & As travelling through Blackney Pass to follow the Bs back into the Strait. The As & I15s completely circled Hanson Island, went out blackney again at 5am, leaving the Bs to saunter down to the east. The As & possibly the I15s, after a brief stop-over in Queen Charlotte Strait, have returned to the Strait via Weynton Passage once again. The Bs are not too far "down" the Strait and we will see what they do now that other whales have come back in. There are also groups of dolphins moving around the area as well. Sunshine and slight wind top the morning.

Helena

01 Aug 2004 12:50:28 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A4s, A5s, A12s & A36s are slowly making their way to the east in Johnstone Strait. They appear to be resting & have been mostly silent for some time. There has been constant boat noise much of today, partly because of a commercial fishing "opening", which may help account for the silence. The "A" groups are all together, forming a large group mid-Strait off Blackney Pass. Another group is behind them, possible the I15s. They are also silent for the moment.

Paul

01 Aug 2004 15:26:18 PDT

Orcas near mics.

It sounds like the whales are beginning to wake up again... we're listening to echolocation & "A" calls close to the Critical Point hydrophone as various groups continue their way eastwards. The A36s are in the lead, with the A4s, A5s & A12s slightly behind. The I15s are further back, also on the Vancouver Island side, now approaching Robson Bight. If the eastwards movement continues, there's a good chance we'll see at least some of the orcas rubbing before long.

Paul

01 Aug 2004 16:39:27 PDT

**Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.**

Some of the orcas have reached the rubbing beaches now.

Anna@CP

01 Aug 2004 16:59:09 PDT

Boat noise

The various groups are all westbound again... some are on the Cracroft Island side of the Strait, others are in the middle, & others are on the Vancouver Island side. We're hearing mostly boat noise at the moment.

Paul

01 Aug 2004 19:32:45 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Possibly the a11s are going to come in close to CP. Anna will be busy trying to get both still and video on this group.

Helena

01 Aug 2004 19:53:13 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

We believe the various groups (the A12s, A36s, A4s, A5s and the I15s) are on their way back to the east. They are probably just west of CP. There have not been any recent reports about the Bs so we will have to wait and see.

Helena

01 Aug 2004 22:32:00 PDT

Monday August 2, 2004**No orcas present.**

We've heard no calls since about 2am, when there were distant "A" calls on the Flower Island hydrophone. This was at the end of a period of about 3 hours during which all the A clan groups (A4s, A5s, A12s, A36s) along with the I15s travelled north through Blackney Pass. We think they probably continued to the north, though they may not be far away. It's also possible they have come back into the Strait & are silent. We heard no calls from the Bs overnight & think they must still be somewhere to the east in Johnstone Strait. We are waiting.

Paul

02 Aug 2004 08:13:36 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The Bs are approaching the east end of the Ecological Reserve. They are generally headed west on the Vancouver Island side of Johnstone Strait, so it is possible they will visit the rubbing beaches soon.

Paul

02 Aug 2004 13:05:01 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The Bs have entered the Main Rubbing Beach. Meanwhile, the As and the I15s are approaching the Hope Island area and are still westbound for Goletas Channel. The A30s were seen off Malcolm Point earlier this morning and a large group of Pacific Whiteside dolphins are in Johnstone Strait while a humpback is off Stubbs Island in Weynton Passage.

Helena

02 Aug 2004 13:51:33 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The Bs are proceeding to the west along the Vancouver island shoreline. They had only a very brief rub. However, they should come close to the Critical Point hydrophone soon... we hope they become vocal when they do so, because we love listening to their calls!

Paul

02 Aug 2004 14:12:07 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

Some of the Bs are still in the Bight (B10 & B12) with the others further out, foraging as they head slowly back to the east... hopefully, they'll turn back to the west again soon. We have wonderful news about this group today. B14 has a new baby! This means that the future of the B matriline is a lot brighter than it appeared to be years ago, in 1991, when B7 was 44 years old and only had male offspring with her.

Paul

02 Aug 2004 16:26:48 PDT

Boat noise

The Bs are making their way to the west again, They are approaching Izumi Rock and travelling along the Vancouver Island shore.

Anna@CP

02 Aug 2004 17:14:39 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

It looks like the Bs are headed towards Blackney Pass - they're off CP now. Channel B.

Paul

02 Aug 2004 18:39:34 PDT

Superb sounds!!

We've been listening to the Bs on the Local Left hydrophone as they make their way through Blackney Pass. They are now entering Blackfish Sound & are still travelling slowly & fairly close together.

Paul

02 Aug 2004 19:30:45 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The Bs are now in Blackfish Sound, continuing to the west. We're listening to them on the Flower Island hydrophone. There is no boat noise, so we're sending an alert.

Paul02 Aug 2004 19:48:26 PDT

No orcas present.

We haven't heard from the Bs for a while now. They were quite vocal for a while in Blackfish Sound and we think that they probably continued out to Queen Charlotte Strait for the evening. The tide was ebbing at the time so we will wait to see what comes back with the flood tide. Drizzly wet from much needed rain. For now, good night everyone.

Helena02 Aug 2004 23:24:48 PDT

**Tuesday August 3, 2004****No orcas present.**

We heard no calls overnight and think that the Bs must have continued to the north from Blackfish Sound. The "A" groups that have been in the Johnstone Strait area lately were reported to have headed west past Port Hardy yesterday afternoon. Our general impression is that no orcas are nearby. We are waiting, and meanwhile enjoying a refreshing morning after some much needed rain overnight..

Paul

03 Aug 2004 08:22:29 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

T14 has been reported heading from the Sophia Islands towards CP.

Anna@CP

03 Aug 2004 10:31:33 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Good Morning! T14 continued into Blackney Pass after passing CP. He went by very quickly and was gone from our view by 11:20 am. He is now travelling "up" Balckfish Sound.

Helena

03 Aug 2004 11:41:46 PDT

No orcas present.

Apart from T14's brief appearance, we've seen or heard no orcas so far today. I large group (including the A30s) was sighted heading east near Port Hardy earlier this afternoon, but it seems they have turned back to the west again. We are waiting.

Paul03 Aug 2004 17:19:12 PDT



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**Wednesday August 4, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

We started hearing calls(at least As) on FI hydrophone.

Tomoko

04 Aug 2004 00:06:58 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A12s, A36s, A4s, A5s and the I15s all came back! They are in Blackfish Sound now, making beautiful calls.

Tomoko

04 Aug 2004 00:52:14 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The whales are coming into Blackney Pass. There are the A30s too!

Tomoko

04 Aug 2004 01:26:04 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s, A4s and A5s entered into the strait, but the A12s, A36s and I15s are still in Blackney. Their calls are on PI hydrophone.

Tomoko

04 Aug 2004 03:27:16 PDT

Superb sounds!!

Sounds like the A4s just arrived into Robson bight.

Tomoko

04 Aug 2004 03:42:26 PDT

Orcas near mics.

We started hearing close calls & echolocation from the I15s on the Critical Point hydrophone a short while ago. They must be in Robson Bight, but we're not sure what direction they are going in. It's a very foggy morning here.

Paul

04 Aug 2004 07:03:14 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The I15s have reached the rubbing beaches, so the must be headed east.

Paul

04 Aug 2004 07:26:51 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

After a brief rub, it looks like the I15s have headed east, presumably following the other groups (A1s, A4s, A5s) that headed east in Johnstone Strait earlier this morning. It's possible there are more I15s behind the ones we've seen, though we're not sure.

Paul

04 Aug 2004 08:03:25 PDT

No orcas present.

We're fairly sure that all the groups that came into Johnstone Strait earlier this morning (A12s, A30s, A36s, A4s, A5s, I15s) have continued to the east & are now well beyond the eastern boundary of the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight. We are waiting for their return.

Paul

04 Aug 2004 10:04:58 PDT

Orcas near mics.

Sounds like some of the westbound whales passed the Main Beach close to shore and moved into the "Middle Beach" (out of camera range) and are rubbing energetically. There may be more behind these whales so stand by. Others groups are westbound on the Cracroft side as well and we are getting the sense that the whales (the A30s, I15s, A4s & A5s) who came in last night & went east of the Reserve, are all now returning to the western part of Johnstone Strait. Should be great - boat levels have been better.

Helena

04 Aug 2004 13:26:43 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Some of the westbound orcas have arrived at the Main rubbing beach! We've sent an alert.

Paul

04 Aug 2004 13:47:22 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The I15s may be heading back to the east after the lovely, lovely rub. Some of the group got as far as Robson Bight but are now "easting" along the Vancouver Island shore. The A30s, A4s, A5s are also east bound and a lot further east - approaching Camp Point in the lower Johnstone Strait at 1pm. No one has confirmed that other As made it this far west.

Helena

04 Aug 2004 14:38:01 PDT

**Orcas near mics.**

We've been listening to close calls from the I15s on the Critical Point hydrophone as they make their way back to the west. They are in Robson Bight. On the other side of Johnstone Strait, the A12s & A36s are also westbound.

Paul

04 Aug 2004 15:12:42 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A12s, A36s & I15s are slowly making their way to the west... some of them are off the Sophias at the present time & will probably be off CP & Blackney Pass soon. It's unlikely they'll be on the surface camera because of the (very much needed) rain we're having here today.

Paul

04 Aug 2004 17:15:14 PDT

Boat noise

After turning back to the east off the top end of Hanson Island, the I15s, A36s, and A12s are travelling to the east off Kaikash Beach. They are close to the Vancouver Island shore and grouped up, for the first time all day. They seem quite playful, with lots of surface behaviour going on.

Anna@CP

04 Aug 2004 20:43:32 PDT

No orcas present.

We think the various groups that were in the Strait today (A12s, A36s, I15s) are probably somewhere to the east of us, though we're not sure. We are listening.

Paul

04 Aug 2004 23:38:23 PDT

Thursday August 5, 2004**No calls but orcas nearby**

There are many nothbound blows in front of Orcalab. Maybe from the whales who went to the east last night.

Tomoko

05 Aug 2004 04:21:20 PDT

Superb sounds!!

Some blows are already cleared to the north. right now we are listening to the I15 calls on PI hydrophone.

Tomoko

05 Aug 2004 05:07:54 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Sounds like all the whales have turned and went back to the Strait.

Tomoko

05 Aug 2004 05:48:10 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

It's another foggy morning here and difficult to see over the water. However, we did hear a few calls from the I15s on the Critical Point hydrophone around 7am, so they must be somewhere nearby. Earlier, between 4&5am, the I15s & probably the A36s came into Blackney Pass, possibly just to listen out to the north, and then returned to Johnstone Strait. We are listening, & waiting for the fog to clear.

Paul

05 Aug 2004 07:43:40 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Well, there be whales coming from both directions in the Strait. The A36s are westbound headed for the Sophia Islands and the A12s & I15s are eastbound on the Vancouver Island side just east of Blinkhorn Light. The fog is clearing and visibility quite good now. There was a report of whales to the east (lower end of Johnstone Strait) headed toward Chatham Point. This may be the A30s, A4s and A5s who ventured eastward the day before yesterday. There were also whales reported in Knights Inlet so a possibly busy day!

Helena

05 Aug 2004 10:47:59 PDT

**Boat noise**

The I15s, A12s, and A36s have all passed CP now and are travelling towards Robson Bight. The A12s and most of the I15s are ms and crossing to the Vancouver Island shore. The A36s are trailing the groups.

Anna@CP

05 Aug 2004 13:26:15 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

We think some of the whales are in near the Rubbing Beaches but the boat noise id terrible and masking the usual noises. We sent an Alert and Anna has the camera ready at the Beaches just in case.

Helena

05 Aug 2004 14:55:48 PDT

Orcas near mics.

Well - the western movement has begun with the A12s back in the Bight. We think everyone is finished at the Beaches and will wait to see if they (the I15s & the A36s) follow the A12s. At 3:30pm the A30s were off Wndy Point (east JS) coming west.

Helena

05 Aug 2004 16:49:19 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

They're back at the beaches! Channel B

Helena

05 Aug 2004 19:26:03 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Westward Ho?

Helena

05 Aug 2004 19:45:22 PDT

Orcas near mics.

We're listening to close "A" calls on the Critical Point hydrophone as the whales make their way back to the west - they are now in Robson Bight.

Paul

05 Aug 2004 20:10:35 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

It sounds like the the A4s (and soon maybe more) have returned to the western part of Johnstone Strait to join the others. Earlier today they were fairly far east so they have spent the day travelling a lot.

Helena

05 Aug 2004 20:46:06 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

Definitely the A4s are moving west steadily. We are still hearing calls back further so a parade west is in progress. Thanks to everyone for the compliments re the updates - it makes our job easier to have such a wonderful audience!

Helena

05 Aug 2004 20:58:38 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

Someone skipped over the Rubbing Beach wjile there were distant A5 calls off shore. The A4s are still progressing west from the Reserve.

Helena

05 Aug 2004 21:15:00 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The whales are approaching Cracroft Point and the entrance to Blackney Pass. They lilely will come into Blackney.

Helena

05 Aug 2004 22:39:17 PDT

**Friday August 6, 2004****Superb sounds!!**

A brief flurry of calls announced the arrival of the whales back into Johnstone Strait. Earlier they had travelled through Blackney to the north.

Helena

06 Aug 2004 05:57:36 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

We've been listening to the A4s, A5s, A12s, A30s, A36s, & I15s on the Critical Point hydrophone as they make their way to the east in Johnstone Strait. They have been travelling on both sides of the Strait, and in the middle. Most of them are inside Robson Bight at the moment but some are already past. It's quite likely that some of them will reach the rubbing beaches soon.

Paul

06 Aug 2004 08:17:45 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

We're watching some of the A5s at the Main rubbing beach. Channel A.

Paul

06 Aug 2004 08:34:43 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The parade continues. After the A5s we've had the A30s & now the I15s taking their turn rubbing. Channel A.

Paul

06 Aug 2004 10:15:07 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The various groups have left the Reserve on their way to the west. They are spread out in mixed groups which the observers are trying to figure out. We are hearing both A1 and a5 calls now on CP - so they are getting "there". A73 is spending a little quality time with the A36s (the rest of the A11s are not far off).

Helena

06 Aug 2004 11:42:22 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Channel B has the A34s in front of CP! We sent an Alert.

Helena

06 Aug 2004 11:46:21 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A34s have gone passed CP now and are heading for the bottom of Hanson Island. A55 is still foraging in the Blackney Pass gap. The A30s, A4s, A5s, A36s, and I15s are broken up into a couple of groups, one travelling down the Vancouver Island shore and the other is coming up the middle of the strait.

Anna@CP

06 Aug 2004 12:01:07 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

It looks like all the groups (A1s, A4s, A5s, I15s) are generally headed back to the east in Johnstone Strait again. We're listening to their calls on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

06 Aug 2004 15:23:10 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Some of the A12s are passing close to CP. Channel B. The others are all still generally headed east & are off Robson Bight. A very large group of dolphins is also in the Strait.

Paul

06 Aug 2004 17:10:14 PDT

**Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.**

Some of the eastbound orcas have reached the Main rubbing beach. They are from one of the "A" groups but we're not sure which one yet.

Paul

06 Aug 2004 17:50:55 PDT

**Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.**

The A30s are rubbing!

Paul

06 Aug 2004 17:54:26 PDT

Boat noise

It looks like all the groups have truned back to the west again... there is a lot of boat noise as well as the calls we're listening to on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

06 Aug 2004 19:01:33 PDT

Superb sounds!!

Just now the A36s have moved in closer to Critical Point. Before we were listening to the I15s and before that the A30s and the A4s and A5s at the Rubbing Beaches. The A12s have been the furthest west, mostly off Cracroft Point. It has been quite a challenge to choose what to select as the main focus. The tide has turned to ebb so we will see what happens next. - oh the I15s have become vocal again off critical Point.

Helena

06 Aug 2004 21:41:13 PDT

Saturday August 7, 2004**No orcas present.**

We last heard calls around 11pm last night & thought the orcas (A1s, A4s, A5s, I15s) were probably headed to the east in Johnstone Strait at that time. However, we weren't sure. We are waiting.

Paul

07 Aug 2004 06:20:01 PDT

No orcas present.

Most of the groups (A1s, A4s, A5s) are still in the far east of Johnstone Strait & are still heading east. However, the I15s appear to have separated from them early this morning & are headed west fairly quickly. They are now nearing Naka Creek and should reach the eastern boundary of the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight with a couple of hours.

Paul

07 Aug 2004 13:11:07 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The I15s have reached the Reserve and are rubbing. We have sent an Alert.

Helena

07 Aug 2004 15:47:01 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The I15s have left the rubbing beaches and are spread out on the Vancouver Island side headed to Robson Bight.

Julie and Anna @ CP

07 Aug 2004 16:21:04 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The rub is over and the I15s have moved on to the west and Robson Bight.

Helena

07 Aug 2004 16:32:04 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The I15s have cleared out of the reserve now and are travelling to the west along the Vancouver Island shore. I16 and her kids are in the lead followed by the rest of the I15s.

Anna & Julie@CP

07 Aug 2004 17:32:15 PDT

**Distant calls audible.**

The I15s are still making their way west. They are quite spread out and crossing the Blackney Pass gap, both along the Vancouver Island shore and mid strait.

Anna & Julie@CP

07 Aug 2004 19:01:33 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The I15s have turned to the east off CP and are resting.

Anna & Julie@CP

07 Aug 2004 19:38:22 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The I15s are continuing to the east and are off the Sophia Islands. They seem to be heading for the Cracroft Island shore from mid strait. We had a group of transients (1 male and 3 females) pop up off CP. They are crossing the strait right now and heading to the west off the Blackney Pass gap.

Anna & Julie@CP

07 Aug 2004 20:44:17 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The I15s are close to the Critical Point hydrophone, in Robson Bight headed east. We've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

07 Aug 2004 21:49:02 PDT

Orcas near mics.

Around 10:05 pm we had a burst of A1 calls in with the I15s - it sounds like the whales may be coming back from the east. All the calls are off Robson Bight.

Helena

07 Aug 2004 22:12:59 PDT

Sunday August 8, 2004**No orcas present.**

We've heard no calls since a bit before 5am when the I15s & A12s were headed west in Blackfish Sound. We think they continued to the north but are not sure. We are waiting and meanwhile enjoying a lovely calm morning.

Paul

08 Aug 2004 07:05:55 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A36s are westbound on the Cracroft Island side of the Strait opposite Robson Bight. They are foraging as they move along. We're not hearing any calls from them at this time.

Paul

08 Aug 2004 10:50:00 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We've started hearing distant calls from the A36s on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

08 Aug 2004 10:55:02 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

At the same time as the A36s are making their way to the west in Johnstone Strait, the I15s & A12s are not far away from Blackfish Sound. They are spread out, foraging, between Lizard Point & Foster Island. It's quite possible that we'll see or hear them later today, though they could end up going further to the west.

Paul

08 Aug 2004 10:59:57 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The very sleepy A12s and I15s have rounded Donegal head and are moving slowly through Weynton Pass. The A36s have passed CP and are continuing west very close to the hanson Island shore. The whales look like they will eventually meet up at the top of hanson Island.

Helena

08 Aug 2004 12:50:14 PDT

**Distant calls audible.**

The A12s & I15s have just crossed the "line" into Johnstone Strait after sleeping their way through Weynton Pass against the tide. The tide won't turn for another 3 hours so they may not get very lively for a while yet! Perhaps the A36s will encourage them to wake up.

Helena

08 Aug 2004 15:17:39 PDT

**Orcas near mics.**

The A36s are off CP, the A12s & I15s are east bound in the Strait from Weynton Pass. Channel B.

Helena

08 Aug 2004 16:06:15 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We've been hearing occasional distant calls from the A36s as they head back to the west, possibly to meet up with the A12s & I15s who are headed east in Johnstone Strait, very slowly, after coming in via Weynton Pass a couple of hours ago.

Paul

08 Aug 2004 17:47:41 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Some of the orcas from the east, possibly the A30s, have returned & are at the Main rubbing beach. Channel B.

Paul

08 Aug 2004 18:33:41 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The I15s and the A12s are slowly travelling down the Vancouver Island shore, heading to the east and approaching Kaikash Beach. The A36s are a little ahead of them and are at the eastern end of Kaikash, mid strait.

Anna@CP

08 Aug 2004 19:26:51 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s are passing CP. We've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

08 Aug 2004 20:11:54 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

We've been listening to the A1s (A30s, A12s, A36s), A4s (A11s, A24s), A5s (A8s, A23s, A25s) and the I15s on the CP, & PI hydrophones as the whales go back & forth off the entrance to Blackney Pass. Boat noise is also present but the calls have often been clear... besides, it's a lovely evening here!

Paul

08 Aug 2004 21:01:13 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

We just started to hear blows in blackney Pass. The A36s, I15s and a12s were huddled by the "bottom" end (southeast) of Hanson Island ever since the groups merged. The A30s, A5s and the A4s were travelling to the east.

Helena

08 Aug 2004 22:27:22 PDT

**Monday August 9, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

The A30s, A4s and A5s decided to follow the A12s and I15s. They turned to west and came into Blackney, gone to the north. Now we are listening to A5 calls on FI hydrophone.

Tomoko

09 Aug 2004 03:56:38 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

At least two groups of orcas are travelling south through Blackney Pass. They include the A30s & should be within sight of CP within a half an hour. We're sending an alert.

Paul

09 Aug 2004 08:26:51 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s are just entering Johnstone Strait, with the A5s & possibly the A4s behind them. Channel B.

Paul

09 Aug 2004 08:48:39 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A11s, A30s, A24s, and A5s have all cleared CP and are off the Sophia Islands heading for Robson Bight.

Anna@CP

09 Aug 2004 09:51:57 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A30s, A4s and the A5s are moving closer to the Ecological Reserve. The I15s and the A36s have been seen further west in Queen Charlotte Strait.

Helena

09 Aug 2004 10:41:21 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The A30s have reached the Main rubbing beach - Channel B. We're not sending an alert because our house is already "full".

Paul

09 Aug 2004 11:25:17 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s turned back to the west after their short rub, and the others (A4s, A5s) have also turned... they are all westbound, in & off the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight. Some of the A5s are on the Cracroft Island side and may be near Cracroft Point within an hour or so.

Paul

09 Aug 2004 13:20:43 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Some of the A5s (A51, A61) are close to Cracroft Point. Channel A. We've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

09 Aug 2004 13:38:32 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A5s and the A30s have cleared passed CP to the west. The A30s are a little spread out between the Vancouver Island shore and mid strait. The A5s are foraging off Big Bay.

Anna & Julie@CP

09 Aug 2004 14:00:17 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s and A5s are mid strait off Kaikash and quickly heading to the east. The A11s and A8s made it up to the Sophia Islands before turning back to the east and crossing over to Robson Bight. The A35s have made their way down to Donegal Head and are still travelling to the east.

Anna & Julie@CP

09 Aug 2004 15:22:03 PDT

Orcas near mics.

We're listening to close calls & echolocation from the A4s as they get near the Critical Point hydrophone. They will be past CrPt soon & may be going in for a rub after a while. Some of the A5s are a bit behind the A4s. They are also audible, and the A30s can be heard in the distance, mid Strait off Robson Bight. Meanwhile, we're also beginning to hear distant calls on the Flower Island hydrophone - the A12s, A24s, A35s & I15s are slowly moving east at the "top" of Blackfish Sound.

Paul

09 Aug 2004 16:44:31 PDT

**Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.**

The A30s turned back to the west a while ago & are now in front of CP, along with the A5s & A4s... they appear to have been waiting for the other groups to come into the Strait via Blackney Pass. Unfortunately, a boat disrupted the orcas as they were headed down Blackfish Sound & they ended up going back the other way... they are now entering Johnstone Strait via Weynton pass.

Paul

09 Aug 2004 17:55:05 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

We're listening to the calls of the A4s, A5s, & A30s as they make their way to the east along the Vancouver Island shoreline... the A11s are in the lead, now past the western boundary of the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight. Further back, but still in the far western part of the Strait, are the A12s, A36s & I15s.

Paul

09 Aug 2004 20:24:29 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The calls are getting closer to the Critical Point hydrophone & there is only a little boat noise in the background, so we've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

09 Aug 2004 20:33:39 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The whales in Johnstone Strait are in two main groups. The A30s, A11s, A24s and the A5s who came through Blackney Pass this morning have spent the day in the Strait moving east, west and then east again ahead of the returning I15s, A36s, A12s and A35s who elected to come back via Weynton Pass. The A30s, A11s, A24s and A5s are in the Reserve quite close to Critical Point while the others are further west but moving east as well.

Helena

09 Aug 2004 20:53:09 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The A36s and the I15s are not far off the entrance to Blackney Pass. We have not heard blows yet but they may be trying to come in.

Helena

09 Aug 2004 23:20:57 PDT

Superb sounds!!

We do have at least the I15s in Blackney Pass now heading north.

Helena

09 Aug 2004 23:26:28 PDT





Tuesday August 10, 2004

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The lead group to the east arrived at the main rubbing beach a short while ago. We believe that the other groups will follow and some have passed Critical Point. The A12s, A36s, and I15s can still be heard on Critical and they are nearing the Bight from the west after poking their noses into Blackney Pass.

Helena

10 Aug 2004 01:27:03 PDT

Orcas hunting fish.

Good morning everyone! We've been listening to echolocation close to the Critical Point hydrophone, along with a few "G clan" calls, for the past while. It sounds like the I15s have returned from a brief trip to the east & are having a bite in the Bight!

Paul

10 Aug 2004 07:46:26 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

It sounds like all the groups that headed east early this morning are on their way back to the west again. So far, we've heard the I15s, A36s & A12s. Another large group of orcas is reported further to the east & is headed west, but it is still beyond the range of our hydrophones. It probably includes the A30s, A4s & A5s.

Paul

10 Aug 2004 08:53:54 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A34s are headed west along the Crocroft Island side of the Strait & will be within range of the CP surface camera soon. We're too close to having a full house to send out an alert (sorry).

Paul

10 Aug 2004 09:40:03 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s are headed west on the Cracroft Island side of the Strait, with the A35s a bit further behind. They will soon be in view of the CP surface camera - Channel A. We won't be sending an alert because our house is nearly full. Meanwhile, the I15s & A36s are headed west on the Vancouver Island side & are now off Kaikash.

Paul

10 Aug 2004 10:49:30 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We've been hearing occasional distant calls as the various groups of orcas (A4s, A5s, A12s, A30s, A36s, I15s) made their way to the west. They all turned around again short while ago & are now eastbound again.

Paul

10 Aug 2004 11:39:32 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A11s, A30s & A5s are back in Robson Bight, getting closer to the Critical Point hydrophone as they head east. There is some boat noise in the background but the calls are clear, so we've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

10 Aug 2004 13:06:29 PDT

Boat noise

As soon as we sent the alert the boat noise got louder & that's about all we're hearing at the moment - hopefully, it will go away soon & the calls will resume.

Paul

10 Aug 2004 13:07:44 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The A4s have arrived at the Beaches. The A30s and the A5s are probably not far behind. The I15s, A36s, and the A12s are still west of CP but east bound.

Helena

10 Aug 2004 13:44:23 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We haven't heard any calls for about half an hour, but there are lots of orcas within hydrophone range. The A12s are in the entrance of Blackney Pass & are possibly heading into it, the A36s are mid-Strait off CP, the I15s are mid-Strait a little further to the east of them, & the A30s & A4s are heading slowly west towards the Sophia's on the Cracroft Island side of the Strait. It seems like a lazy afternoon for the orcas.

Paul

10 Aug 2004 15:26:18 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

The A12s have passed through Blackney pass & are now in Blackfish Sound. They are silent. So are the A4s & A5s, who passed CP a short while ago & are now headed west past the entrance to Blackney Pass.

Paul

10 Aug 2004 16:19:03 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A4s and A5s are heading to the east again and off the Baron Reefs right now. The A30s are a little closer to the Vancouver Island shore. The I15s and the A36s are resting and approaching Robson Bight. No word on the A12s who were last sighted heading west off Hanson Island in Blackfish Sound.

Anna & Gigi@CP

10 Aug 2004 17:11:22 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The various groups in Johnstone Strait have turned back to the east again & are headed towards Robson Bight... at the moment we can hear calls from the I15s & A36s on the Critical Point hydrophone, but others are there as well (A30s, A4s, A5s). The A12s are on their way back to the Strait, having just gone through the "Blowhole" in Blackfish Sound.

Paul

10 Aug 2004 17:50:31 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A12s having come back into the Strait via Weynton Pass (actually via the "blow-hole") have turned around to the west again after not coming further than the Wastells. Down nearer to the Bight the I15s are also coming west while the very chatty, excited A4s, A5s stay floating mid Bight. The A30s are still going east for the moment approaching Critical Point. All the groups are vocal.

Helena

10 Aug 2004 18:34:29 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The A12s have decided to resume going east again. They are passing the Wastells (east of Telegraph Cove). The rest remains pretty much the same. The A30s have moved even closer to Critical and the A36s are with the slowly westbound I15s.

Helena

10 Aug 2004 18:48:56 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A12s have joined the others off Robson Bight and the "party" has begun!

Helena

10 Aug 2004 21:23:50 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

We've heard some calls on the rubbing beach hydrophone, along with the sound of pebbles moving, so we think that some of the orcas have gone into the beaches for a quick rub as they head east.

Paul

10 Aug 2004 22:33:21 PDT

**Wednesday August 11, 2004****No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! We've heard no calls since just before midnight, when some of the A5s went into the Main rubbing beach for a brief rub. We think the more than 50 orcas present in the Strait yesterday (A1s, A4s, A5s, I15s) were generally eastbound at that time, though we're not completely sure. We are waiting.

Paul

11 Aug 2004 07:04:04 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Actually some of the calls have been close but the I15s are moving fairly quickly to the west so we anticipate that their calls will become distant before they get into range of CP. They are spread out with at least the A36s to keep them company. There are dolphins in with the whales. Ever since the larger numbers of dolphins came "in" they have kept up with the whales pretty much all of the time. It is difficult to know how their presence is viewed by the whales. We do see & hear a lot of "different behaviours from the orcas when dolphins are close by. Sometimes the dives become extended, the calls become excited & distorted and at other times the whales go completely silent. It is always interesting.

Helena

11 Aug 2004 10:31:27 PDT

Boat noise

The I15s are very spread out along the Vancouver Island shore and approaching Kaikash Beach. The A36s are approaching CP mid strait. Both groups are travelling to the west. We have heard reports that the A30s, A4s, and A5s are down to the east and easting.

Anna & Gigi@CP

11 Aug 2004 11:49:17 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A36s are foraging off CP. The I15s are still west bound. We sent an Alert. Channel A.

Helena

11 Aug 2004 12:28:49 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A36s are still foraging off the Blackney Pass gap and the I15s are resting off Robson Bight and slowly making their way to the east.

Anna & Gigi@CP

11 Aug 2004 16:09:19 PDT





Thursday August 12, 2004

Performing maintenance

The technical difficulties we were having overnight appear to have been resolved & we think we are stable again. Please excuse the inconvenience.

Paul

12 Aug 2004 07:04:25 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls since about 11:30pm, when we think the I15s & A36s were headed east past the rubbing beaches (some of the I15s went in for a rub). Earlier, around 5pm, the A4s, A5s, A12s & A30s were reported to be westbound at the far eastern end of Johnstone Strait. We are waiting for their return.

Paul

12 Aug 2004 07:38:08 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

At least some of the orcas must be coming back to the west... we're listening to calls from the A12s & I15s as well as rubbing at the Main beach. We've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

12 Aug 2004 09:10:00 PDT



Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A34s (A12s) are passing CP, heading west, and are visible on Channel B. We've sent a messenger alert.

Paul

12 Aug 2004 11:50:47 PDT



Distant calls audible.

The A36s, A12s, and I15s turned back to the east about half an hour ago. The A36s are in the lead and approaching the Baron Reefs mid strait. The A12s are following them and the I15s are a little spread out, mixed in with the A12s and also along the Vancouver Island shore. The group of transients that were spotted earlier have been identified as the T41s and are continuing to the west passed Telegraph Cove.

Anna & Gigi@CP

12 Aug 2004 12:37:05 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The I15s, A36s, and A12s have all turned back to the west off Robson Bight.

Anna & Gigi@CP

12 Aug 2004 15:21:38 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The I15s, A36s, and A12s continued up to the west and at 1820 turned back to the east off the Blackney Pass gap. They are off Robson Bight now and still heading east.

Anna & Gigi@CP

12 Aug 2004 20:10:21 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The A36s, A12s and the I15s are at the Rubbing beaches.

Tomoko

12 Aug 2004 21:34:22 PDT

**Friday August 13, 2004****Orcas near mics.**

The A12s, A36s and I15s came back from rub. Sounds like at least A4s and A5s came back from the east too!

Tomoko

13 Aug 2004 01:28:29 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The whales went north through Blackney Pass. We are listening to A1, A4s, A5s and I15s on FI hydrophone.

Tomoko

13 Aug 2004 03:11:52 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

Good morning everyone! It's a lovely morning here, with orcas parading to the east down Johnstone Strait, having circumnavigated Hanson Island earlier this morning. They are in their groups (A12s, A4s, A5s, A30s, A36s, I15s) and are spread out from mid-Strait to the Vancouver Island side. They are now approaching the western boundary of the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight. There was quite a lot of boat noise earlier, and a very rude sailboat has been following the whales since first light, zig-zagging around and over them. Apart from that, it's been a very peaceful scene. We've been listening to the calls on the Critical Point & Cracroft Point hydrophones.

Paul

13 Aug 2004 07:16:55 PDT

Re the rude sailboat, there is very little that can be done about it. This vessel has been in the area for the past several days & has been contacted by the wardens who protect the Reserve several times. Probably, the wardens will be speaking to the boat again, & a report about it will probably be filed. Formal charges are difficult to pursue and seldom made. Appropriate behaviour around whales is mostly a matter of learning politeness, and in this case that has yet to happen.

Paul@OL

13 Aug 2004 07:57:17 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

All the groups are now past Critical Point, travelling slowly to the east. Some have been into the rubbing beaches briefly, others are lingering offshore. It's quite possible there will be more rubbing over the next while.

Paul

13 Aug 2004 09:39:51 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

We're starting to hear calls on the Critical Point hydrophone again as several of the groups make their way back to the west. Others look like they are continuing to the east.

Paul

13 Aug 2004 10:51:33 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A5s are passing CP. Channel B. All the groups are west bound once again along with their new friend -Humpback.

Helena

13 Aug 2004 11:20:28 PDT



**Multiple pod calls audible.**

The A8s and the A43s have cleared passed CP and are off the Blackney Pass gap now. There are more whales approaching from the east...

Anna & Gigi@CP

13 Aug 2004 11:25:46 PDT

**Multiple pod calls audible.**

The whales did not spend a lot of time at the Main Beach which was too bad since the water clarity was excellent. The A5s and the I15s hopped around the corner to the middle beach when the A12s turned to the west from mid strait at the east end of the Reserve. The other groups soon followed suit and so now we are listening to the whales off Critical Point once more.

Helena

13 Aug 2004 16:28:52 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A4s & A5s are passing CP, headed west. Channel B. The other groups are also westbound, spread out across the Strait to the Vancouver Island side. We've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

13 Aug 2004 17:14:39 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A30s calls signal the whales closeness to Robson Bight. Spread out across the Strait are the A4s, A5s, A12s and I15s. We are not sure if the A36s stayed with the rest. At 6pm they were mid strait westbound off of Weynton Passage. We will wait and see if we hear them too.

Helena

13 Aug 2004 22:38:05 PDT

Superb sounds!!

A4s are very close to CP now so perhaps the whales have ventured back, once more to the entrance of Blackney Pass. What are they waiting for?

Helena

13 Aug 2004 23:19:20 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The I15s plus the As have gone into the main Rubbing beach after their quick travel to the west and back east to the Reserve. We sent an Alert.

Helena

13 Aug 2004 15:08:29 PDT

**Saturday August 14, 2004****Orcas approaching Orcalab.**

The A4s, followed by the A5s, A12s & I15s are heading north through Blackney Pass. The A30s are approaching Cracroft Point & will probably follow them. We haven't heard the A36s yet, though they are likely to be somewhere close by. There is no boat noise & the calls are loud and clear, as lovely as the starry night around us!

Paul

14 Aug 2004 00:19:12 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Good morning everyone! We began to hear distant "A" calls on the Critical Point hydrophone a short while ago. It sounds like at least the A30s have come back into Johnstone Strait via Weynton Pass. Quite possibly there will be others with them.

Paul

14 Aug 2004 06:34:53 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

It sounds like all the groups that went north through Blackney Pass around midnight are back in Johnstone Strait, having circumnavigated Hanson Island once again. As well as the A30s, we've heard the A4s, A5s, A12s & I15s. They are on the Vancouver Island side of the Strait, heading east, & are now approaching the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight. We're listening to their calls on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

14 Aug 2004 08:15:21 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

It looks like most of the groups have turned back to the west again. They are spread out from the east end of the Ecological Reserve through Robson Bight to just west of the western boundary of the Reserve. They are mostly on the Vancouver Island side, though one group appears headed across the Strait to the Cracroft island side. Another group is at Naka Creek & appears to still be heading east.

Paul

14 Aug 2004 09:39:51 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Some of the orcas heading west are going to be passing close to the CP camera soon. They will include the most of the A4s & all of the A5s. Channel A.

Paul

14 Aug 2004 10:49:12 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

A38 is close to CP, by himself. The other A30s are probably not far away, but his are the calls we've been hearing recently.

Paul

14 Aug 2004 12:15:26 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s are back in front of CP. The rest of the whales had continued west to Turn Point on the Hanson Island side (the a4s and the A5s) and Blinkhorn on the Vancouver Island shore (the A36s & the I15s). These groups have turned back to the east.

Helena

14 Aug 2004 13:11:11 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s are back in front of CP. The rest of the whales had continued west to Turn Point on the Hanson Island side (the a4s and the A5s) and Blinkhorn on the Vancouver Island shore (the A36s & the I15s). These groups have turned back to the east.

Helena

14 Aug 2004 13:11:11 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A30s are still in front of CP! Their sounds are beautiful.

Helena

14 Aug 2004 14:32:46 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

All the whales are heading east, sounds like most of them had passed CRPT, approaching to the Rubbing Beaches.

Tomoko@CP

14 Aug 2004 16:15:38 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Some of the whales were at the Rubbing beaches. We heard A4s, A5s, A30s and I15s.

Tomoko@CP

14 Aug 2004 16:41:13 PDT

**Multiple pod calls audible.**

Just after the I15s touched in at the main beach the whales turned back to the west and approached Critical Point again. Lovely close sounds before the boat noise.

Helena

14 Aug 2004 17:22:49 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A5s are in front of CP, the lead group in the western parade.

Helena

14 Aug 2004 18:13:32 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

We switched the surface camera to Channel B. You can now see it on 300K.

Helena

14 Aug 2004 18:17:42 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Well, the A30s, A4s and A5s came up to CP and the entrance to Blackney Pass. Some had a "look" in but then everyone went back to the east. On the other side the I15s and the A36s (and ?A12s) after milling about decided to turn to the west. Not sure at this point whether the others will do so too. The calls have dropped off quite a bit!

Helena

14 Aug 2004 19:54:28 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We last heard calls at about 9:30pm on the Critical Point hydrophone. At that time we thought the various groups (A12s, A30s, A36s, A4s, A5s, I15s) were headed east in Johnstone Strait. However, we are not sure as to direction. We are listening.

Paul

14 Aug 2004 23:03:21 PDT

Sunday August 15, 2004**Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.**

The A4s and A5s are at the Beaches under a thundery/lightening lit sky -Good Morning!

Helena

15 Aug 2004 05:11:50 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A4s/A5s/A1s (?A12s) are moving west from the Beaches and approaching the Bight now.

Helena

15 Aug 2004 05:44:22 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A11s just passed CP.

Tomoko@CP

15 Aug 2004 08:09:20 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We've been hearing distant calls on the Flower Island hydrophone, along with echolocation on the Critical Point hydrophone, over the last while. The FI calls are probably from the A11s, who travelled north through Weynton Pass earlier this morning & are now at the "top" of Blackfish Sound. The A30s & another group, possibly the rest of the A4s along with the (probable) A5s have been sighted just to the west of the Ecological Reserve, so it's possible the echolocation is from some of them.

Paul

15 Aug 2004 11:27:41 PDT

Orcas near mics.

We're hearing close calls & echolocation on the Critical Point hydrophone. It sounds like the some of the A4s & the A30s are in Robson Bight & are making their way to the east along the Vancouver Island shoreline. If they continue, they may arrive at the rubbing beaches before long. We're also hearing distant calls from the A11s on the Flower Island hydrophone. It's foggy in Blackfish Sound, but they have been sighted, so we know they are still at the "top" of Blackfish.

Paul

15 Aug 2004 11:46:36 PDT

**Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.**

The A11s are headed south through Blackney Pass & will be off CP soon.

Paul

15 Aug 2004 13:14:11 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The A4s and the A5s have moved from the Middle Beach to the Main Beach. Unfortunately, we are experiencing technical difficulties with the remote camera and cannot film the beaches at the moment. We hope this will be resolved soon.

Helena

15 Aug 2004 13:58:43 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s moved just a bit further west to Izumi as the A11s & A73 entered Johnstone Strait. The A4s and the A5s are still preoccupied at the Beaches, moving back to the Middle beach again. The A11s are crossing from the Cracroft Island side toward the A30s.

Helena

15 Aug 2004 14:25:10 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

All the groups are moving to the west. The A35s and the A24s were followed by the A5s. They followed the Cracroft Island shore past the Cliff and then angled out to the A11s. Once the groups were together they angled back to the Cracroft shore and continued west toward CP. The A30s are further west, near Blinkhorn, spread out along the Vancouver Island shore and still going west.

Helena

15 Aug 2004 16:22:18 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Channel B - A4s and A5s passing CP!

Helena

15 Aug 2004 16:41:44 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A4s & A5s turned back to the east again a short while ago and are now approaching CP. They are visible on Channel B.

Paul

15 Aug 2004 17:26:11 PDT

Orcas hunting fish.

We've been listening to close echolocation on the Critical Point hydrophone... sounds like someone is grabbing a bite in the Bight!

Paul

15 Aug 2004 20:26:40 PDT



Skeena

**Monday August 16, 2004****No orcas present.**

We've heard no calls for some time & don't know where the orcas we were listening to earlier this evening are at present. It's possible they continued to the east past Robson Bight, but we are not sure. We are waiting.

Paul

16 Aug 2004 00:01:18 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Good morning everyone! We heard calls briefly, a little before the sun rose, but they didn't continue & we're not sure which hydrophone they came from, i.e. we don't yet know where the orcas are. We last heard them about 3am, when they were rubbing at the Main beach. It's possible they were headed east at the time, though we're not sure of that either. We are listening, and meanwhile enjoying what looks like the beginning of another lovely summer day.

Paul

16 Aug 2004 06:38:11 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

It seems that the calls we heard about 6am were probably from the A4s or A5s in Robson Bight, because they were eventually heard & then sighted heading west close to the Vancouver Island shoreline, opposite the eastern end of Hanson Island. Probably, the A11s (with A73) were in front. They turned back to the east again, before reaching Blinkhorn, at about 8:45am. We've heard no calls since about 7:30am, though boat noise has been present in the Strait & we may have missed something. Interestingly, a small group of 3 transient orcas (T10s) was heading south through Blackney Pass at the same time (about 7:30am) as the A4s & A5s became vocal & were heard on the Parson Island hydrophone. The transients turned at the same time & headed back north into Blackfish Sound.

Paul

16 Aug 2004 09:21:46 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s have also been sighted, also headed east close to the Vancouver shoreline at Kaikash, also silent.

Paul

16 Aug 2004 09:36:59 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Good morning! -sleeping whales (the a4s, A5s & A30s) headed east ever so slowly west of the western boundary marker of the Ecological Reserve. we have been trying to reconstruct the movements over night. We are sure the a4s and A5s went east by 8pm (past Critical Point) and that the A30s stalled in Robson Bight until 8:50pm. Then it becomes unclear if the A30s ventured west - their calls grew fainter and fainter- or whether they just moved out, offshore and slipped east from mid strait. At 12:40 am we heard A4s come up to Critical Point for a while and then slip back to the east once again. Were they checking to encourage the A30s east or listen for new whales? Someone rubbed silently & briefly at 2:20am. Finally at 6am whales were back off Critical and heading west. One of the kayak groups camping at the east end of the Reserve saw 15-20 whales just before this. They noticed two males in the group suggesting the A30s were there. On the western trek we only heard A4/A5s briefly as they crossed the entrance to Blackney Pass. By the time they got to Blinkhorn and turned at 8:30am and headed east past CP the A30s were clearly in the group. The A11s were leading. They and the Strait are very quiet - perhaps a long necessary rest for the busy orcas, perhaps before new groups arrive!

Helena

16 Aug 2004 11:09:21 PDT

Maybe I can help clear up the confusion re Holly/Sonora's name. A42 was nicknamed by Dave Bain, who was a student researcher from California during the 1980's. When the adoption programmes were established later it was decided to name the whales, that were to be adopted, after geographical locations. It was Dr. John Ford who came up with this very neat idea and it solved a huge problem about how to name the whales. However, some whales already had names - such as Nicola (A2), Top Notch (A5) and Sharky (A25). These names were inspired by individual markings on the dorsal fins. When asked why "Holly" Dr. Bain replied, "because doesn't she just look like a Holly?" It stuck but it was not well known except to a few people so when the adoption programmes began she received another name (Sonora). We use the names interchangeably. In fact we often comfortably refer to individuals by their alpha-numeric label which because these are so often used they too have become like names. I still think



of "Top Notch" as A5 most of time. Sorry for the confusion but hope this helps. Incidentally, A42 was named for Sonora Island which is not far from Campbell River. Springer (A73) was named for Springer Point on Sonora Island. It can be fun to get a reference book which describes the BC coastal names & their history. "British Columbia Coast Names" by Captain John T. Walbran is a good choice.

Helena@Hanson_island

16 Aug 2004 11:38:49 PDT

Performing maintenance

We are experiencing problems with our camera at the rubbing beaches, so we cannot show scenes from there at this time. Hopefully, we will solve the problem soon.

[Paul](#)

16 Aug 2004 13:01:27 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

We're listening to the A5s at the Main rubbing beach. All the A4s & A5s are rubbing at present & are spread out between the various rubbing beaches.

[Paul](#)

16 Aug 2004 13:10:27 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Some of the A4s are back at the Main rubbing beach!

[Paul](#)

16 Aug 2004 14:06:49 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A4s, A5s, & A30s are heading quickly back to the west after their long session of rubbing. We've been listening to their calls & echolocation close to the Critical Point hydrophone as they rush by, grabbing quick bite to eat on the fly.

[Paul](#)

16 Aug 2004 15:29:13 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A4s are mid-Strait off CP, heading west. They are visible on Channel A. The A5s & A30s are not far away & may also come within camera range soon. We've sent a Messenger alert.

[Paul](#)

16 Aug 2004 16:42:47 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The orcas are back at the rubbing beaches & our camera is working again... Channel A.

[Paul](#)

16 Aug 2004 20:51:28 PDT

Hi Jan, The A4's and 5's do sound similar, however, there are some differences. The A5's make the N17 call, which the A4's do not. It's sort of an R sounding call, a 2 part rising whistle call. And the A5 N9 call is different too. It has a "hook" on the end, and rises steadily before the end. All of the A's make it, but only the A5's have the downsweep "hook" at the end. Also, the A4's tend to sound more stretched out in their calls, while the A5's are faster. I know these descriptions without having the call there to listen to and recognize doesn't help much. I'm sorry about that, but I don't have a tape to distribute with all of the various calls on it. I'll think more about what I can do to help....

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

16 Aug 2004 11:20:32 PDT

**Tuesday August 17 2004****Multiple pod calls audible.**

Good morning everyone! "New" orcas are heading south through Blackney Pass into Johnstone Strait! We are hearing "G-G" and "B-subclan" calls, though we're not sure exactly which groups are present yet. Some of them have reached the entrance of Blackney & are off CP. Channel A.

Paul

17 Aug 2004 06:20:56 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The newly arrived groups are heading east down Johnstone Strait. We are now listening to them on the Critical Point hydrophone. We're still not sure as to exactly which groups are there but think they probably include the C6s & C10s & the G3s & G29s along with other G groups.

Paul

17 Aug 2004 07:15:06 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The various groups are now heading east past the eastern boundary of the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight. Some of the "Gs" went into the beaches for a rub, briefly. Meanwhile, it looks like some of the groups that headed east in the Strait last night have come back to meet the incoming orcas. These are probably the A30s and/or the A4s/A5s. All the orcas are now generally headed east and are going beyond the range of our hydrophones.

Paul

17 Aug 2004 08:24:54 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

T14 plus a smaller one are headed past CP at the moment! They are headed west. The residents are still to the east.

Helena

17 Aug 2004 16:44:50 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The Cs are at the Beaches. We have sent an Alert.

Helena

17 Aug 2004 17:33:55 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The A1s, A4s and the A5s must be ahead of the Cs coming west. We have been listening to their calls on Critical Point for the past while. Sounds like they are mid strait.

Helena

17 Aug 2004 18:03:41 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

Add the Gs to that list as well!

Helena

17 Aug 2004 18:04:47 PDT

Distant calls audible.

After a break of an hour, the whales are now vocalizing on Critical again.

Julie

17 Aug 2004 19:38:40 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The many groups of orcas that have been heading west in Johnstone Strait this afternoon are now parading past Cracroft Point. Channel A.

Paul

17 Aug 2004 19:43:02 PDT



**Superb sounds!!**

As things turned out, most of the orcas have turned back to the east, though the A11s & another group have headed north through Blackney Pass & are now in Blackfish Sound. For the past while, we've been listening to the A30s on the Critical Point hydrophone, presumably as they head east. Many other groups are probably headed east also, though we're not sure. There's a good chance that the A30s will reach the rubbing beaches before dark.

Paul

17 Aug 2004 20:59:54 PDT

Orcas near mics.

We have been listening to the A30s off Critical Point in the Robson Bight area. But the A11s/A73 travelled quickly and silently through Blackney Pass to the west into Blackfish Sound. A very large group group turned back to the east off the Sophia island in the Strait while the A11+ group moved up to Blackney Pass.

Helena

17 Aug 2004 21:13:55 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

We heard brief rubbing sounds a few minutes ago & think the A30s may have gone into the main beach on their way to the east... however, there were no calls & we're not sure it was them.

Paul

17 Aug 2004 22:00:13 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The A30s are venturing in and out of the Main Rubbing beach - ? passing the time until the other groups come back.

Helena

17 Aug 2004 22:54:56 PDT

Hi Brenda, These are "G, G's, meaning the G pods of G clan, s G clan also has some I pods, such as the I15's. You can tell them apart from the "eee-aah" calls they both do. The "g G's accent on the "eee" part and the I's accent on the "aah" part of the "eee-aah" calls. Hope that helps.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

17 Aug 2004 06:58:25 PDT

So, the G-G's sound like "EEE-ahh" and the G clan I's (I11's, I15's and I31's) sound like "eee-AAH". The way you can tell it's G clan is by the "eee-aah" call, then listen to which part is accented and you can tell G's from I's.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

17 Aug 2004 07:04:54 PDT

LSBF, I'm not musical at all, and with a little practice of listening, and knowing what the differences are, what to listen for, anyone can begin to tell them apart. I'm still checking my notes, and listening too. So, I'd take notes when Markus, Jan, or myself share some info, and then refer to those notes when the whales are there and see if you can use them to ID who it is. Good luck!

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

17 Aug 2004 08:19:51 PDT

**Wednesday August 18 2004****Superb sounds!!**

For the past while we've been listening to lovely clear calls from the A11s on the Critical Point hydrophone. They came back into Johnstone Strait about 1am, after (apparently) "dropping off" the group they headed north through Blackney Pass with around 8pm. We weren't clear which group this was as they were silent. It sounds like the A11s are headed east and have made it as far as Robson Bight. If so, it's possible they'll head into the rubbing beaches before long (or they may not).

Paul

18 Aug 2004 04:08:40 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

It's likely that the A11s have now gone past the Critical Point hydrophone & that they are headed east. Quite possibly, they will be rejoining the large group of orcas that headed east in the Strait late yesterday afternoon.

Paul

18 Aug 2004 05:04:59 PDT

Orcas near mics.

Good morning everyone! It sounds like at least the A30s are returning from the east... for the past while, we've been listening to their calls and echolocation close to the Critical Point hydrophone. It seems likely that other groups will be behind them, so we've turned the rubbing beaches camera on.

Paul

18 Aug 2004 07:37:30 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Some of the orcas have gone into the Main rubbing beach. Channel B. We're hearing A4 as well as A30 calls so far.

Paul

18 Aug 2004 08:03:41 PDT

Boat noise

Boat noise has taken over the underwater soundscape, but the A30s & at least some of the A4s are nearby, making their way to the west inside the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight.

Paul

18 Aug 2004 08:13:43 PDT

Last night was interesting and long! The evening started when the Cs went in for a rub around 5:30pm while the A30s, A4s, A5s and the Gs headed west past Critical Point. The A11s and possibly the G3s continued west and into Blackney Pass as the others turned back to the east. The A30s lingered a while off the Bight before heading east also. However, they seemed to be waiting and every so often we heard them enter the beaches. Early in the morning the A5s came far enough west to also be heard on the rubbing beach system. Just before 12am we began to hear the A11s return from the west and travel south through Blackney back to the Strait. Between 1:45 and 4am they headed to Critical where the A30s were again, waiting. Both group continued east only to return to Critical around 7:30am. Both groups are now close to the entrance of Blackney Pass with possibly other groups starting to enter the eastern end of the Reserve. Should be an interesting day!

Helena

18 Aug 2004 09:51:32 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The a30s are still off CP but the A4s and the A5s have headed back to the east in the fog.

Helena

18 Aug 2004 10:52:16 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s have just passed silently through Blackney Pass & are now in Blackfish Sound. Meanwhile, the A4s & A5s have headed east down Johnstone Strait again.

Paul

18 Aug 2004 11:55:44 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Lots has happened since the A30s went through Blackney into Blackfish Sound. They got to the top end and then paused, fell asleep and pretty much stayed in the same spot for the next several hours. Most of the time they have been silent but just recently they became vocal so we wondered if they were going to wake up. No word yet that they have done so but two other groups (the D7s and another to be identified group) are apparently headed west along the Cracroft Island shore. There are still other groups to the east.

Helena

18 Aug 2004 16:23:14 PDT



Distant calls audible.

Lots has happened since the A30s went through Blackney into Blackfish Sound. They got to the top end and then paused, fell asleep and pretty much stayed in the same spot for the next several hours. Most of the time they have been silent but just recently they became vocal so we wondered if they were going to wake up. No word yet that they have done so but two other groups (the D7s and another to be identified group) are apparently headed west along the Cracroft Island shore. The C10s apparently went west past CP at 9:30am at the same time the A4s and the A5s turned back to the east off CP. There are still other groups to the east which have not come back yet.

Helena

18 Aug 2004 16:30:54 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The D7s and the other group are headed west from the Sophias on the Cracroft Island side.

Helena



18 Aug 2004 16:38:34 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

The A30s are heading south through Blackney Pass, & the A4s are on camera off the entrance to Blackney Pass. We're hearing A5 calls as well as A4 calls on the Parson Island hydrophone, so some of the A5s must be there too.

Paul

18 Aug 2004 17:15:50 PDT

Boat noise

Two tugs towing barges are transiting Blackney Pass... one is entering Johnstone Strait now & another is just behind. Boat noise will dominate the underwater soundscape for the next while. Meanwhile, the A30s are just about to come within sight of CP.

Paul

18 Aug 2004 17:27:21 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We're not hearing any calls at the moment. There is still huge boat noise in the Strait, and another tug is heading south through Blackney Pass. Meanwhile, some very interesting things are happening with the orcas. The A4s & A5s headed west up the Hanson Island shoreline & were joined by the A30s a bit before Big Bay. Then they then all turned back to the east. Just afterwards, 3 orcas made a quick pass through the Main rubbing beach, heading west, and shortly afterwards, an adult male orca was sighted at Critical Point heading east. There are a lot of details to sort out, but hopefully things will become clearer before too long.

Paul

18 Aug 2004 18:16:21 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We've been hearing distant A5 calls on the Critical Point hydrophone, along with distant A30 calls on the Cracroft Point hydrophone. We aren't sure where the A5s are at present. However, we do know that the A30s & A4s are mid-Strait off Big Bay, now headed west again, & that another group of orcas went north through Weynton Pass about half an hour ago... they are now at the "top" of Blackfish Sound. Lots of movement with no clear pattern at the moment!

Paul

18 Aug 2004 19:52:14 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We heard distant "A" calls on the Flower Island a short while ago, and thought that the A30s & A4s may have been heading "out" via Weynton Pass at that time. However, we aren't sure. We are listening.

Paul

18 Aug 2004 21:15:07 PDT

**Thursday August 19, 2004****Boat noise**

We're hearing only boat noise at the moment, but before it took over we had been hearing "C/D" calls on the Critical Point hydrophone, making us think they were coming back from the east in Johnstone Strait. We were also hearing distant "A" calls on Critical Point and were beginning to wonder if some of the A4s & A5s had come back in. Hopefully, the boat noise will be gone soon and things will become clearer.

Paul

19 Aug 2004 03:24:44 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We heard brief rubbing sounds at the Main beach a short while ago and are wondering if the orcas that had come up from the east have headed back that way. There are no calls at the moment & another tug has just entered Johnstone Strait via Blackney Pass and will head east in the Strait, so we'll be hearing boat noise for at least a while longer.

Paul

19 Aug 2004 04:01:00 PDT

No orcas present.

We were listening to the A4s on Critical Point for about a 1/2 hour (from 6am). There was a lot of movement during the night. Both the A4s and the A5s returned to the Strait before 1am and headed east meeting with the C group who were off Critical Point at 1:15am. We believe the Ds were there as well. It is still unclear if they went out with the As yesterday and then returned with them in these early hours. The boat noise was just terrible and at time it was very difficult to hear. The Cs were the last group off Critical at 3:11 am and then were heard again briefly on the Rubbing beaches. Calls just now again !

Helena

19 Aug 2004 07:19:26 PDT

Superb sounds!!

Someone from the D/C group sound close to Critical Point - early morning fishing!

Helena

19 Aug 2004 07:32:49 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Whales may be approaching the main rubbing beach.

Helena

19 Aug 2004 07:59:40 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Some of the orcas are heading into the Main rubbing beach! Channel A.

Paul

19 Aug 2004 08:19:18 PDT

Orcas hunting fish.

We're listening to echolocation from some of the A4s, who must be fishing close to the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

19 Aug 2004 09:00:03 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Several groups of orcas (A4s, A5s, A30s, Cs) are heading west close to the Cracroft Island shoreline... they are presently off the Sophias & should be within range of the CP camera soon. We've sent an alert.

Paul

19 Aug 2004 09:58:06 PDT

Distant calls audible.

All the groups, spread out across the Strait from Hanson Island to Vancouver Island, have turned back to the east again. They are between Big Bay and Blinkhorn, and are moving slowly eastwards. We can hear some of their calls in the distance on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

19 Aug 2004 11:27:31 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

After turning back to the east again, some of the orcas are heading back towards CP. Channel A.

Paul

19 Aug 2004 11:30:21 PDT

Distant calls audible.

All the groups are generally headed east towards the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight. We're listening to them on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

19 Aug 2004 13:05:33 PDT

**Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.**

A lot of rubbing is going on at the Main beach.
Channel A... we've sent an alert

Paul

19 Aug 2004 14:24:57 PDT

Orcas near mics.

We're listening to close calls & echolocation
on the Critical Point hydrophone as the
various groups of orcas make their way back
to the west again.

Paul

19 Aug 2004 15:15:54 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Too many things happening at the same
time ! Yikes and the whales already passing
CP. Channel A.

Helena

19 Aug 2004 16:47:03 PDT

Superb sounds!!

All the whales (the A30s, the A4s, the A5s,
the Cs and the Ds have moved back to
Robson Bight after turning around off Big Bay.
They are wonderfully vocal and the strait id
not too noisy with boats. have a lovely listen.

Helena

19 Aug 2004 19:01:53 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The whales have gone back to the beaches.

Helena

19 Aug 2004 21:28:33 PDT

Hear the "squeak", or "hook" at the end of
the calls? That's one way to tell the A5's.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

19 Aug 2004 10:17:25 PDT

**Friday August 20, 2004****No orcas present.**

As you may have guessed the resident orcas have moved out of the area. They are still in Johnstone Strait but quite far to the east this morning. At 11pm last night the Cs & Ds came back up the Strait to the Boat Bay area and met up with the A30s, A4s & A5s with whom they had spent the majority of the day (until the afternoon when they carried on to the east while the rest turned back to CP). Just after 12am all the groups went east and this morning just before 9am they were found, still together, still heading east off Hickey Point. They are still east bound. The A30s, a4s and the A5s have stalled 3 miles west of Kelsey Bay and the Cs and Ds are passing Kelsey Bay. There is a new calf in the Ds. This will be the 7th "A" clan calf we know of so far this year. The new mums are A42, A52, A59. A34, B14, C13 and possibly D9 or D10. Very exciting. Meanwhile, the T10s came out of baronet Passage this morning and went past the Lab, through Blackfish Sound, around the Pearse Islands and back into Johnstone Strait. They doubled back a bit to hunt seal on the Stephanson Islands.

Helena

20 Aug 2004 12:10:09 PDT

Yes, good news for all the new calves this year! They are usually are born in the spring and fall, but only 1 birth was witnessed, and it was a good one: back in the early '80's when the bight (Robson Bight) was being planned to become a log sort and clear-cut area, the media came out to see what this area was about. Jim Borrowman (Stubbs Island Whalewatching) and Bill MacKay (McKay Whalewatching, Niad Explorer) were working together to try to save the area from logging and had alerted the media, as a last resort to try to publicize the area to try to save it, and the day the media showed up, a whale (I think it was A24) gave birth in front of the boat carrying the reporters. It made headlines, and the area was eventually spared, although much (i.e. most) of the upper Tsitika Valley, which drains Robson Bight, has been cut. A memorable birth indeed!

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

20 Aug 2004 12:57:20 PDT

Saturday August 21, 2004**No orcas present.**

Good Morning. We didn't hear any calls overnight and believe the A30s, A4s,A5s,Cs,& Ds stayed to the east. Foggy here this morning but this has not, it seems, discouraged the sportsfishermen who have been out since first light. hope everyone has a good day.

Helena

21 Aug 2004 07:54:57 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Good Morning again. Despite heavy boat noise we have heard whales passing both the beaches and Critical Point as the groups move west. Dense fog blankets everywhere frustrating the the chance to see. But it is exciting to think they made it back to this part of the Strait.

Helena

21 Aug 2004 11:32:34 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We are listening to distant "A" calls on the Critical Point hydrophone - it sounds like the A5s & possibly A4s are headed west in Johnstone Strait. They are now past the western boundary of the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight. It's still foggy in the Strait, & there is a lot of boat noise from a tug towing a log boom that is heading east.

Paul

21 Aug 2004 11:51:22 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The distant calls we were hearing a while ago were probably from the A4s & A5s travelling close to the Cracroft Island shoreline, heading west. They are now approaching Cracroft Point . It is raining there today & probably too wet to film (we need the rain, so it's good news). We aren't sure which groups are on the Vancouver Island side of the Strait, but it's possible they are some of the C/Ds.

Paul

21 Aug 2004 12:23:47 PDT



Distant calls audible.

We are beginning to think that the A30s, A4s and the A5s turned back east and crossed over to the Vancouver Island shore. Right now, (they are silent), through the fog and mist the Cliff can see small groups of whales off the western side of the Bight. The Cs and the Ds most likely went out Weynton when the As turned and they are off Stubbs Island just on the edge of Blackfish Sound. We had a report earlier of new whales travelling eastward in Queen Charlotte Strait and are waiting to see if the Cs & Ds are waiting too.

Helena

21 Aug 2004 16:58:59 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A4s, A5s & A30s are passing CP headed west. Channel A. We've sent an alert.

Paul

21 Aug 2004 19:17:53 PDT



Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

It looks like the C/D group came back into Johnstone Strait via Weynton Pass, then headed east, & are now meeting up with the A4/5/30 group off CP & the entrance to Blackney Pass.

Paul

21 Aug 2004 19:38:49 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

All the whales have headed east. The A30s, A4s, and A5s came up to meet the whales coming from the west along Hanson Island. These whales first of all moved into the entrance of Blackney as the "As" came up to CP and then went east. We think the new arrivals may be whales (from the A clan "I" groups) so we are quite excited. These whales don't visit very often, usually just one or two visits per year!

Helena

21 Aug 2004 21:29:29 PDT

**Sunday August 22, 2004****Orcas near mics.**

The As (the A30s and the A5s/A4s have moved closer to Critical Point with the Cs. The Ds also headed that direction.

Helena

22 Aug 2004 02:00:09 PDT

Thank you for the update Helena. Can you tell us who those whales were we've heard around 22.00 hours?

Jan@Netherlands

22 Aug 2004 02:03:12 PDT

Hi Jan, We think we were listening to the "Is" of Aclan - perhaps the I18s and I1s. We will have a better idea when they return from the east and if they are a bit more vocal. It is possible the Ds escorted them in and then returned to the CP area and the entrance of Blackney Pass to greet the returning Cs.

Helena@orcalab

22 Aug 2004 02:11:06 PDT

No orcas present.

After the excitement of yesterday evening & the early hours of this morning, it is all quiet around here again (except for boat noise). The various groups of orcas A4s, A5s, A30s, Cs, Ds) along with the new arrivals at dusk (one or more of the "A-I" matriline) are probably somewhere to the east of us - they were last heard about 4:30am. We are waiting, and meanwhile enjoying a cloudy morning with a hint of blue here & there. The rain has stopped & there's a welcome freshness to the morning air.

Paul

22 Aug 2004 09:04:13 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We're beginning to hear distant "A" calls on the Critical Point hydrophone as some of the orcas that headed east in Johnstone Strait overnight return to the west. The groups that we'll (hopefully) hear & see over the next while include the A4s, A5s, A30s, & Bs. Other orcas have been sighted much further to the east in Johnstone Strait this morning, near Kelsey Bay. They include the Cs & Ds. All things considered, this promises to be another exciting orca day!

Paul

22 Aug 2004 12:26:59 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Some of the groups are approaching CP & will soon be within camera range. We'll send an alert.

Paul

22 Aug 2004 13:15:33 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A4s, A5s, A30s, Bs, & another "I-A" group (not exactly sure which) are now headed west adjacent to Hanson Island - the ones in front are opposite Big Bay. We're listening to their calls on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

22 Aug 2004 14:36:59 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Some of the whales have turned back to the east and are coming towards the Blackney Pass "gap" again, i.e. within range of the CP camera. Other groups are still continuing to the west.

Paul

22 Aug 2004 15:37:50 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s are off CP and the Bs are at the western end of Johnstone Strait. Vocally, we're hearing the A30s on the CP hydrophone.

Paul

22 Aug 2004 16:54:44 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We've been listening to the A30s, A4s & A5s on the Critical Point hydrophone as they slowly make their way back to the east in Johnstone Strait. The Bs left the Strait, heading north through Pearse Passage towards Cormorant Channel (north side of Alert Bay) a couple of hours ago.

Paul

22 Aug 2004 19:49:33 PDT

**Multiple pod calls audible.**

Sounds like the Bs have come back to the Strait. Earlier they went out north through Pearse Passage (slightly less used passage) at 6pm. The As have moved west and are probably mid strait off the entrance of Blackney Pass. The A4s and the A5s are in the lead.

Helena

22 Aug 2004 20:10:38 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A4s are close to CP!

Paul

22 Aug 2004 20:21:48 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Everyone is so quiet! The A groups went past CP into the fog quickly. By that time the Bs had stopped calling and pretty soon afterwards so did the As. Last calls were on Parson. Just now we think we heard humpback grunts and water swirls on Flower Island and then distant Bs in Blackfish Sound as well - they probably went out Weynton but did they pull the As with them?

Helena

22 Aug 2004 21:10:53 PDT

Superb sounds!!

Guess what? The Cs and the Ds are back from the east and near to Critical -just as I finished sending the last note. The As have not left. The Bs are still distant in Blackfish Sound.

Helena

22 Aug 2004 21:18:16 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Hmmm.... We have been listening to blows in Blackney Pass. We had the impression that they came from the north but they basically have not gone very far, just a short way past the Lab on the far side. They have shifted out to mid channel but have not moved either north or south very far. The blows appeared just at the same time the Ds were first heard briefly on Parson Island. The Ds have been silent ever since as have the other groups. We never heard the Cs come up from the east. We thought we might when we first heard the blows because these two groups were together in the east earlier today.

Helena

22 Aug 2004 23:30:38 PDT

Monday August 23, 2004**Distant calls audible.**

We are listening to the A30s, A4s and A5s on CP hydrophone. We are still hearing blows (from Bs) outside of the lab which were almost no direction for a long time. Now sounds like they're going to the south.

Tomoko

23 Aug 2004 00:53:33 PDT

Superb sounds!!

A30s_AA4s and A5s are in the Bight, making beautiful calls! The blows in Blackney earlier, have changed direction again and cleared to North.

Tomoko

23 Aug 2004 02:39:18 PDT

No orcas present.

Good morning everyone! After a very exciting night, we've heard no calls for about 2 hours. We think the Bs ended up heading north from Blackfish Sound, though we're not sure. Nor are we sure about what happened to the other groups that were in the Strait earlier (A4s, A5s, A30s, Ds). After boat noise took over the Strait for a couple of hours, they were gone from our hydrophone range (or perhaps they were just silent). It's a cool drizzly foggy morning here, so we can't see very much. We are waiting.

Paul

23 Aug 2004 06:59:20 PDT

Performing maintenance

We are experiencing intermittent connection difficulties. Please excuse the inconvenience.

Paul

23 Aug 2004 08:09:22 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

It now seems likely that the A4s, A5s & A30s headed east in Johnstone Strait early this morning... a short while ago, we heard their calls in the distance on the Rubbing Beach hydrophone, making us think they are heading back to the west. Some of the A5s went into the Main beach for a short rub. If they are westbound, we should begin to hear calls on the Critical Point hydrophone soon.

Paul

23 Aug 2004 08:30:39 PDT



Orcas near mics.

We're now hearing close calls on the Critical Point hydrophone!

Paul

23 Aug 2004 08:48:17 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

We're hearing calls close to the CP hydrophone, so we know some of the orcas are nearby... however, it's too foggy to see them! If they do come within range of the CP camera, we'll send an alert.

Paul

23 Aug 2004 09:42:57 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The whales have moved across Johnstone Strait from CP to the Vancouver Island side. At least some of them are just west of Kaikash at present, with others approaching Blinkhorn. They are still generally westbound, and though it is still foggy, the A30s have been sighted. Acoustically, the A4s & A5s have been there as well.

Paul

23 Aug 2004 10:53:46 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A30's are foraging off CP in the fog. More whales (A4's and A5's) are in the area but on the Vancouver Island side and spread out.

Julie and Mari @ CP

23 Aug 2004 11:55:03 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30's, A4's and maybe the A5's have all turned back to the east, they have passed CP and are in the fog near the Baron Reefs. There are reports of more whales farther north, maybe the B's, but currently out of visual and vocal range.

Julie and Mari @ CP

23 Aug 2004 13:05:44 PDT



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Boat noise

After CP the A30s left the other groups and crossed over toward Robson Bight. They entered the Reserve at 2pm. It is very foggy in the Strait. There is some discussion about the Cs also being with the A4s and A5s and we are waiting to hear calls or get a visual confirmation. They are headed toward the Cliff but the A11s are angling out from shore and the rest may cross into the fog. Cheryl might not be able to see them if that is what happens.

Helena

23 Aug 2004 14:17:06 PDT

**Orcas hunting fish.**

We've been hearing echolocation close to the Critical Point hydrophone, so at least some of the eastbound orcas are almost past Robson Bight. Others are reported to be in the fog, mid Strait, and heading for the eastern end of the Ecological Reserve. It's possible that we'll see some of the orcas rubbing before too long.

Paul

23 Aug 2004 15:54:22 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The first group of orcas has reached the Main rubbing beach! We've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

23 Aug 2004 16:22:20 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The whales are racing past CP Channel A!

Helena

23 Aug 2004 19:09:04 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

Some racing! by the time I stopped writing they had stopped travelling. Nice though. They have continued to the west.

Helena

23 Aug 2004 19:42:13 PDT

**No orcas present.**

This is interesting. We have no clear idea what happened to the A30s, A4s and A5s but we think they may have gone "out" via Weynton Passage. Still foggy here and rather drizzly.

Helena

23 Aug 2004 22:41:53 PDT

**Tuesday August 24, 2004****Superb sounds!!**

After listening to the Bs, Ds and Cs for the last two hours through the boat noise of cruise ships (B/C/Ds? in from Weynton) the A30s, A4s and A5s have joined in. It is amazing sound.

Helena

24 Aug 2004 04:05:32 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls for several hours, though we thought there was brief echolocation at around 7:30am, and think that the various groups of orcas that were in the Strait earlier this morning have headed east. We are waiting, and meanwhile enjoying another calm drizzly day.

Paul

24 Aug 2004 09:27:14 PDT

No orcas present.

Every so often the whales take off all together to the east. Throughout the night (the early morning we heard the returning B,C,D groups meet up with the A30s, A4s and the A5s. They travelled straight through and by daylight they were past the Reserve and on their way to Kelsey Bay. The first boats from up here managed to catch up for a while but the afternoon boats gave it a miss. Needless to say the whale watch community further east were delighted with their luck and had whales spread out across the Strait for most of the day. the later reports indicated that the whales were still eastbound. The T10s turned up east as well. Up here there was a humpback to occupy interest and we noticed that the sealions were begining to travel in groups once again. Tomorrow is another day and we will see what happens next. Forecast is for wind.

Helena

24 Aug 2004 21:09:25 PDT

Orcas near mics.

Suddenly, after a long silence, we're hearing close calls and echolocation on the Critical Point hydrophone... sounds like the Bs are back!

Paul

24 Aug 2004 22:19:30 PDT

Wednesday August 25, 2004**No orcas present.**

We've heard no calls since about 3am, when the Bs were still in Johnstone Strait. We aren't sure which direction they were going in at that time. We are waiting, and meanwhile enjoying the morning with sun shining through patches of blue in grey skies.

Paul

25 Aug 2004 08:08:37 PDT

Distant calls audible.

It is the A30s who passed the main beach and moved through the Bight a bit later on their way to the west. They are now past the Reserve continuing west along Vancouver Island. Meanwhile the A11s (A11, A13, A56 and A73) are also westbound on the other side (Cracroft) but they are still only as far as Boat Bay. They are foraging.

Helena

25 Aug 2004 10:55:19 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s are still moving west past Kaikash Creek and the a11s moved over to the Bight. A13 is off by himself near Izumi Rock (west of the Reserve on the VI side)

Helena

25 Aug 2004 11:50:51 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s turned back to the east at 1pm and moved back to Little Kaiaksh where they formed a resting line with A11, A56, A13 and A73. After stalling a bit both groups slowly moved eastward to Kaikash Creek. Sadly a small boat was on top of them while they were merging, resting and changing direction.

Helena

25 Aug 2004 14:30:36 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A30s are too close to Critical Point! A little while ago the quiet A11s were in front of the Cliff doing long dives and resurfacing in exactly the same spot. The Bs are apparently off Bere Point headed east.

Helena

25 Aug 2004 16:55:26 PDT

**Superb sounds!!**

The A30s & A11s have turned around and are headed back to the west again. They are still quite vocal & we are listening to them on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

25 Aug 2004 17:46:02 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A11's and the A30's were travelling to the west mid strait and on the Vancouver Island shore. After a day of indecision they have just turned back again to the east and look like they may be heading for Robson Bight.

Julie and Robyn @ CP

25 Aug 2004 18:45:27 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A30's are now getting closer to Critical, a lovely soundtrack to a beautiful sunset.

Julie and Robyn @ CP

25 Aug 2004 20:16:43 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A30s are very close to the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

25 Aug 2004 20:26:24 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The Bs are going through Blackney Pass. They are travelling with someone from the A5s. They are half way through Blackney. The A4s went back to the Beaches in the meantime and we have not heard the A30s since they passed Critical to the east.

Helena

25 Aug 2004 22:35:41 PDT

A30 N47 calls (high spirally whistles)

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

25 Aug 2004 20:17:22 PDT

You're welcome Brent. All of the A1's (A36's, A12's, and the 30's) can do it, but the 30's do it much more often, and with more gusto. It's usually them if you hear it.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

25 Aug 2004 20:44:05 PDT

Thes distant calls (the "honking" ones) are N1 calls of one of the B/C/D groups. The ones with a squeak on the end are N16 calls from the same group.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

25 Aug 2004 21:06:23 PDT

**Thursday August 26, 2004****No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! After the excitement of having the Bs come back "in" with some of the A5s, we've heard no calls since around 1:30am, when they were (probably) headed east past Robson Bight. We think that all of the various groups of orcas that have been in the Strait lately are now somewhere to the east of us. We are waiting, and meanwhile enjoying a calm morning at the start of what looks like a lovely day to come.

Paul

26 Aug 2004 07:16:36 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Quiet since 1:30am but just now a reprot from the warden that there are blows 1 kilometre east of the eastend of the Reserve. It could get interesting.

Helena

26 Aug 2004 08:16:21 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We've just started hearing calls on the rubbing beach hydrophone... it looks like there could be rubbing soon, so we've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

26 Aug 2004 08:24:48 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The whales are spread out from just east of CP to the east end of the Reserve. All are west bound. The A4s and A5s came along Cracroft. The Ds are most likely midstrait and the A30s were on the vancouver island side.

Helena

26 Aug 2004 09:34:22 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

We've just heard the sounds of orcas rubbing at the Main Beach & have turned the camera on. Channel B. We've sent a messenger alert. Meanwhile, there are orcas just about everywhere in Johnstone Strait this morning!

Paul

26 Aug 2004 11:17:09 PDT

Superb sounds!!

We're listening to fabulous calls from the westbound Bs on the Critical Point hydrophone at the same time as we are watching the eastbound parade past CP (Channel A). What an orca day!

Paul

26 Aug 2004 12:04:17 PDT

Superb sounds!!

I'm not sure that we will be able to keep up!. The Bs have just rounded the corner at Critical Point on their west from the beaches. The other groups turned back to the east and are approachinbg CP again. Last report about the C/Ds was that they were still west bound of Blinkhorn. The A30s keep moving back and forth and can be heard in the background of the louder Bs.

Helena

26 Aug 2004 12:07:26 PDT

Orcas near mics.

We are hearing the As (the A4s closest and the A5s in the distance) as they move back to the west past CP. The As didn't go further than the Sophias before turning. The Bs continued to slowly move west out of the Reserve. The Cs and the Ds are moving across the mouth of Telegraph Cove still west bound - so everybody is now facing the same direction - west.

Helena

26 Aug 2004 13:31:46 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Cs and Ds are around turn point, and A30s and A11s crossed from Big Bay to VI side. A4s and A5s are off Sophias a while ago.

Mari&HId

26 Aug 2004 16:41:35 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We haven't heard any calls for a while, but there are still several groups of orcas at the western end of Johnstone Strait... it's quite possible that they will come within range of our hydrophones again & we'll hear some of them before long.

Paul

26 Aug 2004 16:51:05 PDT



Distant calls audible.

We're beginning to hear calls from the large group of resting orcas that has been slowly travelling east in Johnstone Strait. They were off CP hours ago & have now made it as far as mid Strait opposite Robson Bight. It's likely they are waking up & will become quite vocal soon. Meanwhile, we haven't heard anything more about the Bs & others that were last sighted at the western end of Johnstone Strait - it sounded as if they has stalled off Weynton Pass.

Paul

26 Aug 2004 17:57:51 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

We've been watching & hearing the A4s, A5s, & now the A30s at the Main rubbing beach... meanwhile, a group of about a dozen orcas is heading south through Blackney Pass, though we're not yet sure who they are.

Paul

26 Aug 2004 20:01:12 PDT

Superb sounds!!

We're listening to the B/C/Ds making their way towards Johnstone Strait... their calls are on the Parson Island hydrophone. It's possible that the A30s headed back to the west after their rub, so we may soon be listening to ABCDs!

Paul

26 Aug 2004 21:01:08 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The B/C/D groups have moved closer to Robson Bight. Their calls are loud and clear as they move closer to Critical Point.

Helena

26 Aug 2004 22:28:55 PDT

Sounds like I missed some nice vocals. And some questions about which pods you were listening to. Just some tips to tell B/C/D's from the A's. The B/C/D's have a "honking" sounding N1 call (the A's N1 is different). The best calls for the B's are the N21 and N22 which only the B's do. N21 is a short squeaky call, hard to describe, but it's not very long and sounds like "err-ahh". The N22 is a little easier to explain. It's basically an N1 with 2 N21's on the end. So the call is the N1 ("honk") with "err-ahh, err-ahh" on the end. More, next post...

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

26 Aug 2004 22:24:54 PDT

The B/C/D's also make a call, the N16, which sounds like "a-WEEE-uh". There's a long and short version of this call, and that helps to tell C's from D's. The C's do both the long and short version, while the D's only do the short version. Hope that helps sort out the alphabet soup!

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

26 Aug 2004 22:29:56 PDT

Dave, do you mean by the N16 the call that starts low and go up in tone? There is also a call that starts high and ends low.

Jan@Netherlands

26 Aug 2004 22:36:43 PDT

Jan, The N16 starts low, and then goes high. I don't know what's happening in the chat room, but it's easier to type quickly in there, and I can call out the calls as they happen in there.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

26 Aug 2004 22:40:38 PDT

Lynne, yeas, this is all vocals, and not echolocation, although someone (or more) are probably echolocating as they move along. Echolocation doesn't travel as far as the calls, so we don't hear it unless they're closer to the hrdrophones. They seem to "understand" each other, although no one really knows what they're "saying", if anything. One theory is that they just convey emotional and activity states, not actual "words". It's a digital versus analog sort of question. Is there specific meaning to the sounds? Or, just a feeling of excited versus restful....

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

26 Aug 2004 22:49:42 PDT

The other ones (2 syllable) are N7's

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

26 Aug 2004 23:14:42 PDT

**Friday August 27, 2004****Performing maintenance**

Some problem has occurred on the server for the messenger application. We are trying to fix it. Sorry for this inconvenience and late announce!

staff

27 Aug 2004 00:30:50 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

Good morning everyone! We've been listening to the various groups come back to the west since around 3:30am. The B/C/Ds were first, followed by the A4/A5s, and most recently the A30s. The calls we're hearing at the moment are mostly from the A30s on the CP hydrophone. Calls are also audible on the Critical Point hydrophone. We think the whales are headed west past Blackney Pass, though we're not sure. It's a dark damp morning here & we can't see anything yet.

Paul

27 Aug 2004 05:55:16 PDT

Superb sounds!!

We're listening to the A30s on the Flower Island hydrophone. Their calls are clear and there is no boat noise, so we've sent a Messenger alert (in case it's working normally now).

Paul

27 Aug 2004 06:34:21 PDT

No orcas present.

It has been one of those days with the whales making an early move away from the area from 3am until now. All the groups left via various routes - the Bs taking perhaps the most interesting by going past Alert Bay. This route is not used very often. We heard them pass CP around 5am and then disappear to the west. The Cs/Ds (silent) may have travelled up the Vancouver Island side between 2 and 5am. They most likely went through Weynton Pass and we picked them up just after the A4s and A5s followed the A30s through the fog in Blackney Pass. In the end the Bs stalled off Haddington island for hours. Haddington is between Alert bay, Sointula and Port McNeill. Finally in the afternoon they moved closer to Port McNeill. The Cs and the ds continued to the west and were off malcolm Point around 2:30pm. The A30s at the same time turned with the A4s and the A5s to the east and began slowly to

move back toward Blackfish Sound. We have not heard them yet and the last report at 4:20pm only mentioned the A30s as continuing on this route. So we will have to wait and see.

Helena

27 Aug 2004 18:32:17 PDT

No orcas present.

Very quiet. We never heard the A30s return so don't know where they ended up. The A11s, their companions of the last few days, were last seen heading into Queen Charlotte Strait. We continue to listen. In the meantime have a good night!

Helena

27 Aug 2004 22:57:21 PDT



**Saturday August 28, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

We began hearing distant "A1" calls on the Flower Island hydrophone a short while ago - not sure who from yet, though it's likely to be the A30s. Slack tide is in about an hour, so it's possible they'll head back into Johnstone Strait then.

Paul

28 Aug 2004 08:30:02 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

We're beginning to hear calls from the A30s on the Local Left hydrophone, so they are heading into Blackney Pass. It's a bit too foggy to see them, but the fog is patchy & we might get a glimpse... it's likely they will be in view of the surface camera when they get to CP because the Strait is clear of fog.

Paul

28 Aug 2004 09:16:15 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s just went by the lab. A38,A30, A54,A75, A50 and a72 were together and A39 out in front. They were not far off the hanson side and this side of the fog bank. very foggy this morning and not sure if CP will be able to see them clearly as they also may head out to the middle of Johnstone Strait as they turn east. Anyway julie is ready!

Helena

28 Aug 2004 09:33:37 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We're starting to hear distant calls from the A30s as they head east in the Strait. They entered the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight a short while ago and are travelling quickly. We're listening to them on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

28 Aug 2004 11:18:24 PDT

Orcas hunting fish.

The A30s have reached Robson Bight & are approaching Critical Point - we can hear echolocation, so at least one of them is fishing.

Paul

28 Aug 2004 11:40:05 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The A30s have reached the Main rubbing beach. Channel B. We've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

28 Aug 2004 12:20:55 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s have left the Main rubbing beach and are headed east towards the eastern boundary of the Ecological Reserve.

Paul

28 Aug 2004 12:38:29 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The A30s went back to the Main Beach.

Helena

28 Aug 2004 13:33:36 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s have left the rubbing beaches and are slowly heading to the west foraging along the way.

Julie @ CP

28 Aug 2004 13:53:30 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s are west bound after their very brief touch in at the beaches. A39/A38 are already past Critical Point.

Helena

28 Aug 2004 14:16:09 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s have been slowly making their way west in Johnstone Strait for the past several hours & have made it as far as Blinkhorn. There have been occasional calls but for the most part they've been silent.

Paul

28 Aug 2004 18:14:02 PDT

**No orcas present.**

It has been an uneventful night. We haven't heard the A30s for quite a while. The last report was that they were off Blinkhorn just before 5:30pm. We wonder if they went out via Weynton Passage to Queen Charlotte Strait? We will see.....

Helena

28 Aug 2004 23:00:42 PDT

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29.8/2004 PDT

Sunday August 29, 2004**Distant calls audible.**

We are listening to the A30s. Their calls are on CRPT hydrophone.

Tomoko

29 Aug 2004 01:12:30 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Good morning everyone! We last heard calls around 1am, when the A30s were probably in the far western part of Johnstone Strait. We've heard nothing since & think they may have headed north through Weynton Pass sometime later. However, we aren't at all sure. We are waiting.

Paul

29 Aug 2004 07:55:59 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

It has been reported that whales (perhaps the A30s) are west bound into Robson Bight. Hopefully we will be able to hear or even see them soon.

Julie @ CP

29 Aug 2004 11:59:53 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

It looks like the A30s were headed east in Johnstone Strait when we heard them around 1am. They have now been sighted headed west close to the Cracroft Island side of the Strait, and are approaching Boat Bay (opposite Robson Bight). They will soon be within range of the Critical Point hydrophone, so we may hear them soon (if they are vocal).

Paul

29 Aug 2004 12:01:49 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s are headed west towards CP & should be visible on the surface camera soon. Channel A. We've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

29 Aug 2004 13:02:00 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

After making it as far west as the entrance to Blackney Pass, the A30s have turned back to the east & are heading over to the Vancouver Island side of the Strait. They are silent at the moment, but we are likely to hear them again before long.

Paul

29 Aug 2004 14:00:40 PDT

Distant calls audible.

After turning in the Bight (to the west) and running up the Vancouver Island shore as far as the west end of Kaikash Creek (opposite Cracroft Point) the A30s have turned once more and are on their way back east!. It is very foggy, misty and drizzly so conditions are "interesting". The whales are vocal from time to time.

Helena

29 Aug 2004 16:48:50 PDT

Distant calls audible.

I need to correct the last note. The A30s actually didn't do a full turn off Kaikash but carried on to the west and are not off the Wastells (near Telegraph Cove). A39 fooled one of the boats when he went east quickly when being chased by some porpoises. He turned shortly afterward and the same boat found all of the A30s just before 5pm nearing Blinkhorn. The good news is that the A4s and the A5s along with the Bs came back through Goletas Channel (north of Port Hardy and started the long trek toward the "core" area. If they keep going they will be here sometime tomorrow. Meanwhile the A30s are keeping up their pacing of the Strait.

Helena

29 Aug 2004 17:59:59 PDT

Distant calls audible.

it sounds like the A30s are off the entrance to Blackney Pass (still in Johnstone Strait). They must have turned back to the east a while ago.

Helena

29 Aug 2004 20:34:40 PDT

Markus, if you're still there, There is a call that we've heard the orcas do sometimes when they seem upset, and I've heard it several times when dolphins have been "harassing" them. It's a rather urgent, usually quickly repeated call. I can't remember it well enough to describe right now, but if I hear it I'll recognize it and tell you.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

29 Aug 2004 19:57:34 PDT

Ellen, You're right in saying that the calls are reflective of their mood, or excitement level. There is a call that definitely reflects the mood of who-ever is doing it. One time when A46 was a bit younger, barely sprouting, he was being harassed by algs (white sided dolphins) and when he made that call, his mom and brothers came rushing over to him, and the dolphins backed off. The boat that was watching said that he seemed bothered by the dolphins, and wanted to get away from them. The call sounds like "ruh-ruh-ruh" repeated over and over.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

29 Aug 2004 20:26:53 PDT

**Monday August 30, 2004****No orcas present.**

We've heard no calls since around 10pm last night, when we thought the A30s were headed east in Johnstone Strait. Between 11pm & midnight we heard "blows" in Blackney Pass but weren't sure they were from "resident" orcas. Then, about 4:30am, we heard brief echolocation on the Critical Point hydrophone. Overall, we're not at all sure what happened last night. We are waiting and meanwhile enjoying a calm morning on the water with a hint of sun through still dark clouds.

Paul

30 Aug 2004 07:13:18 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We're hearing occasional distant calls from the A30s. They are at the western end of Johnstone Strait, foraging on the Vancouver island side, and are heading slowly to the east.

Paul

30 Aug 2004 09:16:41 PDT

Distant calls audible

The A30s stayed in the Strait last night. We lost track of them west of CP at 10:42pm. They were found this morning off the Wastell Islands just outside Telegraph Cove just before 9am. They are eastbound now (and vocal), currently mid strait off of Turn Point (the "top end" of Hanson Island, across from Blinkhorn).

Helena

30 Aug 2004 09:43:34 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

As the A30s make their way east (they are at the eastern end of Hanson) we got the interesting news that there are whales travelling east from Lizard Point (Queen Charlotte Strait). No Ids yet. Stay tuned! Company is coming.

Helena

30 Aug 2004 10:46:51 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

We are now picking up A5 calls on Flower Island - perhaps the A4s and A5s are both on their way in to see the A30s.

Helena

30 Aug 2004 10:57:43 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The A4s and the A5s are in the Strait - they went down Weynton Pass. They are eastbound off the top end of Hanson Island. The A30s crossed over to Kaiaksh and are also eastbound. There is a mystery group headed west out of the Reserve.

Helena

30 Aug 2004 12:16:36 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A4s & A5s are off CP, mid-Strait. The A30s have just come across from the Vancouver Island side to join them. It's a pretty miserable day for filming, but Julie is trying anyway. Channel A.

Paul

30 Aug 2004 13:13:50 PDT

Superb sounds!!

As you may have guessed the A4s and the A5s have "joined" the A30s and all the groups are moving toward the Ecological Reserve.

Paul

30 Aug 2004 14:46:34 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A4s, A5s & A30s are now getting close to the CRPT hydrophone... there is only a little boat noise, so we've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

30 Aug 2004 15:24:23 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The whales are at the Main Beach. (A4s 1st)

Helena

30 Aug 2004 16:01:27 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We haven't heard any calls since the A4s, A5s & A30s left the rubbing beaches, over an hour ago, and we're not sure what direction they headed in. It's a very wet & misty day here, so it's very difficult to see anything on the water. Hopefully, we'll hear something before long that will tell us more. We are listening.

Paul

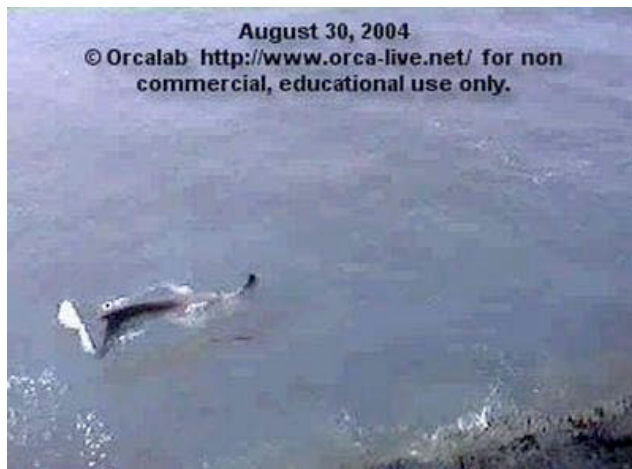
30 Aug 2004 18:36:44 PDT

**No orcas present.**

We've heard no calls for several hours & think it likely the various groups of orcas (A4s, A5s, A30s) headed east from the beaches after their great rub. However, we're not sure. We are waiting, and meanwhile listening to the rain fall.

Paul

30 Aug 2004 21:42:50 PDT

**Tuesday August 31, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

We are listening to A4 calls on FI hydrophone. Sounds like they went out through Weynton Pass.

Tomoko

31 Aug 2004 05:13:15 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls since early this morning, when the A11s were heard at the "top" of Blackfish Sound on their way to the north. They are presently on the north side of Malcolm Island, headed west. The other groups (rest of A4s, A5s & A30s are quite some distance to the east in Johnstone Strait & beyond the range of our hydrophones. We are waiting.

Paul

31 Aug 2004 12:08:08 PDT

No orcas present.

For a quiet day here it is extremely busy! To catch up then: the a11s are still west bound 2mi off Malcolm Island headed for Numas. The mystery is that they are with another whale (probably more) but not identified yet. The rest of the A4s and A5s are suppose to be east (lat report 9now old) was that they werre off Vansittart Point) still and the A30s just east of kelsey Bay (headed west). it is rather like being bookended.

Misty/foggy/drizzly here but nothing (so far) like the rain of yesterday or the day before.

Helena

31 Aug 2004 12:43:27 PDT

No orcas present.

The A11s by themselves (there turned out to be no other group) are coming back to the east in Queen Charlotte Strait. We will probably hear them before the afternoon is over. The A30s were off the Eve River to the east and the rest of the A4s and A5s are quite a bit further east than the A30s.

Helena

31 Aug 2004 14:22:45 PDT

**No orcas present.**

The A30s are still apparently coming west and almost up to Boat Bay. A38 and A39 are up in the lead and further off shore than the rest who are close to the Cracroft Island shore. The A11s are coming east through the east end of Queen Charlotte Strait. Everything is still rather slow but the distance between the two groups is diminishing.

Helena

31 Aug 2004 16:33:04 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A30s have reached Robson Bight & are close to the Critical Point hydrophone as they continue to head west in Johnstone Strait. There is echolocation as well as calls, so they must be fishing!

Paul

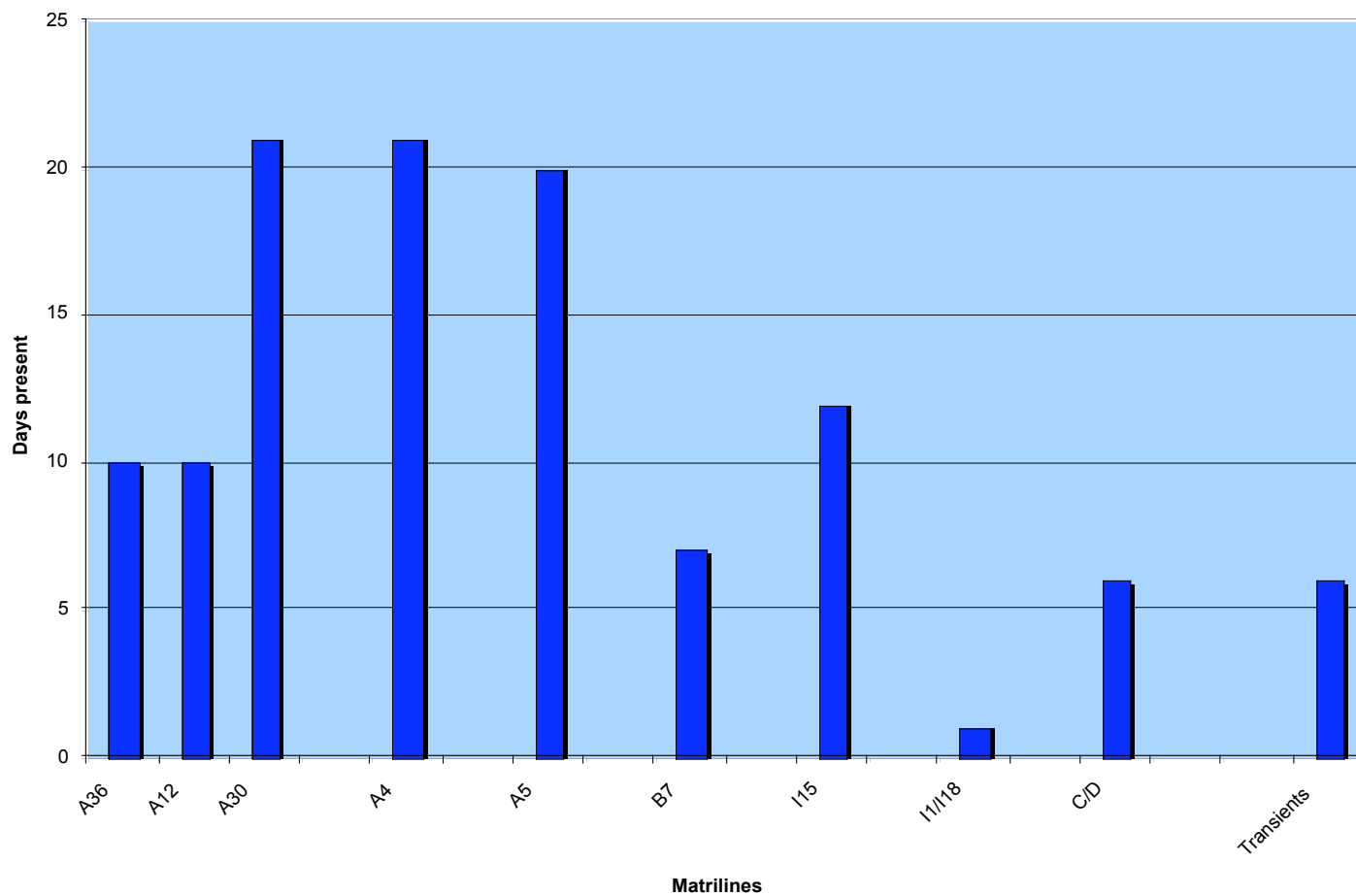
31 Aug 2004 17:41:46 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The a11s are being drawn back toward the sunset in Queen Charlotte Strait while the A30s continue to remain in Johnstone Strait.

Helena

31 Aug 2004 19:35:20 PDT

**Present matriline in August 2004**

**Wednesday September 1, 2004****No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! We heard no orcas caling overnight & are not sure where the A30s & A11s are at this time. Our impression was that the A30s may have headed back to the east in Johnstone Strait, and that that A11s may have headed north from Blackfish Sound in the early evening. However, we aren't sure. We are waiting.

Paul

01 Sep 2004 07:14:29 PDT

No orcas present.

The A11s foraged for most of the morning and afternoon in the eastern part of Queen Charlotte Strait and even at the top end of Blackfish Sound. The vocals (not picked up by our system) were far and few between and at last report the A11s were retreating back to the west & Queen Charlotte Strait. Menawhile the A30s were travelling with the A51 and A61 before the two A5s took off and rejoined their own pod in Sunderland Channel in the eastern reaches of Johnstone Strait. The boats lost track of the A30s but we just got a report that there are whales who just passed Naka Creek (just east of the Reserve). The A5s have just been relocated not far from where the A30s and A51 and A61 were first seen this morning. They are westbound. We are not sure where the A35s and the A24s are and are waiting to find out if they are near the A5s. The evening should be eventful if all keeps going in this manner.

Helena

01 Sep 2004 17:21:38 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Channel B the whales are rubbing. We sent an Alert! Calls in Blackfish Sound as well.

Helena

01 Sep 2004 17:51:24 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Places to go and things to see. The A30s only briefly rubbed on their way to the west and are going through the rest of the Reserve now. We are still hearing (with difficulty) the A11 group in Blackfish Sound. Boat noise (understatement) everywhere.

Helena

01 Sep 2004 18:39:29 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Difficult. By the time the A30s reached Kaikash Creek (opposite CP) they were silent. A group of dolphins turned up and the A30s became instantly quiet. As it grew dark they were seen continuing to the west. We lost track of the A11s to the west. I'm sure they will meet up sometime tonight. Meanwhile the moon is hanging over Blackney Pass.

Helena

01 Sep 2004 21:57:28 PDT

**Thursday September 2, 2004****Superb sounds!!**

Good morning everyone! We're listening to A5 calls close to the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

02 Sep 2004 08:15:04 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Some of the A5s were at the Main rubbing beach a moment ago, but at may have been just a very brief rub.

Paul

02 Sep 2004 08:36:35 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The rub continues! Channel B.

Paul

02 Sep 2004 08:38:59 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

It looks like the A5s have left the rubbing beaches. We're not sure which direction they have headed in, though it is probably to the east..

Paul

02 Sep 2004 08:49:55 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s are headed east past CP. Channel A.

Paul

02 Sep 2004 09:01:16 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s have been making their way quickly to the east, some of them surfing in the waves of the strong northwesterly wind. They are now mid-Strait opposite Robson Bight & are angling towards the Vancouver Island side. We've been listening to their calls on the Critical Point hydrophone, though they are silent at the moment.

Paul

02 Sep 2004 10:04:51 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The A30s are heading into the rubbing

beaches - they aren't quite at the Main beach yet, but there's a good chance they will be soon, so we've sent an alert.

Paul

02 Sep 2004 10:14:54 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

It looks like the A30s have continued to the east past the rubbing beaches & didn't go in for a rub.

Paul

02 Sep 2004 10:22:28 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Nice surprise! The A11s along with Springer just passed the lab and entered the Strait.

Helena

02 Sep 2004 13:20:41 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The whales are rubbing.

Helena

02 Sep 2004 13:21:33 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A30s are in Robson Bight, headed west. They seem excited & are breaching & spyhopping as they move along. They are also calling & echolocating close to the CrPt hydrophone. Meanwhile, the A11s are at the western end of Johnstone Strait, past Big Bay & close to Hanson Island. They have just turned back to the east. Their calls are also audible, in the distance, on the CrPt hydrophone.

Paul

02 Sep 2004 14:03:30 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We're hearing "A4" calls on the CP hydrophone, presumably from the A11s as they make their way to the east. They are probably off the Blackney Pass "gap", but the ocean is still rough & the sun is creating a difficult glare on the water, so they haven't been spotted from CP yet.

Paul

02 Sep 2004 15:26:57 PDT

**Distant calls audible.**

Very interesting starfish and kelp greenling and urchin on Channel A!

Helena

02 Sep 2004 16:18:04 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The observers have been having a very hard time seeing the whales in the choppy seas and the afternoon glare. It has been bright all day - almost as bad as fig! That being said CP can see blows (lots) in the entrance of Blackney Pass and think that the A30s might be there now. The a11s might be there as well. Hopefully they will call soon and we will be able to tell a bit better.

Helena

02 Sep 2004 17:38:53 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The whales are in front of CP now behaving in a very relaxed social way - many spyhops very close together. No calls though.

Helena

02 Sep 2004 17:58:22 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The a11s finally slipped the hold of the Strait and rushed through Blackney on their way to Blackfish Sound. We are not yet sure if the A30s did likewise. The tugs are also on the move flooding the area with a fair amount of noise. But we are waiting.... (the moon is trying to show itself above Blackney. Our thoughts are with those in the path of Frances.

Helena

02 Sep 2004 22:42:14 PDT

Friday September 3, 2004**Orcas hunting fish.**

We began hearing echolocation close to the Critical Point hydrophone a short while ago.... sounds like the A30s remained in the Strait after the A11s left. There's no boat noise, the echolocation is wonderfully clear & we're beginning to hear calls, so we're sending an alert.

Paul

03 Sep 2004 04:08:35 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A30s have continued to move further west and are now off the entrance to Blackney Pass in Johnstone Strait.

Helena

03 Sep 2004 06:27:13 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s are heading towards Blackney Pass from Johnstone Strait, probably taking the slack tide to the north. They should be visible on the surface camera soon.

Paul

03 Sep 2004 08:51:46 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

After foraging off CP for a while, the A30s ended up heading east and are now crossing over to the Vancouver Island side of the Strait.

Paul

03 Sep 2004 09:59:09 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A30s are becoming vocal as they head into Robson Bight - we're listening to them on the Critical Point hydrophone. There is very little boat noise & their calls are clear, so we'll send a Messenger alert.

Paul

03 Sep 2004 10:50:19 PDT

Orcas hunting fish.

The A30s are getting close to Ctiritcal Point. We can hear continuous echolocation, so they must be fishing. If they continue to the east, there's a good chance they'll reach the rubbing beaches soon.

Paul

03 Sep 2004 11:14:49 PDT

**Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.**

This is looking like a great rub, so we've sent an alert. A30s on Channel B.

Paul

03 Sep 2004 12:06:45 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s have turned back to the west after their great rub... we should hear them on the CrPT hydrophone soon.

Paul

03 Sep 2004 12:33:27 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s are still westbound and just about opposite CP on the far side at Kaikash Creek. A38 is midstrait while the others are right against the Vancouver island shore.

Helena

03 Sep 2004 15:00:45 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s have turned while opposite Little Kaikash. They are still close to the Vancouver Island shore at the moment and so very quiet. The A11s are still in Queen Charlotte Strait.

Helena

03 Sep 2004 16:07:03 PDT

Orcas near mics.

As the A30s moved closer to the Ecological Reserve along Vancouver Island they became quite vocal.

Helena

03 Sep 2004 17:20:34 PDT

Superb sounds!!

Beautiful A30s in the Bight!

Helena

03 Sep 2004 17:49:36 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

It is possible that whales have come up from the east and are off the Main Rubbing beach (and now rubbing!). Maybe it is the A5s or A4s who have been east for a while now.

Helena

03 Sep 2004 18:30:46 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

It looks like the orcas have finished their quick rub & continued to the west... soon, we will probably hear them on the CrPt hydrophone.

Paul

03 Sep 2004 18:59:29 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Orcas at the Main rubbing beach... again! We're sending an alert. Channel B.

Paul

03 Sep 2004 19:41:47 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We keep waiting for the whales from the east to reveal who they are but they are not calling! We think they have all gone west toward Critical Point.

Helena

03 Sep 2004 20:17:33 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The A5s are at the beaches!

Helena

03 Sep 2004 20:41:10 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The A30s have joined the A5s.

Helena

03 Sep 2004 20:44:50 PDT

No orcas present.

We think that the whales must have gone to the east. The A5s waited after their first pass over the beaches for the A30s to come from the west and then both groups rubbed together on their way east.

Helena

03 Sep 2004 22:11:13 PDT

Saturday September 4, 2004

**No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! We heard a few "A" calls at around 5:30am. Unfortunately, they were immediately followed by constant boat noise, & no more calls were heard. We don't know where the calls came from & have heard nothing since. We are waiting.

Paul

04 Sep 2004 07:41:14 PDT

This might be the A11s returning to Johnstone Strait from Weynton Pass.

Helena

04 Sep 2004 21:33:12 PDT

No orcas present.

Good Morning! The A11s spent the night in the Knight Inlet area and perhaps came back out early this morning. We thought we heard a few A calls very briefly around 5:30am and just a short while ago the A11s were found west of Lizard Point in Queen Charlotte Strait. They are foraging while moving west slowly. The A30s, A5s and the A4s are still to the east.

Helena

04 Sep 2004 11:13:23 PDT

No orcas present.

We are still waiting. The good news is that the A11s turned back to the east at Malcolm Point (west end of Malcolm Island) & are headed "in" again. There is no recent news from the eastern area of Johnstone Strait, so we don't know what happened to the orcas sighted in Nodales Channel earlier this morning.

Paul

04 Sep 2004 15:44:27 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A11s were reported headed towards Blackfish Sound about an hour ago, though we haven't seen or heard them. It's possible they will take the Weynton Pass route into Johnstone Strait if they don't go via Blackney. We are hoping to hear (or see) them before long.... though they could also head back to the north again.

Paul

04 Sep 2004 20:10:35 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We are picking up A4 calls on critical Point.

**Sunday September 5, 2004****Boat noise**

We believe the A11s have gone past Robson Bight and are continuing to the east.

Helena

05 Sep 2004 01:59:27 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

We've been listening to A5, A4 & A1 calls getting louder on the Critical Point hydrophone for the past 40 minutes or so... sounds like at least some of the groups that have been in eastern Johnstone Strait are coming back to the west. Boat noise is getting louder again.

Paul

05 Sep 2004 03:52:24 PDT

Superb sounds!!

Boat noise has gone & the calls are clear on CrPt, so we've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

05 Sep 2004 04:34:44 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We've heard no calls for the past little while, but are fairly sure at least some of the A1s, A4s, A5s are not far away from Robson Bight.

Paul

05 Sep 2004 04:57:04 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We heard A1 calls on the Flower Island hydrophone a short while ago & think they must have been from the A30s. We're not sure if other groups are with them in Blackfish Sound, or if the A4s & A5s we were hearing in the Strait earlier remained there.

Paul

05 Sep 2004 08:16:03 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We can catch up a bit now. The A30s, A5s and possibly all the A4s are now in resting lines not too far away - "top end" of Blackfish Sound. There are 2 humpbacks not too far away doing large foraging circles and a small group of Pacific Whitesided dolphins are bouncing around Blackfish as well. A full but quiet ocean!

Helena

05 Sep 2004 10:04:34 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The calls we're listening to are coming from the A30s, who are foraging at the "top" of Blackfish Sound. The others (A4s, A5s) aren't far away, just a bit to the north of Blackfish.

Paul

05 Sep 2004 10:35:32 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

The A30s are headed east down Blackfish Sound, towards Blackney Pass... it looks like they are headed back to Johnstone Strait, though the tide is ebbing, i.e. going against them. It's possible they will use the "back eddy" which takes them close to us (in front of OrcaLab).

Paul

05 Sep 2004 11:47:33 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

After making a lovely lazy pass in front of us, the A5s & A11s have gone out of our sight & are heading towards CP... they are pushing into the current on this last stretch, so it may take them a while to get there. (We got a clear look at A60's right side & could see that his terrible wound from last year has healed amazingly well). Meanwhile, the A30s are making there way south through Blackney Pass, mid channel, & should also be entering Johnstone Strait & off CP before too long.

Paul

05 Sep 2004 14:10:58 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A5s & A11s are entering Johnstone Strait & are now visible from CP. Channel A. The A30s aren't far behind & should be there soon.

Paul

05 Sep 2004 14:21:28 PDT

**Multiple pod calls audible.**

The A11s, A5s, & A30s are all now past CP & are headed east. We're starting to hear their calls in the distance on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

05 Sep 2004 15:14:17 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A30s, A4s & A5s crossed over to Robson Bight & are now getting close to CrPt. There's a good chance they will be at the rubbing beaches before long, so we've sent an alert. Meanwhile, a black bear is swimming past CP! Channel A.

Paul

05 Sep 2004 15:56:59 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

After a quick visit to the rubbing beaches, the A4s, A5s & A30s have continued to the east, close to Vancouver Island. They are now past the eastern boundary of the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight & beyond the range of our hydrophones. The A30s are trailing behind the others.

Paul

05 Sep 2004 17:24:16 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls for several hours & think that the A4s, A5s & A30s have probably continued to the east in Johnstone Strait. We are waiting for their return (or for other orcas to arrive).

Paul

05 Sep 2004 20:49:44 PDT

Monday September 6, 2004**Boat noise**

We heard no calls overnight & this morning Johnstone Strait is full of boat noise. We are waiting.

Paul

06 Sep 2004 08:03:10 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The Bs are back! They have been sighted on the north side of Malcolm Island & are heading east towards Lizard Point. Other orcas are also "inbound" with them, though it's not sure who yet. If they keep going, they should be within range of our hydrophones within a few hours... stay tuned, & meanwhile, we have beautiful scenes in the kelp forest to enjoy!

Paul

06 Sep 2004 10:49:08 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The Bs have been travelling quickly & are now off Donegal Head at the "top" of Blackfish Sound. Soon, we should know whether they will be heading east down Blackfish & through Blackney Pass, or whether they will take the Weynton Pass route into Johnstone Strait. Either way, there's a good chance we'll be hearing or seeing them soon.

Paul

06 Sep 2004 12:49:18 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We started hearing distant "B" calls on the Flower Island hydrophone a short while ago. It looks like the Bs are becoming active again, after resting, and will be heading for Johnstone Strait via Weynton Pass. There's a good chance that we'll hear them on the CrPt hydrophone when they enter Johnstone Strait.

Paul

06 Sep 2004 14:02:46 PDT

**Distant calls audible.**

We started hearing distant "B" calls on the Flower Island hydrophone a short while ago. It looks like the Bs are becoming active again, after resting, and will be heading for Johnstone Strait via Weynton Pass. There's a good chance that we'll hear them on the CrPt hydrophone when they enter Johnstone Strait.

Paul

06 Sep 2004 14:02:46 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The B7s have continued eastward and are travelling closer to the Vancouver Island shore just west of the Ecological Reserve.

Helena

06 Sep 2004 16:04:34 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The Bs are getting closer to the Critical Point hydrophone & there is no boat noise to obscure their lovely calls, so we've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

06 Sep 2004 16:27:19 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

B10 has just made a brief visit to the Main rubbing beach - the others are a bit behind him, but will probably be there soon.

Paul

06 Sep 2004 17:15:55 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The Bs are now past the rubbing beaches, some of them having stopped for just a brief rub, & are now headed east.

Paul

06 Sep 2004 17:27:52 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The Bs touched in on the Beaches once again but this time as they headed to the west. We are starting to pick up calls on Critical Point now. We'll see if they found anyone to the east to bring back!

Helena

06 Sep 2004 20:06:56 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Indeed, the Bs found the A30s, A5s and A4s and they are presently taking turns at the Main Beach.

Helena

06 Sep 2004 21:22:27 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A5s & A30s are close the the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul06 Sep 2004 22:13:57 PDT



Tuesday September 7, 2004

Superb sounds!!

We have been listening to the A30s, A5s, A4s and the Bs come west in the Strait and then turn around off Cracroft Point and head back toward Robson Bight. The Bs definitely made it further east than the As who seemed to stall. Just now we are listening to A4s close into Critical Point.

Helena

07 Sep 2004 04:23:13 PDT

Superb sounds!!

It's difficult to see them in the early morning light, but the orcas are foraging off the Blackney Pass "gap" between mid-Strait and the Vancouver Island side. Their calls are clear on the Critical Point hydrophone & we are also hearing them on CP. It's a bit too dark for the camera to see them yet but the dawn of this day is lovely, so we've sent an alert.

Paul

07 Sep 2004 06:46:00 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

After a long period when we were just hearing the sounds orcas calling, boat noise intruded & the whales became silent. They are still nearby, however, and are generally westbound off the Blackney Pass "gap". The A30s were very close to the Critical Point hydrophone about 20' ago. It's possible they were headed east, in which case they may show up at the rubbing beaches before long, but it's possible they were heading west too.

Paul

07 Sep 2004 07:23:43 PDT



Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

I heard rubbing sounds a couple of minutes ago & saw that CP (Julie) has turned the beaches camera on, so I sent a Messenger alert. Then I realised the house is almost full - sorry!

Paul

07 Sep 2004 08:09:21 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

It was just a very brief rub - the 2 orcas who came into the Main rubbing beach have continued to the west. There were no calls heard, so we don't know which group they were from. Meanwhile, the others who were westbound earlier seem to have continued to the west & are probably at the far western end of Johnstone Strait, though they are silent.

Paul

07 Sep 2004 08:19:03 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

We're starting to hear distant calls on the CrPt hydrophone again.

Paul

07 Sep 2004 08:23:19 PDT

Orcas hunting fish.

This echolocation is close to the CrPt hydrophone.

Paul

07 Sep 2004 08:45:28 PDT

Superb sounds!!

It sounds like the A30s are fishing in Robson Bight.

Paul

07 Sep 2004 08:50:52 PDT

Superb sounds!!

It sounds like the Bs have joined the A30s in Robson Bight... we're listening to lovely clear calls from both groups on the CrPt hydrophone. Meanwhile, the other groups (A4s, A5s) are at the far western end of Johnstone Strait.

Paul

07 Sep 2004 09:25:47 PDT

**Superb sounds!!**

The A4s and A5s have gone through Weynton Pass and are now heading towards the Pearse Islands. The A30s have continued west out of the reserve and along the Vancouver Island shore. The Bs are still in the bay area of the reserve and are currently heading east. They could be at the rubbing beaches soon.

Julie @ CP

07 Sep 2004 10:21:42 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

We're hearing occasional calls on the Flower Island hydrophone as some of the orcas make their way down Blackfish Sound towards Blackney Pass. We're not sure which group(s) yet. Meanwhile, the A30s are continuing to forage off the entrance to Blackney Pass in Johnstone Strait.

Paul

07 Sep 2004 12:07:17 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A11s are heading towards CP from Blackney Pass, followed by the A5s. They should be visible on the CP camera soon. We've sent an alert.

Paul

07 Sep 2004 12:28:33 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

After a long foraging session in front of CP & the Blackney Pass "gap" the A30s have finally headed off to the east, following the A5s & A11s. We're hearing calls from the various groups on the CrPt hydrophone, amidst a lot of boat noise.

Paul

07 Sep 2004 14:40:27 PDT

Orcas near mics.

Believe it or not the calls are clear in the heavy boat noise in the Strait. The A5 calls gave way to the A11s who are now quite close to Critical Point. The A30s followed the A5s and the A11s to the east. Meanwhile the B7s are still east of the Reserve moving slowly east as well for the moment. The tug is also eastbound and with us for a while longer unfortunately.

Helena

07 Sep 2004 15:00:45 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The first of possibly several groups has reached the Main rubbing Beach. Channel B. We're sending an alert.

Paul

07 Sep 2004 15:31:08 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The first group to rub was the Bs - the calf is B14s baby (B16). The Bs were followed by the A5s, who are rubbing now.

Paul

07 Sep 2004 16:07:15 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The Bs have just arrived at Critical Point - fabulous echolocation & calls! A30s in background.

Paul

07 Sep 2004 16:32:47 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

All of the groups (Bs, A4s, A5s, A30s) are now headed west and are past the western boundary of the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight. The A30s are in front. The calls we're listening to are on the CrPt hydrophone.

Paul

07 Sep 2004 17:05:32 PDT

Boat noise

Boat noise has pretty much taken over the underwater soundscape, though we can hear occasional distant calls as the orcas make their way to the west. The calls are mostly being heard via the CP hydrophone.

Paul

07 Sep 2004 17:27:34 PDT

**Orcas near mics.**

We've been listening to echolocation and "B" calls close to the Critical Point hydrophone... sounds like the Bs are back in the Bight! Meanwhile, we've also heard a few G clan calls on the Flower Island hydrophone & think that some of the G clan orcas (not sure which ones) that were reported headed east from Port Hardy earlier today are on their way into Johnstone Strait. There is boat noise all around us at the moment, but if it goes away this could become a very interesting night!

Paul07 Sep 2004 22:37:41 PDT

Wednesday September 8, 2004**No calls but orcas nearby**

The whales who came from the west through Queen Charlotte Strait and Blackfish Sound have almost cleared Blackney Pass. They have been silent for the hour and a half but perhaps they will call once they near Johnstone Strait - being new visitors and all!

Helena

08 Sep 2004 01:05:58 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The blows cleared Blackney Pass and except for one questionable call on CP it has been so very quiet. We continue to wait and see.

Helena

08 Sep 2004 01:50:42 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A30s began calling in Robson Bight shortly after 2am, and shortly after that we began to hear G clan calls in Blackfish Sound. The A30s are probably heading west. The orcas in Blackfish Sound are probably headed into the Strait, but we're not sure whether they will go via Blackney or Weynton.

Paul

08 Sep 2004 02:29:12 PDT

Orcas near mics.

We're hearing close G clan calls on the CP hydrophone as some of the new arrivals pass CP heading east. Channel B.

Paul

08 Sep 2004 07:31:24 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Sorry - Channel A... good morning everyone!

Paul

08 Sep 2004 07:34:54 PDT

**Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.**

It looks like the orcas that have been foraging off the Blackney Pass "gap" are heading to the west. Another group is approaching CP from the east & will soon be in camera range. Unfortunately, a tug towing a log barge is about to enter the Strait from Blackney Pass, so we'll soon have boat noise to contend with.

Paul

08 Sep 2004 08:28:13 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

There are at least 2 G clan groups in Johnstone Strait this morning. One is the I11s but we don't know who the others are yet - there may be 3 G clan groups, though we're not sure. At the moment, all the orcas are headed east off the Blackney Pass "gap" silently.

Paul

08 Sep 2004 10:37:50 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Some of the very large group of silent orcas has reached the rubbing beaches! Channel B.

Paul

08 Sep 2004 12:24:25 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A36s have arrived at the "top" of Blackfish Sound after making a long journey from the north of B.C. in just 2 weeks (they were sighted at Gill Island on August 25th). At the moment they are intensely engaged in foraging, but when they are done there's a good chance they'll head on into Johnstone Strait. Meanwhile, the big group of orcas that headed east this morning are still headed to the east in Johnstone Strait & are now past Naka Creek.

Paul

08 Sep 2004 15:25:43 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A36s are still foraging, just to the north of Blackfish Sound. We're still waiting for them to come "in".

Paul

08 Sep 2004 19:02:13 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

As far as we know, the A36s remained just to the north of Blackfish Sound until after dark. We're still waiting for them to make the move into Johnstone Strait.

Paul

08 Sep 2004 22:52:42 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Shortly after I posted the last comment we heard the A36s calling on the Critical Point hydrophone... sounds like they have entered Johnstone Strait via Weynton Pass and are probably headed east..

Paul

08 Sep 2004 23:07:48 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A36s are calling occasionally as they make their way east in Johnstone Strait. There is only a little boat noise & the calls are clear, so we've sent a Messenger alert. If the boat noise doesn't get worse, the calls will become louder & clearer as the 36s get closer to Critical Point... quite possibly, this is a good time to relax & listen for a while!

Paul

08 Sep 2004 23:35:56 PDT

**Thursday September 9, 2004****No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! We've heard no calls since a little after 3am. At that time, the A36s were not far from Robson Bight, and we thought they were headed east. Boat noise made it difficult for us to determine what happened next, so we're not sure whether they continued to the east, though that seems likely. We are waiting.

Paul

09 Sep 2004 07:49:52 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s and many other orcas have been sighted headed west a little to the west of Adam River. They are travelling quickly and should be within range of our hydrophones within an hour or two.

Paul

09 Sep 2004 10:50:22 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s & Bs have reached the eastern boundary of the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight. It looks like at least some of them are heading for the Main rubbing beach, so we've sent an alert.

Paul

09 Sep 2004 13:13:10 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A30s have reached Critical Point... we're hearing very close calls & echolocation from them as they round the point & head into Robson Bight.

Paul

09 Sep 2004 13:46:02 PDT

Superb sounds!!

We're listening to fabulous calls from the Bs & A30s on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

09 Sep 2004 13:53:44 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The A30s, A36s & Bs are all headed west and are now approaching the Sophias. They should come within range of the CP surface camera in about half an hour. Meanwhile, we're listening to them calling, amidst boat noise, on the CrPt hydrophone.

Paul

09 Sep 2004 15:21:09 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s, Bs & A36s are now within range of the CP camera as they head west - they are bit far off shore for close-ups, but visible just the same. Channel A.

Paul

09 Sep 2004 16:25:36 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

All of the groups (A30s, A36s, Bs) have turned back to the east again & are headed towards the Ecological Reserva at Robson Bight. One of the A36 brothers is hurrying ahead of the others, close to the Vancouver Island shore line. We're listening to the calls on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

09 Sep 2004 17:11:16 PDT

Boat noise

We're hearing occasional calls on the Critical Point hydrophone amidst the constant boat noise that is dominating the soundscape of Johnstone Strait. Numerous blows have been heard at Boat Bay, opposite Robson Bight, so it's likely that at least some of the orcas who travelled east earlier are returning to the west.

Paul

09 Sep 2004 21:42:45 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

Although conditions are not the greatest - we keep trying to dodge the boat noise - the whales are great. We have heard the A30s & Bs bring back from the east; the Gs (the G17s, I11s etc), the A4s, the A5s. Probably somewhere in there are the A36s as well (thought we picked them up briefly on Critical Point. Now if only the boats would go away! The whales are going west.

Helena

09 Sep 2004 23:00:29 PDT

**Superb sounds!!**

The boat noise has gone & we're at last listening to only orcas calling. We've sent an alert, hoping many others will be able to enjoy these wonderful sounds with us.

Paul

09 Sep 2004 23:28:55 PDT

Friday September 10, 2004**Superb sounds!!**

We think the groups are going east. The A36s are lingering a while longer at Critical with one of the G groups. Amazing splashes, ooh call, pings and the A36 providing the finishing touches.

Helena

10 Sep 2004 01:31:13 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Good morning everyone! We began hearing G clan calls in the distance on the CrPt hydrophone a short while ago. Earlier, we think the various groups of orcas had headed east in Johnstone Strait (around 1:30am) so this may be some of them returning. The weather feels (& looks) like it's changing this morning.

Paul

10 Sep 2004 06:59:55 PDT

Superb sounds!!

We're hearing close G clan (I 15) calls on the CP hydrophone, & others from G clan are there as well. We've sent a Messenger alert. The orcas are visible on Channel A.

Paul

10 Sep 2004 08:12:38 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

We're hearing calls & echolocation on Paron Island, so it looks like the A36s are heading into Blackney Pass... if they do so, there's a good chance the others will follow.

Paul

10 Sep 2004 08:18:54 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

We're hearing the calls become more distant on the Flower island hydrophone as the orcas make their way to the west in Blackfish Sound. The A36s were in front going through Blackney Pass, followed by the A11s, I15s, I31s, I11s, and G29s. Several other groups are probably still to the east in Johnstone Strait, though we're not sure.

Paul

10 Sep 2004 10:02:29 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

We're hearing no calls at the moment, but think orcas are probably not far away from the "top" of Blackfish Sound. All the groups we listed earlier, except for the I11s, were foraging intently between Bold Head & Donegal Head until about an hour ago. We're not sure where they are at the moment - it's possible they have gone further to the north, or headed back into Johnstone Strait via Weynton Pass. Meanwhile, the I11s have continued to the west and are now off Sointula. The wind is howling at the moment & forecast to get stronger this afternoon.

Paul

10 Sep 2004 12:30:57 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls for the past several hours & think that the orcas at the "top" of Blackfish Sound earlier probably continued to the north. However, we're not sure. We are waiting.

Paul

10 Sep 2004 14:27:04 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls this afternoon & evening, & the wind is still blowing hard here. We are waiting.

Paul10 Sep 2004 22:33:10 PDT

Saturday September 11, 2004**Distant calls audible.**

We began hearing distant "A" & "G" clan calls on the Critical Point hydrophone just after 3am - we're not sure which groups or exactly where they are yet.

Paul

11 Sep 2004 03:28:43 PDT

Superb sounds!!

Despite the constant boat noise the calls are interesting and clear. It sounds like the A36s have brought the I31s & possibly the I15s back to the Strait via Weynton Passage.

Helena

11 Sep 2004 04:10:22 PDT

Distant calls audible.

It sounds like the whales have passed Critical Point and are continuing east. Will they go for a rub?

Helena

11 Sep 2004 04:54:44 PDT

No orcas present.

Good morning! We last heard calls around 5:30am when the A36s and the I31s and possibly the I15s passed the Main rubbing beach.

Helena

11 Sep 2004 09:06:27 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We have a report of a group of whales heading west toward the Main Rubbing Beach.

Helena

11 Sep 2004 10:41:55 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Many groups of orcas are headed west in Johnstone Strait. They are spread out across the Strait but some are on the Cracroft Island side & are coming into sight of the CP camera. Channel A. We're sending an alert.

Paul

11 Sep 2004 12:14:51 PDT

**Distant calls audible.**

At 3:56pm several of the groups which had been travelling west in the Strait left the Strait via Weynton Passage and headed for Queen Charlotte Strait. We are now picking their calls at the top end of Blackfish Sound. The groups are headed into Queen Charlotte Strait. We believe the Bs are still in the Strait but they are sleeping and not vocal.

Helena

11 Sep 2004 16:36:34 PDT

Sunday September 12, 2004**No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! We heard no calls overnight & think that all the orcas in Johnstone Strait yesterday are probably somewhere to the north of us. We are waiting, and meanwhile enjoying a lovely morning.

Paul

12 Sep 2004 07:33:08 PDT

No orcas present.

It has been a very quiet day here. But the whale watch boats did not have a disappointing day. There was lots of action in both directions. Four humpbacks were sighted in Queen Charlotte Strait as well as 700+ dolphins. In the Port Hardy area four transients hung out for several hours around the sealions. And to the east: the T21s and the T18s were tracked from the very eastern part of Johnstone Strait to Milly Island near Port Neville. They were still going west at the time of the last report. Paul took advantage of the quiet spell and did a dive and cleaned the underwater cameras and today we welcome Carol, Daniel and Rachel to Hanson Island.

Helena

12 Sep 2004 18:28:27 PDT

**Monday September 13, 2004****No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! We've heard no calls overnight & think that the orcas who have been in Johnstone Strait lately are probably somewhere to the west & north of us, though we're not sure. We are waiting.

Paul

13 Sep 2004 08:19:54 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Three groups of orcas have been sighted at the "top" of Blackfish Sound... they are silent at the moment but appear headed east (towards us) so there's a good chance we'll hear or see them soon.

Paul

13 Sep 2004 10:36:16 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The orcas that have been coming down Blackfish Sound ilently are now entering Johnstone Strait... they have just become vocal & it's now clear that they are **Offshore orcas!** It is raining, so using the camera is difficult. Just the same, they might be visible on Channel A.

Paul

13 Sep 2004 12:21:05 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

The Offshores have continued east and are now past the east end of the Reserve.

Helena

13 Sep 2004 14:27:16 PDT

No orcas present.

The Offshores have kept going. Right now they are reported off Adam River doing about 7 to 8 knots.

Helena

13 Sep 2004 16:34:56 PDT

D&M, Terri, Woobies - Hello. I believe the number of offshores ID'd by Graeme and crew is over 200. They don't usually come into the strait, or even down into Blackfish Sound. As their name implies, they tend to be open ocean orcas, although once or twice a year they seem to come within OL's hydrophones. It's rare for them to actually be in the strait so that we can see them! Pretty exciting. I don't know how often offshores and residents or transients have been seen in the same acoustic space, but they're more closely related to residents, so it would be more likely to see them with residents. You probably already are aware of how transients avoid the residents. Transients will often make an appearance after residents have left.

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

13 Sep 2004 14:55:56 PDT

Offshores are travellers just like the Transients. They sort of roam the ocean waters. These Offshores that travel through the Strait tend to eat on fish mainly and are very similar to Resident Orcas with respect to dorsal fin and markings. Although I believe they are smaller in size than Resident Orcas. 2001 was a great season near the end where we heard many Offshores late in the season. I think we heard Offshores last season, but I can't remember. I know that the Offshores headed north some time in the Spring of this year. What a treat it must have been for you all to hear and see them for the first time :)

Markus@Canada

13 Sep 2004 14:54:35 PDT

**Tuesday September 14, 2004****No calls but orcas nearby**

Good morning everyone! The Offshore orcas have returned to western Johnstone Strait and are presently off Weynton Pass. It's not yet sure whether they will keep heading west past Alert Bay or go north through Weynton Pass, but it looks like they are on their way "out" again. They have been silent when in range of our hydrophones.

Paul

14 Sep 2004 08:32:28 PDT

No orcas present.

The Offshore orcas have continued to the west & are now past Alert Bay & approaching Haddington Island - it looks like they will be passing Sointula soon. They are travelling quite quickly, about 5-6 knots.

Paul

14 Sep 2004 10:00:38 PDT

Performing maintenance

We have been experiencing connection problems but think the problem has now been solved. Please excuse the inconvenience.

Paul

14 Sep 2004 14:36:10 PDT

No orcas present.

The Offshore orcas continued to the west and are now well past Malcolm Island, milling about off the Port Hardy airport. They appear to have been mostly silent all day.

Paul

14 Sep 2004 14:45:20 PDT

No orcas present.

The Offshores were off the Port Hardy airport, travelling close to shore, in quite shallow water, still westbound and still silent at 3:30pm when the boats departed for the day. The group of 300+ dolphins came close but never dropped in for a visit. The sea lions however are on the move and we saw a group of 4 travel past the Lab this afternoon.

Helena14 Sep 2004 20:19:26 PDT

No orcas present.

Good morning everyone! It's a lovely calm morning here, but once again we heard no calls overnight. We are waiting.

Paul

15 Sep 2004 08:23:23 PDT

No orcas present.

No orcas yet this morning but a wealth of other sightings. There are three humpbacks in the area - 2 at the top of Blackfish Sound, 1 in the Strait. A huge mass of dolphins are occupying the area around the top end of Blackfish Sound - just out of range and the minke whales have made a presence near the Pearse Islands.

Helena

15 Sep 2004 12:50:41 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The very large group of dolphins are making their way east in Blackfish Sound. I've turned down the other stations so we can listen to their calls even through the boat noise!

Helena

15 Sep 2004 13:46:15 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The calls we're listening to are from part of the huge group of 300+ Pacific whitesided dolphins that has come into our area over the last few days... they are at the "top" of Blackfish Sound & we're hearing them on the Flower Island hydrophone.

Paul15 Sep 2004 21:38:07 PDT

Wednesday September 15, 2004

**Thursday September 16, 2004****No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! It's a cool misty drizzly morning here & once again we heard no orcas calling overnight (though we often heard dolphins). We are still waiting.

Paul

16 Sep 2004 08:21:27 PDT

There is a small group of active dolphins off CP.

Helena

16 Sep 2004 09:33:31 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Good News! The A12s are slowly making their way back into the area. Currently they are in Queen Charlotte Strait headed east. It may take them a while to come into range.

Helena

16 Sep 2004 12:54:13 PDT

Boat noise

We're only hearing boat noise in Johnstone Strait at the moment, but the good news is that a few minutes ago we heard calls from the A12s as they entered Johnstone Strait via Weynton Pass. They are heading east with the A34s on the Vancouver Island side and A12 & A33 on the Hanson Island side of the Strait. Once the boat noise ends, we hope to hear them!

Paul

16 Sep 2004 15:16:13 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A12s are moving quickly eastwards & are now approaching the Blackney Pass "gap". They are mid-Strait but visible from CP. Channel A. We've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

16 Sep 2004 15:35:25 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A12s stopped their eastward dash & are foraging off CP within camera range, so we've sent an email alert.

Paul

16 Sep 2004 16:15:01 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A12s have now reached the vicinity of Robson Bight - we're listening to them on the

Critical Point hydrophone. There is only a little boat noise, so we're sending an alert.

Paul

16 Sep 2004 18:13:57 PDT

No orcas present.

We last heard calls o the CrPt hydrophone at about 7:15pm & thought the A12s were probably headed east at that time. However, we aren't sure. We are waiting.

Paul

16 Sep 2004 21:37:19 PDT

**Friday September 17, 2004****No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! As you'll have seen, we are enjoying a lovely morning here, and though we aren't sure where the A12s are, we do think they are not far away -possibly to the east of us in Johnstone Strait. We are waiting, but happy to see the sun shining again... and we are hopeful that we'll hear the sound of orcas calling sometime today.

Paul

17 Sep 2004 09:00:47 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We have the surface camera pointed to the entrance of Blackney Pass because three transients came out of Barontet Passage and looked like they were going to head for the Strait. We are still keeping an eye on Blackney in case they turn into the Pass instead.

Helena

17 Sep 2004 12:06:09 PDT

No orcas present.

Well the A12s have not made it this far west - yet! But while we wait the skies have cleared and the evening is just so lovely. Even the boat noise has improved somewhat.

Helena

17 Sep 2004 18:54:05 PDT

Orcas hunting fish.

We heard brief echolocation on the Critical Point hydrophone a few minutes ago, and shortly before that, several orcas made a very brief pass by the Main rubbing beach as they headed west... it looks like the A12s are back!

Paul

17 Sep 2004 19:37:56 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We haven't heard anything above the boat noise since just after 8pm so we are not sure what happened to the A12s. The tide is ebbing so perhaps they are going with it to the west. We will have to see.

Helena17 Sep 2004 22:03:25 PDT

Saturday September 18, 2004**No calls but orcas nearby**

Good morning, the A12s came back west last night and hung around for awhile in the strait, and then headed back east around midnight. They are currently just off the east end of the Robson Bight Ecological Reserve and heading west, so we shall perhaps hear them soon!

Fiona

18 Sep 2004 09:20:27 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A12s have reached the critical point hydrophone and are continuing to the west, making sporadic calls.

Fiona

18 Sep 2004 10:14:51 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A12s are slowly ambling west, but are right on the VI side of the strait. They should be within range of the camera soon enough....

Fiona

18 Sep 2004 11:44:10 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A12s are close to CP. Channel A. We've sent a messenger alert.

Paul

18 Sep 2004 14:24:02 PDT

Boat noise

After a relaxing afternoon foraging and lazing around just off of CP, the A12s have regrouped and are making their way east in a beautiful resting line.

Fiona18 Sep 2004 17:35:48 PDT

**Sunday September 19, 2004****No orcas present.**

The A12s were headed east past Robson Bight as it became dark... we are waiting for their return.

Paul

19 Sep 2004 00:02:38 PDT

No orcas present.

Good morning everyone! It's a foggy but calm morning here. There has been considerable boat noise during the night, and we heard no orcas calling. We think that the A12s are probably somewhere to the east of us but aren't completely sure. We are waiting.

Paul

19 Sep 2004 08:25:58 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

We're hearing rubbing sounds & have glimpsed one orca heading west from the Main rubbing beach... probably, these are the A12s returning from their overnight trip to the east!

Paul

19 Sep 2004 10:51:35 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A12s are close to the Critical Point - their sounds are clear & there is almost no boat noise, so we're sending a Messenger alert.

Paul

19 Sep 2004 11:08:13 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A12s are getting closer to the CP/BP area. Some of the groups are still near the Vancouver island shore while others are moving out into the middle. The calls are clear and frequent.

Helena

19 Sep 2004 13:14:46 PDT

Performing maintenance

Power is out in Alert Bay, and our backup power system will probably go down soon. We don't know how long the power outage will be, but will come back on line as soon as power is restored. Please excuse the inconvenience.

Paul

19 Sep 2004 13:32:45 PDT

Performing maintenance

We have just been informed that power in Alert bay will be down until 6pm. After the backup power is drained orcaLive will be down for the rest of the afternoon. Sorry, see you later!

Paul

19 Sep 2004 13:41:28 PDT

No orcas present.

Well, we are back up again, thanks to Alert Bay's prompt efforts in the power department. It has been a gorgeous hot afternoon here, and the A12s spent the time heading west in the sun. We haven't heard anything from them for awhile now, but maybe they will come back soon.

Fiona19 Sep 2004 18:21:05 PDT

**Monday September 20, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

The A12s seem to have come back into the Strait and are probably making their way to the east. We heard a fes dolphins just before the A12s.

Helena

20 Sep 2004 00:06:33 PDT

No orcas present.

Good morning! We lost track of the A12s around 2:30am. At that time they were still in Johnstone Strait. It is not clear if they continued to the east. A slightly overcast day here but it looks like it might brighten in a while.

Helena

20 Sep 2004 08:12:36 PDT

The A12s did go east and were seen this morning near to Port neville. They were still going east. There is a large humpback moving into Queen Charlotte Strait. meanwhile, it looks like a lovely Fall underwater, especially on Channel A!

Helena

20 Sep 2004 12:09:03 PDT

No orcas present.

It seems the A12s spent some time stalled at Camp Pt down east this afternoon, but around 3:10pm turned and started heading west again. If they continue, we will hopefully hear their calls sometime tonight!

Fiona

20 Sep 2004 16:53:15 PDT

No orcas present.

Hi, This report came from MacKay Whale Watching: "Bill encountered the A12's at Fanny Island at 11:45 a.m. It was one of those rare occasions that the 34's bolted ahead by at least 3.5 miles and left A12 and A33 behind. All finally grouped up again at Camp Point and they spent one hour there with no forward movement. At 3:05 p.m. they all turned west and were reported at 4:00 to be at Kelsey Bay still westbound, bucking into the tide." Thanks Donna & Bill!

Helena

20 Sep 2004 19:50:59 PDT

Tuesday September 21, 2004**Superb sounds!!**

The A12s have made it back to Robson Bight from the east. Lovely calls!

Helena

21 Sep 2004 03:02:36 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A12s are still calling frequently in the Strait.

Helena

21 Sep 2004 06:43:45 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A12s have begun to call again after a bit of a gap. They are still in the Strait.

Helena

21 Sep 2004 08:32:26 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A12s did continue to the west this morning but are now eastbound just east of Telegraph Cove.

Helena

21 Sep 2004 08:37:52 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A12s are slowly coming east, doing some foraging, and are out midstrait in front of CP.

Fiona

21 Sep 2004 10:18:35 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s left the Strait via Blackney Pass. They were in view of the Lab at 11:02am when they came around the corner at Gab's Rk. A12 and A33 were slightly ahead of the A34s who were travelling mid channel as a group. When opposite the lab A12 rested and waited for A33 to come up behind her. These two then carried on to the north cutting the Hanson Island corner before entering Blackfish Sound. The A34s stalled when opposite the lab also. There was a tail slap by A55 and some of the others lay on their side. The group spread out and milled a bit before continuing to the north slightly further over to the other side than before. They cleared by 11:33am. There were no calls but they are just beginning to call now that they are in BFS.

Helena

21 Sep 2004 11:46:51 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

After leaving Blackney Pass the A12s grouped up, began to rest and move slowly & silently back toward the Strait via the Blow-hole. They have just entered the Strait but have not begun to make calls yet.

Helena

21 Sep 2004 14:15:55 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We are filming a small group of dolphins off of Cracroft Point. The A12s are still silently heading east along the Vancouver I.sland shore east of Blinkhorn

Helena

21 Sep 2004 16:37:16 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A12s have reached Robson Bight - we're listening to them making occasional calls, amidst boat noise, on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

21 Sep 2004 21:04:18 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The A12s have reached the rubbing beaches.

Paul

21 Sep 2004 21:58:49 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Not sure, but perhaps the A12s kept going east. The tide is going out so if they are headed back west with the tide they will be on Critical Point fairly soon. We will just wait and see. Earlier today there was a report of a group of Transients headed west from Chatham Point

Helena

21 Sep 2004 22:40:16 PDT

Wednesday September 22, 2004**Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.**

The A30s are back! They are hurrying through Blackney Pass towards Johnstone Strait & will be visible from CP in a few minutes. We'll send an alert.

Paul

22 Sep 2004 07:56:43 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s have moved closer to the Vancouver Island side of the Strait and are foraging off Kaikash. Meanwhile, another group of orcas has been spotted to the east of Boat Bay. Quite possibly these are the A12s, though we're not sure. This already interesting day looks like becoming even more interesting!

Paul

22 Sep 2004 10:07:11 PDT

Superb sounds!!

A39 (Pointer) has come into Blackney Pass & is now foraging in front of the lab... some of the calls we're hearing are his alone. Meanwhile, the other A30s are still foraging in the entrance of Blackney Pass (Channel A). It's possible they will join A39 soon, though he could go back to them (depends on who is more convincing).

Paul

22 Sep 2004 10:44:42 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

A39 ended up heading back to the other A30s. They are all intensively engaged in foraging at the entrance to Blackney Pass. We're hearing occasional calls on the CP & PI hydrophones, mixed with boat noise.

Paul

22 Sep 2004 11:21:18 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s have finally finished foraging & have decided to head east. They are now crossing the Strait, heading towards the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight. We're hearing their calls in the distance on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

22 Sep 2004 11:43:54 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

The A30s have turned back to the west again... they are close to Vancouver Island between Kaikash & Izumi. For the moment at least, they are silent.

Paul

22 Sep 2004 12:57:51 PDT

No orcas present.

oops, I hadn't noticed Helena's comment before I posted mine... looks like we agree!

Paul

22 Sep 2004 20:33:54 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

With A33 well in front of the others, the A12s & A30s are heading north through Blackney Pass.

Paul

22 Sep 2004 13:54:09 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The calls of the A30s & A12s are getting more distant, amidst boat noise, as they head north in Blackfish Sound.

Paul

22 Sep 2004 14:44:44 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We're still hearing distant calls from the A30s & A12s on the Flower Island hydrophone... sounds like they're still foraging at the "top" of Blackfish Sound.

Paul

22 Sep 2004 17:33:02 PDT

No orcas present.

The A30s and the A12s stayed at the top end of Blackfish Sound for a very long time. Finally their calls became very distant and eventually disappeared. We will have to wait and see if they took Weynton Passage back to Johnstone Strait on the flooding tide.

Helena

22 Sep 2004 19:56:03 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls for the past hour & a half, so, only boat noise, and are not sure what happened to the A12s & A30s... it's possible they have headed back into Johnstone Strait on the flooding tide, via Weynton Passage, or they may have continued to the north. We are waiting for their return.

Paul

22 Sep 2004 20:31:14 PDT



Thursday September 23, 2004

Superb sounds!!

We're listening to transient orcas calling on the Critical Point hydrophone. They are in Robson Bight & there is no boat noise, so we'll send an alert.

Paul

23 Sep 2004 05:05:14 PDT

Orcas near mics.

After the transients began to grow distant and fade in the boat noise in Johnstone Strait we began to hear the A30s in Blackney Pass. They are headed toward the Strait

Helena

23 Sep 2004 05:51:06 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Good morning everyone! After an exciting few hours, with transients followed by residents, we're now hearing distant calls from the A30s and (probably) the A12s as they head east in Johnstone Strait. The calls are audible on the Critical Point hydrophone - we think the orcas are most likely mid-Strait, but it's possible they will go into the beaches for a rub (we hope so) as they make their way to the east.

Paul

23 Sep 2004 07:39:34 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s & A12s (probably) are heading west past CP... Channel A.

Paul

23 Sep 2004 08:39:51 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Sorry - Channel B!

Paul

23 Sep 2004 08:41:35 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

I was wrong not only about the channel but also about the orcas - those were the A12s off CP a short while ago!

Paul

23 Sep 2004 09:16:19 PDT



Orcas near mics.

The A30s and the A12s have formed their own groups. The A12s remain closer to the entrance of Blackney Pass while it sounds like the A30s are closer to Critical Point. The transients from earlier this morning are continuing west toward Port Mc Neill.

Helena

Distant calls audible.

The A12s and the A30s are still working different areas but the space between these two groups is narrowing. The A30s are now off the Kaikash area, westbound, and the A12s turned back to the east at Blinkhorn.

Helena

23 Sep 2004 13:38:54 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

The A12s & A30s, with A33 well ahead of the others, have been heading north through Blackney Pass for the past few minutes & are now entering Blackfish Sound.

Paul

23 Sep 2004 14:41:16 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A12s & A30s are now well into Blackfish Sound, heading east. We're listening to them on the Flower Island hydrophone.

Paul

23 Sep 2004 15:10:01 PDT

**Distant calls audible.**

The A12s and the A30s, in a mixed group, travelled through Blackney Pass and into Blackfish Sound. They have just begun to vocalise (especially the A12s). There is also a new report of yet more transients, this time in Spring Passage, Knight Inlet.

Helena

23 Sep 2004 15:13:30 PDT

No orcas present.

The A12s and the A30s took the unusual route of heading up into the Inlets this evening just before dark.

Helena

23 Sep 2004 20:35:53 PDT

Friday September 24, 2004**No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! We heard no orcas calling overnight and think the A12s & A30s may have continued into the "Inlets" after entering White Beach Passage (opposite OrcaLab) at dusk. However, we aren't sure. We are waiting. Meanwhile, the sun has just risen on another lovely morning here - Channel A.

Paul

24 Sep 2004 07:41:59 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

A group of orcas is heading slowly towards CP from the east. Channel A. We'll send an alert.

Paul

24 Sep 2004 08:12:25 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

The A12s & A30s are heading north into Blackney Pass... it's interesting to speculate on the route they took after they headed into the "Inlets" last night!

Paul

24 Sep 2004 08:33:04 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

Correction, only the A30s passed CP & are coming into Blackney Pass... early morning confusion! There is another report of orcas near Minstrel island, so possibly these are the A12s (or they could be some of the many transient orcas who were in our area yesterday).

Paul

24 Sep 2004 08:39:06 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s have just passed OrcaLab, travelling close together in a relaxed resting line. A30 was sandwiched between her huge sons (A38 & A39) with all 3 of them rising to breathe together. The '30s are now heading into Blackfish Sound. They are silent and there is (so far) no boat noise to disturb their tranquility.

Paul

24 Sep 2004 09:26:16 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

The A30s have re-entered Johnstone Strait via Weynton pass & are now mid-Strait off Blinkhorn, headed east. They are still in a close group and are travelling quite quickly. They are silent.

Paul

24 Sep 2004 11:58:32 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s are heading east, still mid-Strait & are coming within range of the CP camera (Channel A). They have also just become vocal & we're listening to them on the PI hydrophone. We'll send an alert.

Paul

24 Sep 2004 12:44:34 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We've been listening to clear calls from the A30s as they headed north through Blackney Pass... they are now in Blackfish Sound & their calls becoming more distant on the Fower Island hydrophone. Shortly ahead of the A30s were 3 transient orcas.

Paul

24 Sep 2004 15:01:45 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Another group of transient orcas has been sighted off Boat Bay & is heading west in Johnstone Strait... it's possible they will come in sight of CP soon. Meanwhile, the A12s have suddenly shown up at the "top" of Blackfish Sound, having come out of Knight Inlet. They are silent. The A30s are approaching the A12s & are quite vocal (their calls are audible on the Flower Island hydrophone. The 3 transient orcas that were ahead of the A30s are not far away from the A12s & A30s... they are now just north of Stubbs Island, possibly headed for Cormorant Channel.

Paul

24 Sep 2004 15:37:50 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The group of transient orcas is now passing CP. Channel A. We've sent an alert.

Paul

24 Sep 2004 16:50:31 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls for several hours. Around 5:30pm, the A12s & A30s were spread out between the Penfolds & Lizard Point, heading west. We're not sure what happened to the transients after they headed into Blackfish Sound. We are waiting.

Paul

24 Sep 2004 21:29:24 PDT

**Saturday September 25, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

Good morning everyone! After a quiet night (except for boat noise) we began hearing distant "A" calls on the Flower Island hydrophone a short while ago. It's possible these may be from the A30s or A12s, who headed north from Blackfish Sound last evening. A sighting of 3 male orcas at the western end of Malcolm Island yesterday makes us also think that the A36s may be nearby. Adding to the mix are what sound like "G clan" calls being heard near Foster Island, also a short while ago. It's a foggy morning here, but if things develop they way they're looking, this could be another exciting orca day!

Paul

25 Sep 2004 08:38:44 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

The calls on the Flower Island hydrophone are getting louder, so we think the orcas are heading east, towards Blackney Pass. We're still not sure which A1 group(s) we're listening to, & it's still a very foggy morning here.

Paul

25 Sep 2004 09:42:23 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Hi we have whales all over the place this morning. Whales just turned up in front of CP and there is another group between Blinkhorn and Weynton AND the A36s at the top end of blackfish with another group coming east from Lizard. We will send an Alert.

Helena

25 Sep 2004 11:49:49 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

So many whales.... We just had the A12s foraging off of CP for awhile there, though A33 took off to the East way ahead of A12 and the rest of her group (the A34s)- a good 45 mins before they followed him! Currently the group is approaching the Robson Bight Ecological Reserve, and A33 has turned back towards them. We had reports of the I11s in BFS earlier today, as well as the presence of the A36s, but no-one is calling and we are not sure where everyone went! Hopefully we'll have some clues soon, and maybe the A12s will visit the rubbing beaches... it's been awhile.

Fiona

25 Sep 2004 14:01:42 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

I'm not sure which drama, that above or below is the more interesting - perhaps both are equal. Above, the very silent A12s carried on to the east. The A36s disappeared (they were last seen near Donegal Head). The I11s have not come into range yet and are still in Queen Charlotte Strait (we think) and there was some other A group heard not far off the I11s earlier. The transients that came from the Strait, as the A12s were hurrying eastward, and passed the Lab have turned up near to the Stephanson Island and may have been the T10s afterall. Busy day but very few calls so not many recordings, just a lot of rushing around. Nice to check in every so often and see the clear, uncloudy, colourful and eventful scene underwater! Calls just now?

Helena

25 Sep 2004 15:06:37 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The A12s have gone into the Main Beach! We have sent an Alert.

Helena

25 Sep 2004 16:26:38 PDT

No orcas present.

Well the A12s headed east after a few of them indulged in a nice rub, and everyone else seems to be somewhere to the north and west. Meanwhile... nice sunset here!

Fiona

25 Sep 2004 19:44:50 PDT

**Distant calls audible.**

We are listening to a few A calls in Blackfish Sound. A bit early to tell who but it may be the A36s who almost made it into the area earlier today but retreated back into Queen Charlotte Strait as the A12s made their way to Johnstone Strait. Mayber they will bring with them the I11s and the A30s too.

Helena

25 Sep 2004 20:56:36 PDT

Boat noise

I guess I'm reduced to the boat noise lable. The whales have been hard to track. They are not very vocal and the boat noise has been awful. Hopefully it will clear eventually. But it did sound like somebody went into the Strait earlier. Lovely night otherwise.

Helena

25 Sep 2004 22:44:53 PDT

Sunday September 26, 2004**Superb sounds!!**

Lovely A1 calls in the Bight.

Helena

26 Sep 2004 04:59:08 PDT

Orcas near mics.

Still beautiful calls even with the background boat noise. We have been listening to the A30s and now the A36s right in Robson Bight.

Helena

26 Sep 2004 05:38:25 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Good morning everyone! We're listening to distant calls on the CrPt & CP hydrophones as the A30s & A36s make their way to the west in Johnstone Strait - they are probably close to the Vancouver Island side of the Strait, near Kaikash beach or a bit to the west of it. It's another very foggy morning here, so it's not possible to see them... later, when (if) the fog clears, we should have another lovely sunny day.

Paul

26 Sep 2004 07:27:42 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

We can hear A1 calls on the PI & LL hydrophones, as well as on CrPt. We can also hear blows in the fog in Blackney Pass, so we think at least some of the orcas are heading north into Blackney Pass on the slack tide. Others are still in the Blackney Pass "gap". It's still too foggy to see more than a hundred meters or so. Compounding that difficulty is persistent boat noise in the Strait. At the surface, however, the ocean is absolutely still & it's quite a lovely morning here.

Paul

26 Sep 2004 09:20:43 PDT



Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The fog is clearing at the entrance of Blackney Pass & some of the orcas are now visible. Channel B. We've sent an alert, partly because the A12s are heading west along the Cracroft Island shoreline, & should be within range of the CP camera soon. Meanwhile, some of the A30s have come further into Blackney Pass - the calls we're listening to are the A30s on the PI & CP hydrophones. The A36s are on the Vancouver Island side of the Strait, near Izumi Rock... altogether, it's already a busy orca morning here!

Paul

26 Sep 2004 09:52:14 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Correction - the CP surface camera is (will be) on Channel A. At the moment, the whales are out of sight of CP, so we're underwater on both channels (with lovely clear visibility).

Paul

26 Sep 2004 09:56:51 PDT

Orcas near mics.

We're mostly hearing the A30s on the Parson Island & CP hydrophones at the moment, as they forage in the entrance of Blackney Pass. The more distant calls are from the A36s, who are still on the Vancouver Island side of the Strait, approaching Kaikash. The A12s are getting close to the Sophias, still heading west.

Paul

26 Sep 2004 10:59:42 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s are moving east now from out from the entrance to Blackney Pass toward CP. The A12s are mid strait off the Sophia Islands with the A36s just slightly west of them. One of the A36s is moving in closer to Cracroft Island.

Helena

26 Sep 2004 11:49:16 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

We've just heard the sound of pebbles moving at the Main beach - sounds like some of the orcas are rubbing. Channel B. Meanwhile, the A30s are still foraging off the entrance of Blackney Pass. Channel A.

Paul

26 Sep 2004 14:01:22 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Now the A12s!

Paul

26 Sep 2004 14:25:45 PDT



copyright orca-live 26/09/04 A12s

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s just came through Blackney Pass after foraging for hours off of CP in the Strait, and have cleared to the north. The A12s and A36s headed east after leaving the rubbing beaches.

Fiona

26 Sep 2004 16:18:01 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A36s & A12s sound like they have come back to Critical Point & Robson Bight after travelling east this afternoon. Earlier, we had heard also that the A30s, who had travelled north through Blackney and into Blackfish Sound, had turned back at the "top" of Blackfish. However, other than a few calls, we didn't hear from them again and are not sure where they ended up. As you can see on Channel A, we're enjoying a lovely moon along with beautiful orca calls tonight!

Helena

26 Sep 2004 20:32:50 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls for quite a while now & are not sure what happened to the A12s & A36s after they were calling in Robson Bight. We are waiting, & meanwhile enjoying a lovely moonlit evening.

Paul

26 Sep 2004 22:26:28 PDT

**Monday September 27, 2004****No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! It's another very foggy morning here, and we've heard no orcas calling overnight. We are waiting.

Paul

27 Sep 2004 07:24:40 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s came into Johnstone Strait (in the fog) about an hour ago & have been making their way steadily to the east. Now that the fog has cleared, they are visible from CP, opposite the Blackney Pass "gap", & close to the Vancouver Island side of the Strait

Paul

27 Sep 2004 11:59:42 PDT

Orcas near mics.

In the last voice note I said the A30s were eastbound headed for the Reserve. But by the time I had finished the A30s had turned and were possibly westbound off the Sophias and the A12s, further east, off Swaine Point, are coming up behind the A30s on the Cracroft island side.

Helena

27 Sep 2004 13:30:08 PDT

Superb sounds!!

It has been a lovely, lovely afternoon both for sound and visuals. The A30s, the A12s and the A36s all reached the area off Cracroft and have been shifting back and forth from the entrance to Blackney Pass, the bottom end of Hanson Island and the area in front of CP.

Helena

27 Sep 2004 16:16:15 PDT

No orcas present.

As you may have guessed the whales have moved on to the west.

Helena

27 Sep 2004 17:20:02 PDT

Superb sounds!!

All the A1s (A12s, A30s, A36s) are together at the "top" of Blackfish Sound, having travelled north through Weynton Pass. We're listening to them on the Flower Island hydrophone. These days, it's a rare treat for us to have all the A1 matriline together, so we'll send an alert... with the hope that they'll be vocal & within range a while longer.

Paul

27 Sep 2004 19:05:04 PDT

Boat noise

Boat noise has taken over the underwater soundscape in Blackfish Sound... if you've just logged on after receiving the alert we sent a while ago (when the A1s were calling) please excuse us!

Paul

27 Sep 2004 19:47:01 PDT

No orcas present.

We believe that the A1s went to the west. They sounded pretty excited before they disappeared out of range. Earlier in the day there were quite a lot of chum salmon showing up in the area.

Helena

27 Sep 2004 22:12:28 PDT

The following seems to go with the feeling on A - Native American 10 Commandments:
The Earth is our Mother care for her.
Honor all your relations
Open your heart and soul to the Great Spirit
All life is sacred; treat all beings with respect
Take from the Earth what is needed and nothing more
Do what needs to be done for the good of all
Give constant thanks to the Great Spirit for each new day
Speak the truth; but only of the good in others
Follow the rhythms of nature; rise and retire with the sun
Enjoy life's journey, but leave no tracks
Eileen@Ottawa
27 Sep 2004 09:30:49 PDT

**Tuesday September 28, 2004****No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! We heard no orcas calling overnight & think that the A1 groups (A12s, A30s, A36s) must have headed north from Blackfish Sound, though we aren't sure. We are waiting for their return, and meanwhile enjoying a slightly foggy morning with the prospect of another sunny day ahead.

Paul

28 Sep 2004 07:27:47 PDT

Distant calls audible.

A short while ago, we began to hear the A36s on the Flower island hydrophone, along with some "G clan" calls... sounds like the A1s are getting company!

Paul

28 Sep 2004 08:35:16 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

We're still listening to A & G clan calls on the Flower Island hydrophone. Many groups are foraging at the "top" of Blackfish Sound, including the A12s, A30s, A36s (all A1s), and the I31s. Others are there too. We are hoping they will come through Blackney Pass on the flooding tide, so we can see them, but of course they may not.

Paul

28 Sep 2004 11:01:45 PDT

Thanks again, Nan... and Conny, the tide turned to flood in Weynton Pass at 10:40am. We've just heard that the A30s are heading quickly south through Weynton Pass - the others will probably follow them soon.

Paul@OL

28 Sep 2004 11:51:54 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Led by the A30s, all the groups travelled south through Weynton Pass & have now entered Johnstone Strait. They are spread out & are generally heading east. We're hearing their calls in the distance on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

28 Sep 2004 12:05:20 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Some of the orcas are entering the Blackney Pass "gap" & are approaching CP. Channel A. We'll send an alert.

Paul

28 Sep 2004 12:53:08 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The whales are seriously into something at CP! Maybe shifting to the west. We have heard all the A1s, the I31/I11 groups, the G29s, probably the G3s and other G groups as well.

Helena

28 Sep 2004 14:33:29 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The various groups have gone to the east toward Critical Point. The calls continue to be spectacular despite the tug which is also now going east in the Strait. We think the I11s and the I15s may have joined the other groups later in the afternoon.

Helena

28 Sep 2004 18:05:12 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The calls just keep happening! And right off Critical Point. We keep hearing the various groups come in and out of the picture. Very special gathering.

Helena

28 Sep 2004 19:22:20 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The groups have shifted to the east and some have started to go for a rub - in the dark - too bad!

Helena

28 Sep 2004 19:47:22 PDT

No orcas present.

I think they have gone east out of the Reserve.

Helena28 Sep 2004 20:29:01 PDT

**Wednesday September 29, 2004****Orcas near mics.**

It sounds like perhaps the A36s decided to come back to the west - will the others follow? Stay tuned!

Helena

29 Sep 2004 00:01:45 PDT

Superb sounds!!

Good Morning! The whales are in fine form off Critical Point. We still have a heavy north west wind and this is causing quite a lot of wave noise on Critical Point which is exposed. Good sounds regardless - whales right in the Bight.

Helena

29 Sep 2004 08:41:52 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s are currently in Blackney Pass in front of OL, and someone just did a quick fly-by rub on their way east I assume - we sent out an alert but the rub was a bit short-lived! Maybe we will hear someone on Critical Point soon.

Fiona

29 Sep 2004 11:43:25 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s have now cleared to Blackfish Sound, and we had another quick mother-child rub-by, and the whales are coming west (which is what i meant in the last comment).

Fiona

29 Sep 2004 11:58:27 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s have been making their way through Blackney Pass to the north. They are stopping to forage from time to time so progress is relaxed and slow. Meanwhile, we lost track of the A12s (last on Critical Point) and wondered if they turned back to the east. Just a short while ago there were two brief rubs. The mum and calf who were on the last brief rub look like they went off to the west so we might expect to hear from them on Critical Point at some point.

Helena

29 Sep 2004 12:03:06 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

This is going to be an interesting day! Some of the A30s are back in view (but silent) while other whales (also silent) are passing over the main rubbing beach on their way west. hard to know which direction to look.

Helena

29 Sep 2004 12:56:47 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Sorry we had a powerfailure. The A30s went back to the Strait and more whales passed over the Beaches (maybe the A36s). Channel A for surface.

Helena

29 Sep 2004 13:36:05 PDT

Superb sounds!!

Despite the boat noise it has been nice to listen to the Gs and the other A1s come around the corner at Critical Point and move west toward the A30s off of CP.

Helena

29 Sep 2004 14:26:19 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The whales are back in front of CP. Channel A

Helena

29 Sep 2004 16:36:45 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The whales after coming to the west turned (most off the entrance of Blackney) and headed back towards Robson Bight just at the slack tide.

Helena

29 Sep 2004 18:39:16 PDT

Superb sounds!!

Suddenly the whales are back to the entrance of Blackney Pass - very excited about something!

Helena

29 Sep 2004 20:38:05 PDT

Distant calls audible.

It is possible that some of the whales scooted through on the fast ebb. I was not sure if i was hearing very distant calls in Blackfish Sound.

Helena

29 Sep 2004 21:38:23 PDT

**Orcas near mics.**

We are hearing bursts of excited A1 calls on Flower Island.

Helena

29 Sep 2004 22:28:00 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Before the tug went into Blackfish Sound it sounded as if someone from the Gs (I31s) joined the A30s.

Helena

29 Sep 2004 23:19:47 PDT

Thursday September 30, 2004**Multiple pod calls audible.**

I think that all the groups who were in the Strait earlier today are now in Blackfish Sound. We can make out the A30s, I31s, Gs, A36s etc. They still sound excited up at the top end of the Sound.

Helena

30 Sep 2004 00:01:10 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The whales have become closer, their calls are very clear now, especially the A36s!

Helena

30 Sep 2004 00:25:41 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Before the tug went into Blackfish Sound it sounded as if someone from the Gs (I31s) joined the A30s.

Helena

30 Sep 2004 00:26:01 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The various groups are making their way back to the Strait via Blackney Pass. There are still groups up in Blackfish but a couple of G groups are being accompanied into the Strait by the A36s.

Helena

30 Sep 2004 02:39:20 PDT

Orcas near mics.

Good morning everyone! We began hearing calls close to the CrPt hydrophone again a short while ago - sounds like the A30s & possibly others are returning to the west in Johnstone Strait.

Paul

30 Sep 2004 08:24:58 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

It now sounds like the whales are moving west a bit more.

Helena

30 Sep 2004 11:04:21 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

the whales are continuing west and are on the CP camera. we're sending an alert.

Fiona

30 Sep 2004 11:26:31 PDT

**Orcas approaching Orcalab.**

The parade has continued to the north, through Blackney Pass.

Paul

30 Sep 2004 12:38:49 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A36s & some of the Gs have returned to CP, & some of the orcas other orcas remained in the Blackney Pass "gap" while the others headed north. The day, light & orcas are all gorgeous, so we're sending another alert. The CP surface camera is on Channel A.

Paul

30 Sep 2004 13:06:15 PDT

Boat noise

We're still hearing occasional distance calls on the Parson Island hydrophone as the orcas in the Strait make their way to the west. We're also hearing occasional distant calls on the Flower Island hydrophone from the orcas who are still at the "top" of Blackfish Sound. However, there is boat noise on all sides at the moment & that's mostly what we're listening to!

Paul

30 Sep 2004 14:48:14 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A30s are off the entrance to Blackney Pass. They have been there most of the day, although they did make one entry into Blackney Pass proper briefly. We lost track of the A12s and the two G groups they were with (one was the G27s) after they grew distant on Flower Island. And the A36s continued east toward the Bight with the remaining G clan groups. We are still trying to figure out which groups were actually present and so far have put the G29s, I31s, the G27s and the G2s on the list. This will probably be modified. We will see if the A30s come back into view of the Lab before too long.

Helena

30 Sep 2004 17:35:43 PDT

Superb sounds!!

All the orcas are now in Blackfish Sound & we're listening to a wonderful chorus of G clan calls with occasional "A" voices chiming in.

Paul

30 Sep 2004 19:11:08 PDT

Superb sounds!!

All the groups have now gone into Blackfish Sound. The sunset and their calls are wonderful.

Helena

30 Sep 2004 19:12:39 PDT

Superb sounds!!

Looks like Helena & i agree, again!

Paul

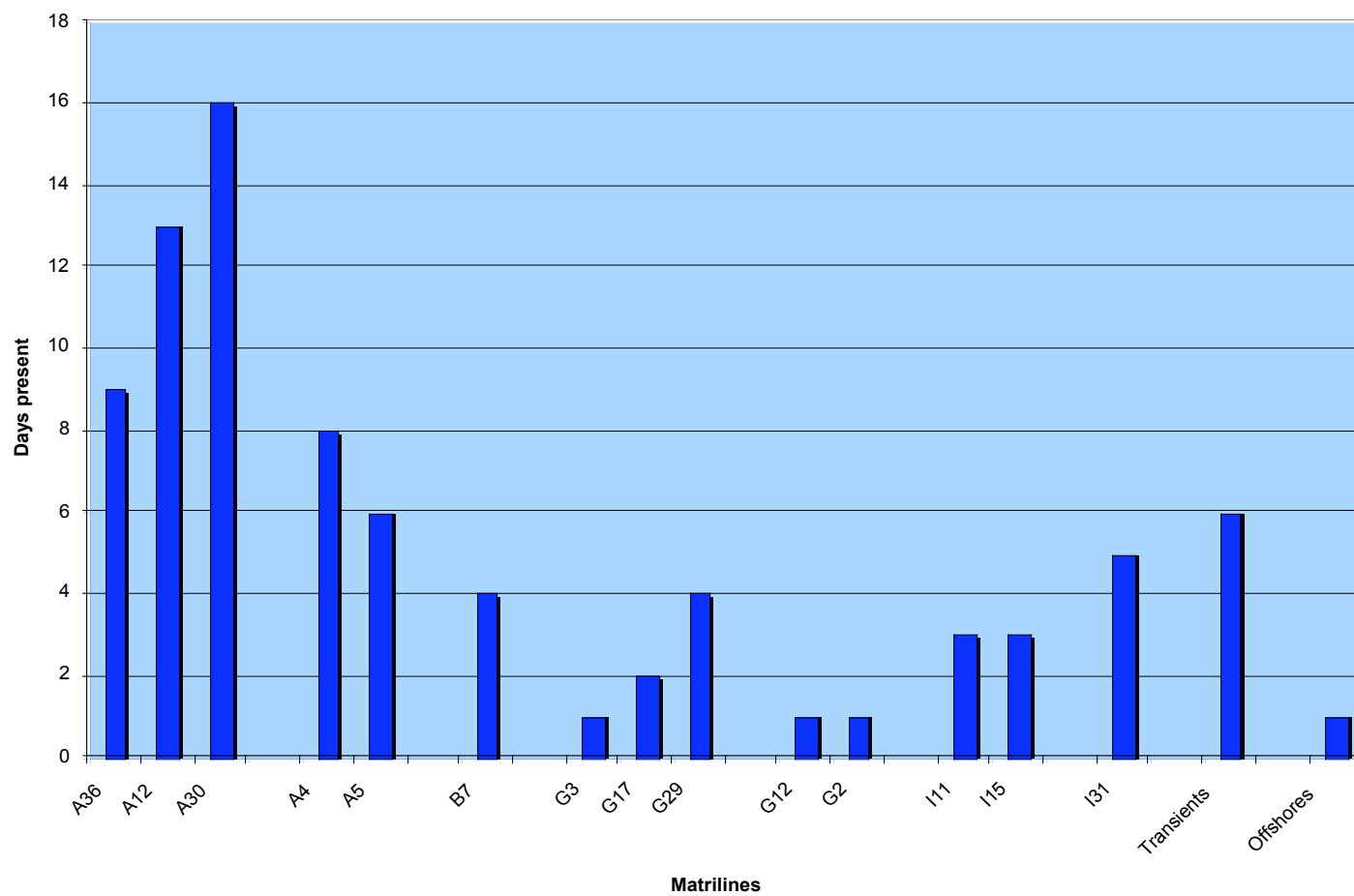
30 Sep 2004 19:20:59 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls for about an hour & think that the many groups of orcas that were in Johnstone Strait today have continued to the north from Blackfish Sound. We are waiting, & meanwhile enjoying a lovely moonlit evening.

Paul

30 Sep 2004 20:52:35 PDT

**Present matriline in September 2004**

**Friday October 1, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

We began hearing distant calls on the Flower Island station a little before 5am. Boat noise has now intruded. The calls are from an "A" group, probably the A30s, so it seems that at least they have returned. When the boat noise goes away, we should (hopefully) hear them more clearly.

Paul

01 Oct 2004 05:17:48 PDT

Boat noise

Good morning everyone! After an encouraging start to the day we are now listening only to boat noise as a succession of vessels heads south into Johnstone Strait. Before boat noise took over, we heard enough orcas calling to think that the crowd of A & G clan groups that was in Johnstone Strait yesterday are still together, & are returning. When the boat noise goes away, this should become another very interesting day... meanwhile, we're enjoying a star filled morning sky!

Paul

01 Oct 2004 06:11:07 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

As the boat noise recedes, we're beginning to hear distant A & G clan calls on the Critical Point hydrophone... sounds like the orcas who were at the "top" of Blackfish Sound earlier have come into Johnstone Strait via Weynton Pass.

Paul

01 Oct 2004 07:07:00 PDT

It's mostly still a mystery, Rosemary - we sometimes see/hear northern resident orcas in the winter months, so they probably aren't far away... the (likely) best bet is that they remain in the coastal & near shore waters of central B.C. & southern Alaska, & that they are in smaller groupings than in the summer & fall when food is more abundant... but no one knows for sure.

Paul@OL

01 Oct 2004 08:41:45 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The whales have reached the Blackney Pass "gap" & are now visible from CP - Channel A. We'll send an alert.

Paul

01 Oct 2004 07:50:54 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The many groups of A & G clan orcas are now heading east towards the Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight. They are, mostly on the Vancouver Island side of the Strait, though some are more to the middle. The A30s crossed over to Vancouver island after they finished foraging off CP. We're listening to the calls on the Critical Point hydrophone. Lots of boat noise is still present as well.

Paul

01 Oct 2004 09:46:24 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

Groups of orcas are spread out all across Johnstone Strait in the vicinity of the Ecological Reserve... they are generally heading slowly eastwards. Unfortunately, boat noise is very persistent as there is commercial vessel traffic as well as a large number of fishing vessels in the Strait today. There is a good chance that some of the orcas will go into the rubbing beaches before long.

Paul

01 Oct 2004 11:23:05 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Some of the orcas have just started rubbing... Channel A.

Paul

01 Oct 2004 11:29:26 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The whales, spread up and down and across Johnstone Strait, have turned (some or all?) and are heading west again. Some of them are in view of CP. We're sending an alert.

Fiona

01 Oct 2004 13:34:30 PDT



Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Various groups of A & G clan orcas have been foraging off CP & the Blackney Pass "gap" for hours. They have just been joined by the A11s, & it looks like the feast will continue to roll on... we'll try sending another alert.

Paul

01 Oct 2004 17:29:33 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

Sorry about the error in my last comment - I meant to say the I11s, not the A11s, have come into the Strait. As soon as the I11s arrived, all the groups headed off to the east... they are now approaching Robson Bight & are audible on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

01 Oct 2004 17:55:39 PDT

No orcas present.

Good morning everyone! We heard no orcas calling overnight, and think that the many groups of orcas we had nearby yesterday are probably to the east of us - however, we aren't sure. It's a very quiet morning here, the ocean is calm with fog almost to the water... it looks like we'll have another lovely sunny day.

Paul

02 Oct 2004 07:36:11 PDT

Orcas near mics.

We're listening to "A" calls & echolocation close to the Critical Point hydrophone... sounds like at least some of the orcas are inside Robson Bight. It's still foggy.

Paul

02 Oct 2004 09:21:54 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

After heading west from Robson Bight, the A30s have crossed over to the CP/Blackney Pass side. They are visible on Channel A & we've sent an alert.

Paul

02 Oct 2004 11:15:11 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s passed quickly through Blackney Pass & are now in Blackfish Sound, headed west.

Paul

02 Oct 2004 11:45:34 PDT



I64

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls for over an hour. The last calls were distant on the CrPt hydrophone around 8:30pm... we are waiting.

Paul

01 Oct 2004 21:42:11 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s apparently have turned at the top end of Blackfish Sound. A30 and her daughters were resting while A38 and A39 were foraging. They continued to be silent, even at the turn. But it seems as if they are going to make their way back east in Blackfish Sound. There is also a very small gray whale travelling west off the bottom end of Hanson Island. Some concern that the whale is very thin and undernourished. A small (it is a day of smalls) humpback went north earlier this morning. Lovely fall day, crystal clear skies and calm seas.

Helena

02 Oct 2004 13:15:43 PDT

Saturday October 2, 2004

**Distant calls audible.**

It has been such an odd day! - With the A30s sitting off of Bold Head in Blackfish Sound totally silent and the rest of the large group to the east with only one report of their progress coming west. We began hearing them just after 7pm as they rounded the corner at Critical Point. They have since made their way up to the entrance of Blackney Pass mostly along the Vancouver Island side. So far we have heard both Gs and A1s (the A36s for sure). Unfortunately the Strait has also been swamped by heavy boat noise.

Helena

02 Oct 2004 21:05:47 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The whales are moving through Blackney Pass to the north very quickly. Lovely pings! They will all be in Blackfish Sound soon.

Helena

02 Oct 2004 21:38:35 PDT

No orcas present.

We haven't heard calls for a short while now and wonder if the whales who went through Blackney carried on to the west & Queen Charlotte Strait after connecting with the A30s or took Weynton back to the Strait. We will probably know in the next hour if we pick up calls on Critical Point once again. If not it probably means they have carried on to the west.

Helena

02 Oct 2004 23:24:16 PDT

Sunday October 3, 2004**Distant calls audible.**

Good morning everyone! We began hearing "A" & "G" clan calls on the Flower Island hydrophone a short while ago. It sounds like the orcas that headed "out" last evening are still together & heading back "in"... a good start to what looks like another lovely day here.

Paul

03 Oct 2004 07:22:23 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The very large group of whales have taken the slack tide into Johnstone Strait. The first groups arrived in the Strait just a short while ago. We can still hear faint calls on Flower as the tail end heads also into Weynton Passage. We can definitely hear the I15s in with the A30s at the end of the parade. Did all the whales go out last night to meet the incoming I15s? Once in the Strait the groups will most likely head east.

Helena

03 Oct 2004 09:08:15 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

Whoever of the Gs went into Johnstone Strait seems to have retreated back through Weynton Pass. All the groups (and there are a lot of whales) are slowly moving back westward into Queen Charlotte Strait. With the possible exception of the I33s (we received a report that they were possibly further north just a couple of days ago) we think that most of G clan is now in the area. The G17s were seen this morning and we think we heard the I15s in the mix of calls. Very exciting!

Helena

03 Oct 2004 11:17:59 PDT

**Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.**

Several groups of orcas are heading south in Blackney Pass & should be within sight of the CP surface camera soon... Channel A. We've sent an alert.

Paul

03 Oct 2004 13:45:04 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

As the whales have gone past both the Lab and CP we have had a chance to catch our breath. Right now we are listening to the whales nearing the Bight. The G3s were in the 2nd group to go past. With them were the A36s and the G2s. Ahead of them were the A12s, G17s and the G2s. There may have been other groups like the G31s, I31s and G27s who we just did not manage to identify in the crowd. The I11s followed a bit further out from Hanson Island and they were followed by the A30s and the I15s travelling along the same route together. It was amazing to see all these groups (80+ individuals) moving steadily at a slow easy going pace. There is a fishing opening so we will only hear the whales clearly in moments when the boats stop moving. Nice regardless.

Helena

03 Oct 2004 15:43:13 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The first group of orcas has reached the Main rubbing beach - we'll send an alert.

Paul

03 Oct 2004 16:31:27 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Another group has arrived at the Main rubbing beach... we'll send another alert but suggest you stay on line if you want to see more rubbing, as there could be many more visits (or not).

Paul

03 Oct 2004 17:40:21 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

It looks like the rub is over. The last groups were the I15s & A30s, who were at the tail end of the earlier procession. There now seems to be a general move back to the west, so we should start hearing calls again before long.

Paul

03 Oct 2004 18:24:04 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

oops - looks like I was wrong... someone is still rubbing!

Paul

03 Oct 2004 18:28:03 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The calls we're hearing are still on the rubbing beach hydrophone... we still think the various groups of orcas are generally westbound, but some of them may want to rub some more... best to stay tuned!

Paul

03 Oct 2004 18:58:39 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls for several hours. When we heard them last, we thought they were returning to the west after their session at the rubbing beaches, but now we think that they may have continued to the east after all. We are waiting.

Paul

03 Oct 2004 22:53:11 PDT

**Monday October 4, 2004****No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! The sun is just coming up here, & it looks like we have another lovely day ahead. We heard no orcas calling overnight & think that the many A & G clan groups that were here yesterday are probably somewhere to the east in Johnstone Strait... however, we aren't sure. We are waiting.

Paul

04 Oct 2004 07:53:13 PDT

We're experiencing a problem with the OrcaLab comment page & will not be able to post updates or send alerts until it is working again... sorry about that!

Paul@OL

04 Oct 2004 09:52:13 PDT

To briefly update you, orcas have been sighted at the eastern boundary of the Ecological Reserve & we heard calls briefly on the rubbing beaches hydrophone a short while ago. It's possible we'll see/hear orcas before long, though we're not sure.

Paul@OL

04 Oct 2004 09:55:30 PDT

The I15s are rubbing!

Paul@OL

04 Oct 2004 10:13:48 PDT

Due to some trouble at OrcaLive server, we can not update any comments at this time. We are very sorry for this inconvenience.

Posted: 05 Oct 2004 23:56 Post subject: Orca-live update

Hi everyone,

We've heard no orcas since around 5am, when we think the A36s & I11/31s headed east in Johnstone Strait, perhaps following the A30s, who headed that way after the "crowd" left the Strait via Blackney Pass around 7pm. The comment columns are still down, but OL staff are working on it & trying to solve the problem. Sorry for the inconvenience - thanks for your patience, & all the best to you all.

Tuesday October 5, 2004

It's 5:09pm (my time, pacific) and hearing A and G clan calls plus echolocation on OL cams; both cams still underwater.

The As and the Gs (don't know yet if it is all of the groups) are back in Johnstone Strait.

Helena@Hanson Island

05 Oct 2004 05:13:43 PDT

Hi & Good morning, I tried to send a comment on this side this morning when we heard the A36s and the G/I calls but it didn't post. Most likely the whales went east, although their calls were quite faint most of the time there were a few whistles which indicated that they were close enough to the hydrophone to be heard. There may have been a split in the very large group with only the A36s and some of them returning to the Strait. However, there was a lot of boat noise and it was stormy this morning. So we will have to wait and see who turns up where.

Helena@Hanson Island

05 Oct 2004 10:40:05 PDT

Voice update by Helena. Whales are coming up from the east. I11, I31 type calls and A36's, along with calls on Critical.

Helena just did a voice update. She said it was October 5, 2005 so she had a little chuckle and corrected herself.

They had a power failure and restarted the analog tapes.

There were a few distant G calls since restart and Dolphin calls.

Orcas are generally westbound, stalling abit. The A36s have gone west. The A12's are past CP and we heard G17's, I11's and the I31's.

8:15 pm (Pacific). Still alot of boat noise (must be Cruise ship or tug going through) but hearing clear A clan calls and faint G clan calls.

Another voice update from Helena (9:20pm Pacific). Flower Island is the only one recording currently. The Orcas are heading north through Blackney Pass and a tug just entered Blackfish Sound.



Heard the A30's, I31's, G17's and other G groups. The A36's are in Blackfish Sound and the A12's are not far off. Can still hear faint calls but mostly boat noise now.

Another quick voice update from Helena (at 10pm Pacific). Hearing faint A and G clan calls on Flower Island. Whales are up in Blackfish Sound. Heard the A30's, A36's, I11's, G17's, I31's and other G clan groups and have not heard the I15's.

Vocal update.. A1 calls heard earlier this morning on Flower Island. A1 calls now being heard on Critical Point suggesting that the orca came down through Weynton Passage.

Voice update from Helena at 10:45am (Pacific).

A30's are off entrance to Blackney Pass with calls on Parson Island and a few calls on Critical Point.

Both OL cams are on underwater.

Another quick voice update from Helena at 10:59am (Pacific). The A30's are moving north through Blackney Pass.

**Thursday October 7, 2004**

Hi everyone,

Sorry to say, the comments pages are still down & may be for a while... OL staff in Japan are working hard to solve the problem, but it's a serious one involving server hardware & may take some time to fix.

Meanwhile, the A30s have been calling in Blackfish Sound this morning. We've heard no calls for a while, so we're wondering if they may be going into the Strait via Weynton Pass.

Take care, & all best wishes to you all,

Paul October 7, 2004 11.48 PDT

Friday October 8, 2004**Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.**

Good morning everyone! After a stormy day and night, the ocean is quiet again (except for boat noise) and there are orcas heading west past CP. They are visible on Channel A. We've sent an alert for the first time in several days. Many THANKS to O-L staff in Japan who have solved the problems that kept us from posting comments and sending alerts... it feels good to be "back" again!

Paul

08 Oct 2004 08:11:35 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A12s are almost all the way through Blackney Pass and the A30s just came in from the Strait. Both groups are heading north.

Helena

08 Oct 2004 11:08:42 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A30s & A12s are now in Blackfish Sound... their calls are clear & there is no boat noise for the moment, so we've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

08 Oct 2004 11:38:01 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Just a short while ago we were listening to the A30s at the top end (west) of Blackfish Sound. The tide is ebbing but the current is not very strong so we will have to see if they move back to the Strait at some point or continue west into Queen Charlotte Strait.

Helena

08 Oct 2004 15:48:52 PDT

No orcas present.

It has been several hours now since we have heard the whales. We suspect that they went west into Queen Charlotte Strait for the evening.

Helena

08 Oct 2004 21:00:32 PDT

**Saturday October 9, 2004****No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! We heard no calls overnight & think that the A12s & A30s probably continued to the north yesterday afternoon. We are waiting, and meanwhile enjoying a cool blustery beginning to our Thanksgiving weekend.

Paul

09 Oct 2004 08:00:52 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s have just headed into Johnstone Strait via Blackney Pass - they are off CP at the moment & visible on Channel A.

Paul

09 Oct 2004 10:55:22 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s are in the Strait but there is a group of unidentified whales heading east in Blackfish Sound. There are no calls!

Helena

09 Oct 2004 13:11:52 PDT

Superb sounds!!

It sounds like it is Offshore whales coming east in Blackfish Sound.

Helena

09 Oct 2004 13:49:02 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

For now the small group of offshores which came into view of the Lab have turned back to the west. There were others still in Blackfish Sound whom we did not see. In total there may have been 40 offshores spread out from Blackney to the western portion of Blackfish.

Helena

09 Oct 2004 14:57:05 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A12s are heading north through Blackney Pass, silently, & the A30s are headed west past Robson Bight - we're hearing them on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

09 Oct 2004 18:09:58 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A30s are travelling through Blackney Pass at the moment.

Helena

09 Oct 2004 20:26:04 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s rushed through Blackney to Blackfish Sound. A tug has followed them west.

Helena

09 Oct 2004 21:28:58 PDT

It is great to hear the Offshores again. I am wondering about the same thing Ellen. Are the A30s still in the Strait? And are they heading east, away from the Offshores?

Jan@Netherlands

09 Oct 2004 14:27:55 PDT

According to OL, the A30 are assumed to have headed north. Which is possibly where the Offshores came from. It's a big Ocean out there. The A30s could have headed up along the Mainland shore toward Prince Rupert (general direction.. PR is about 15 hrs away by ferry) and the Offshores like came from the Open Ocean, probably via Langara. They have been seen around there on Sept. 13 also. I was talking to John Ford who gave me this info. The group we saw on the 13th seems to have been only part of a larger group.

Ellen@Richmond

09 Oct 2004 14:36:15 PDT

The Offshores are still a mystery, because they are seen so seldom. A lot of them have been identified, but we really don't know much yet about their social dynamics, diet is estimated to be sharks and other deep ocean fish. They always show up in large groups, with several matrilineal lines present. Since we know so little about them, I guess it is pretty hard to classify them into pods or even clans. They are considered the 6th clan. There are A, G and R (Northern Residents), J Clan (Southern Residents), the Transients are considered the 5th clan and the Offshores the 6th.

Ellen@Richmond

09 Oct 2004 14:50:07 PDT

**Sunday October 10, 2004****No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! We heard no calls overnight & think that the A12s & A30s are probably somewhere to the north of us. We are waiting. It's a cool, damp morning here, calm at the surface & with boat noise below.

Paul

10 Oct 2004 08:32:41 PDT

No orcas present.

So far, we've heard no orcas calling today... we are still waiting.

Paul

10 Oct 2004 13:50:45 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s are at the "top" of Blackfish Sound & look like they are heading east towards Blackney Pass. If they continue, they should come within sight of CP before dark. They are silent for the moment.

Paul

10 Oct 2004 17:18:51 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s haven't come past us yet, so far as we know, & it's getting dark... hopefully, we'll hear them later tonight.

Paul

10 Oct 2004 19:23:02 PDT

We want to thank YOU for your participation in this great season of LIVE... we've appreciated your willingness to share information, help each other learn, introduce newcomers, and be tolerant of one another, very much... THANK YOU ALL!

Paul@OL

10 Oct 2004 10:29:24 PDT

Monday October 11, 2004**Distant calls audible.**

We began hearing calls on the Flower Island & Critical Point hydrophones a short while ago... sounds like the A36s are in Blackfish Sound & the A30s are back in Johnstone Strait. Boat noise is present as well.

Paul

11 Oct 2004 00:49:42 PDT

Distant calls audible.

It has been a busy night (morning) with the A30s arriving into the Strait sometime in the early evening silently and then the A36s approaching Blackfish Sound just before 1am. The A30s at that time became vocal and headed east to the Beaches where they had a brief five minute rub. The A36s continued to move deeper into Blackfish and then down through Blackney and the Strait beyond, where they are now. It sounds as if the A30s may also now have come back from the Beaches and are exchanging a few calls with the A36s.

Helena

11 Oct 2004 03:31:49 PDT

Orcas near mics.

It sounds like the A30s came up the Strait to meet up with the A36s. Right now the groups are off CP and the entrance to Blackney Pass.

Helena

11 Oct 2004 05:18:55 PDT

No orcas present.

Good morning everyone! We've heard no calls since a little after 6am & are not sure what happened to the A30s & A36s - they were foraging in the entrance to Blackney Pass when we last heard them. It's just getting be light on a cool damp morning here & we are waiting.

Paul

11 Oct 2004 07:35:58 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We began hearing "A" calls again a short while ago. They were on the Critical Point hydrophone - one call sounded quite close & others were more distant, so it seems likely the A30s and/or A36s are not far away from Robson Bight.

Paul

11 Oct 2004 08:11:33 PDT

**Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.**

Two male orcas have been sighted off CP - they are probably 2 of the A36 brothers, though we're not yet sure. Weather conditions are bad, but Peter is pointing the surface camera at them anyway. Channel B. We've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

11 Oct 2004 10:58:32 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A36s looked like they were heading to the west, but are now back in the Blackney Pass "gap" & are visible from CP. Channel A.

Paul

11 Oct 2004 11:40:39 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s travelled back through Blackney Pass and just entered the Strait.

Paul

11 Oct 2004 15:00:16 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A36s followed the A30s to the east and are well past CP now headed for the Ecological Reserve.

Helena

11 Oct 2004 16:38:40 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A30s are in Robson Bight, close to the Critical Point hydrophone... there is no boat noise & the calls are clear, so we're sending a Messenger alert.

Paul

11 Oct 2004 17:30:48 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A30s seem to have moved off for the moment while the A36s are very vocal near to Robson Bight and seem to be staying put.

Helena

11 Oct 2004 19:06:48 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A30s have rejoined the A36s.

Helena

11 Oct 2004 19:21:53 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The calls of the A30s & A36s have become very distant on CrPt over the last hour or so. We're not sure which direction they ended up going in. We are listening.

Paul

11 Oct 2004 21:37:08 PDT



**Tuesday October 12, 2004****No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! We've heard no calls since about 8pm last evening. We think that the A30s & A36s were probably headed east in Johnstone Strait at that time, but we aren't sure. We are waiting.

Paul

12 Oct 2004 08:25:14 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The calls of the A36s are getting more distant on the CP hydrophone as they head across Johnstone Strait towards the Vancouver Island side. We're beginning to hear them on the CrPt hydrophone as well as on CP. We've heard nothing further from the A30s since they headed up into Blackfish Sound.

Paul12 Oct 2004 18:28:09 PDT

Orcas near mics.

Sounds like the A1s are coming up to Critical Point (Robson Bight).

Helena

12 Oct 2004 11:30:01 PDT

Orcas near mics.

We have heard both the A30s and the A36s. The whales are headed west from Robson Bight.

Helena

12 Oct 2004 12:49:23 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Some of the orcas are approaching CP as they head west & are visible on Channel A. We've sent an alert.

Paul

12 Oct 2004 12:59:30 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The calls we've been listening to most recently have been from the A36s, who have been intently engaged in foraging off CP. They are mostly silent at the moment & are in the entrance to Blackney Pass. Meanwhile, the A30s have just travelled north through Blackney Pass, mostly silently. They are now in Blackfish Sound... perhaps the A36s will follow them soon.

Paul

12 Oct 2004 16:10:17 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A36s are back in front of CP & are visible on Channel A again. We've sent another Messenger alert.

Paul

12 Oct 2004 16:26:53 PDT

**Wednesday October 13, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

Good morning everyone! After a night without hearing any calls (and some very welcome sleep) we began hearing distant "A1" calls on the Critical Point hydrophone a short while ago. We're not yet sure where the orcas are, though they must be somewhere in Johnstone Strait. Boat noise is also present. It's very foggy morning here & a light rain is falling on a calm ocean.

Paul

13 Oct 2004 08:59:01 PDT

Performing maintenance

We lost our Internet connection about 40' ago, possibly because of dense fog between CP & Alert Bay, but are back to normal again now... sorry for the inconvenience!

Paul

13 Oct 2004 12:00:11 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The fog is still dense off CP, but orca blows can be heard nearby... it's possible they will come within camera range soon.

Paul

13 Oct 2004 12:01:20 PDT

Performing maintenance

Our connection is intermittent at this time, so we are more "down" than "up". Please excuse the inconvenience!

Paul

13 Oct 2004 14:33:33 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We've been hearing calls from the A36s getting more distant on the CP hydrophone as (we think) they make their way back to the east in Johnstone Strait. Meanwhile, another "A1" group, possibly the A12s, is slowly heading east down Blackfish Sound. It's still very foggy here & difficult to see.

Paul

13 Oct 2004 15:15:29 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A36s have come back towards CP & are calling again... we're hearing their calls on the CP hydrophone. Their blows can also be heard from CP, but they are still invisible in the fog.

Paul

13 Oct 2004 15:19:30 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A36s are still near CP, possibly with the A12s/&or A30s as well. Though they are still hidden by fog, their calls are clear & our connection has been stable for a while... so we've sent an alert (with our fingers crossed).

Paul

13 Oct 2004 17:09:25 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A1 calls are now distant on Critical Point. At this point we think the whales (the A12s, A36s and possibly the A30s as well) have continued to the east.

Helena

13 Oct 2004 19:27:48 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The whales (the A12s and the A36s) are getting closer to Critical Point. Their calls are quite clear and getting louder.

Helena

13 Oct 2004 20:32:27 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A30s seem to have followed the A12s and the A36s.

Helena

13 Oct 2004 21:14:29 PDT

**Thursday October 14, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

The scene has shifted to Blackfish Sound as at least some of the A1s have left the Strait via Weynton and are now calling on Flower Island.

Helena

14 Oct 2004 07:43:16 PDT

Performing maintenance

Our connection is somewhat unstable today, though we are mostly "up". We're not sure of the explanation, but it is another very foggy day here & dense damp fog may be interrupting the link between CP & Alert Bay. We're not sure, but it is a possible explanation. If we do go down again, please wait a while & hope for the best... and please excuse the inconvenience!

Paul

14 Oct 2004 11:53:31 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We haven't heard any calls for a while, and think that the orcas we were listening to at the "top" of Blackfish Sound earlier may have headed to the north. However, we aren't sure. We are waiting.

Paul

14 Oct 2004 11:55:45 PDT

No orcas present.

It has been a very quiet day since the last calls early this morning. But the A30s and the A36s were found in Queen Charlotte Strait during the afternoon.

Helena 14 Oct 2004 17:27:05 PDT

Friday October 15, 2004**No calls but orcas nearby**

Good morning everyone! After an exciting night of new arrivals & returns, things are quiet again for the moment. The large group of orcas (A1s, G-Is, G-Gs) travelled north through Weynton Pass around 5am & are now probably not far away from the "top" of Blackfish Sound. We are listening, & meanwhile enjoying a calm, quiet & cool misty morning.

Paul

15 Oct 2004 08:34:28 PDT

Performing maintenance

We experienced some problems with the Community page earlier this morning but seem to be normal again now... please excuse the inconvenience.

Paul

15 Oct 2004 08:37:01 PDT

Hi, everyone again.. We had several visible updates from Helena this morning; the latest one I've seen (very late: 2 pm on Hanson Island). We listened to The A 30's, A36's, and G's... At this time the OL messenger worked for me... We also had many comments on the Comment board... Hope, this helps a bit... There must be something wrong.... See you all later....

Elke@Germany

15 Oct 2004 08:19:18 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We began hearing distant "A" calls on the Critical Point hydrophone a short while ago - sounds like at least some of the orcas are still in Johnstone Strait, or perhaps that some of them have returned via Weynton Pass. It's another very foggy morning here, so it is very difficult to see anything at a distance.

Paul

15 Oct 2004 10:32:52 PDT

Distant calls audible.

While most everyone who was around all night has gone north, we believe the A12s have moved up into the entrance of Blackney Pass, and we are listening to them on the Parson Island hydrophone.

Fiona

15 Oct 2004 13:29:16 PDT

**Multiple pod calls audible.**

A short while ago we begun to hear A1 and G clan call at the top end of blackfish Sound. The A12s (in the Strait) must have heard them before we did as they became quite excited off the entrance to Blackney Pass. It was their excitement which caused us to turn up the Flower Island station and listen a little bit more carefully. It was great! We were rewarded by several calls from that direction. Now we will just have to wait and see how the groups manage to come together.

Helena

15 Oct 2004 14:13:50 PDT

No orcas present.

After quite a bit of excitement anticipating that the Gs and the A1s would come back into the area everything has become quiet. The A12s may have even left the Strait and joined the others heading west into Queen Charlotte on the strong ebbing tide. We will have to see.

Helena

15 Oct 2004 20:39:54 PDT

Saturday October 16, 2004**Superb sounds!!**

We've been hearing "A" & "G" clan calls on the Flower Island hydrophone for the past half hour. The calls are getting closer, suggesting the orcas are heading east down Blackfish Sound, & there is no boat noise, so we've sent an alert.

Paul

16 Oct 2004 02:52:42 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Almost as soon as I sent an alert, the orcas became silent. However, they are probably still in Blackfish Sound & may become vocal again soon (hope so).

Paul

16 Oct 2004 03:10:44 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The last calls we heard suggest that the orcas are now in Johnstone Strait, though it's not clear where.

Paul

16 Oct 2004 04:10:00 PDT

Superb sounds!!

Finally it sounds like everyone or almost everyone has made it into the Strait and all the way down to Robson Bight. And they sound excited to be there as well. We are hearing the A30s closest to Critical but the A12s, Gs are not far off.

Helena

16 Oct 2004 05:44:49 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The groups are coming back to the west, toward CP. The A36s are in with several G groups.

Helena

16 Oct 2004 07:12:16 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The Gs and the A1s have left the Strait via Weynton Passage and are now at the western end of Blackfish Sound.

Helena

16 Oct 2004 09:14:02 PDT

**Boat noise**

Boat noise has taken over the underwater soundscape of Blackfish Sound, & though we think the orcas are not far away, perhaps still at the "top" of Blackfish, we're not sure exactly where.

Paul

16 Oct 2004 11:10:55 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We began hearing distant "A1" calls on the Flower Island hydrophone again a short while ago, & a moment ago heard "G" calls as well. We think that at least some of the groups that were at the "top" of Blackfish Sound earlier this morning are still there, or not far away. The tide is slack at the moment, turning to flood, so it's quite possible the orcas will decide to head into Johnstone Strait soon (hopefully, via Blackney Pass).

Paul

16 Oct 2004 12:26:02 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The calls have become more distant on Flower Island, so it seems doubtful the orcas we've been listening to are going to head through Blackney Pass soon. It's possible they will head into Johnstone Strait via Weynton Pass, or they may just continue hanging out at the top of Blackfish Sound.

Paul

16 Oct 2004 13:58:08 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Some of the orcas ended up heading into Johnstone Strait via Weynton Pass & others are still at the "top" of Blackfish Sound. The A30s are off CP, foraging. Channel A. We've sent an alert.

Paul

16 Oct 2004 15:10:57 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A30s just went north through Blackney Pass. Calm evening, lovely sky, Blackney all to themselves. Now they are in Blackfish, vocal and on their way.

Helena

16 Oct 2004 18:29:33 PDT

Poem by Gipsy

Feeding in Johnston strait
the A30's, through the sea bound
with their haunting song,
their beautiful sound.....
with the majestic Pointer,
all sleek and loud
and the magnificent Blakney,
all brilliant and proud.....
eating their fill of fish
we watch them swim
with nothing to mark there passage
except for a tip of a fin
There is Bend swimming
oh, and a triple splash
all for the joyous occasion
of the days abundant catch
what a wonderful day it has been
here on OL
with special thanks to the lab staff
and Peter as well.

Gypsy@Adel., Aust.

**Sunday October 17, 2004****No orcas present.**

We've heard no calls for several hours & think the A30s must have continued to the north from Blackfish Sound, possibly following the other groups that headed in that direction earlier in the day. We are waiting.

Paul

17 Oct 2004 00:33:14 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Good morning everyone! After a quiet night (apart from boat noise) we began hearing orcas calling a little after 5am - they sounded like the A30s. We're not yet sure where they are, & boat noise has now intruded. However, they are not far away. From the look of the star filled sky this morning, it looks like we have another sunny day ahead... hopefully, with orcas!

Paul

17 Oct 2004 06:02:23 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A30s are still at the top end of Blackfish Sound. After a few hours they are vocal once again.

Helena

17 Oct 2004 08:11:22 PDT

Orcas near mics.

And the A30s now have the Gs back with them as well.

Helena

17 Oct 2004 08:17:02 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The A36s are there now too and we are beginning to wonder if the I15s are there as well.

Helena

17 Oct 2004 09:08:28 PDT

Hi Jodie, I might be able to help here. G4 after losing her two adult sons in the same year began travelling with the G17s.

Helena@orcalab

17 Oct 2004 09:06:24 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The whales have started to arrive in Johnstone Strait after going through Weynton Passage. They are now eastbound.

Helena

17 Oct 2004 10:07:45 PDT

Hi Kate, This is the first year, in many, that we have not had any of the R clan whales come in for a visit. The R2s and the Ws are often here for a few days at least. The Hs have become quite infrequent visitors. They have suffered quite a few casualties in recent years. The remnant of the pod have taken to being with the I17s/I18s. This year the entire Rclan and the Hs/I1s/I2s/I17s/I18s were seen together quite a bit further north. There is quite a nice sample of the Hs on the Orcas of the Inside Passage CD which was recorded on July 16th 1995.

Helena@orcalab

17 Oct 2004 10:28:51 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

Numerous "A" & "G" clan groups, including all the A1s, are heading east in Johnstone Strait & are now off the Blackney Pass "gap". They are very vocal & also visible from CP. Channel A. We've sent an alert.

Paul

17 Oct 2004 12:08:05 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

At least some of the groups have turned around & are heading back to the west again... they may come closer to CP this time. Channel A.

Paul

17 Oct 2004 13:34:17 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The whales are all off of CP, spread out from Cracroft to Vancouver Island. Amazing sounds!

Helena

17 Oct 2004 15:10:49 PDT

**Multiple pod calls audible.**

The whales went through Blackney Pass headed north into Blackfish Sound. We have started to form a list of who is out there. It includes all the A1 groups, the A12s (they were first into Blackney), the A36s (they were not far behind A12 and A33), the A30s (who dropped back and were the last to leave the Pass), the G31s, the G29s and more. The Gs travelled through in a loose group which split up several times to catch a bite. A bit difficult to account for everyone, however, the last time the G31s and the G29s were here they were accompanied by the G3s, G2s and G27s. Perhaps they were there as well. They are just beginning to become vocal in Blackfish Sound. There must have been a great feast today with the whales positioning themselves off the entrance to Blackney, in the rip, for hours. Enough for a sealion to grab one too!

Helena

17 Oct 2004 18:57:41 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

Good morning everyone! The sun is just coming up here, & many orcas are heading east in Johnstone Strait - they sound like the same groups that were together yesterday (A & G clan). They came into the Strait via Weynton Pass about 5:30am & have been steadily making their way east since. We're listening to their calls on the Critical Point, Cracroft Point, & Parson Island hydrophones. Soon, they will probably be within sight of the CP surface camera, so we'll send an alert.

Paul

18 Oct 2004 08:16:24 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Several groups of orcas are slowly making their way east in Johnstone Strait. They are presently east of Blinkhorn & on the Vancouver Island side of Johnstone Strait. They are vocal, though for the moment boat noise is dominating the underwater soundscape. They may also come within range of the CP camera, & when/if that happens we'll send out an alert. Meanwhile, the A30s have slipped into Blackney Pass & are heading north, silently.

Paul

18 Oct 2004 10:53:34 PDT

Orcas near mics.

For the past few minutes, we've been listening to the A30s close to the Flower Island hydrophone in Blackfish Sound. Some of the other orcas in Johnstone Strait look like they are pointing towards Blackney Pass & may follow the A30s into Blackfish soon.

Paul

18 Oct 2004 11:22:17 PDT

Superb sounds!!

All the groups ended up following the A30s through Blackney Pass & into Blackfish Sound - we're now listening to them on the Flower Island hydrophone. The calls are clear & there is no boat noise, so we'll try sending an alert (at last).

Paul

18 Oct 2004 11:58:44 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The calls are getting quite distant on the Flower Island hydrophone - sounds like the orcas may be heading north from Blackfish Sound.

Paul

18 Oct 2004 12:20:40 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The A1s and the Gs have all filed back through Blackney and are now re-entering Johnstone Strait. They may be back on camera in a short while. We sent an Alert.

Helena

18 Oct 2004 13:53:23 PDT

Creaky doors and frogs,
Moos and Barking dogs,
Pretty sounds that ping,
When the orca sing..
Donkeys braying,
Gee and Aye,
Chuckling laughter the orca cry,
Cats and the sound of chirping birds,
pretty are the orcas words.
Allan@Carnoustie Scotland
17 Oct 2004 08:59:01 PDT

**Multiple pod calls audible.**

At this time we would like to thank Graeme Ellis (DFO) for the work he has been conducting over the last few days. Graeme and his fellow researchers in DFO have been attempting to get samples of scales while the whales are actively feeding. This work has been on going all summer. It is taxing and difficult. It also requires fairly close encounters in order to pick up the scales before they disappear. As with the photo identification work for which Mr. Ellis and Dr. Ford are responsible this work will lead to new insights into the habits and requirements of the northern resident population. We are fortunate that this difficult work is being handled in such an expert and sensitive manner. As a suggestion we encourage anyone interested in doing so to write to the Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Jeff Reagen, and express their support for this vital work.

Helena and Paul

18 Oct 2004 15:20:57 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The whales are still basically in the same place they have been since they went back to the Strait. This is quite typical of their Fall habits - taking advantage of the upchurning currents of the strong rip of the entrance of Blackney Pass to catch chum salmon (also called dog salmon) during the last runs of the season. The whales will spend hours doing this, only quitting when the tide changes to slack and then ebbs. Today the tide will change at 7pm so we may see them hold to this pattern.

Helena

18 Oct 2004 17:22:14 PDT

Superb sounds!!

Now that it's slack tide, the whales are moving into the entrance to Blackney Pass. We're mostly hearing their calls on the Parson Island hydrophone, though some are still on CP. Their calls are clear & there is no boat noise, so we're sending another alert.

Paul

18 Oct 2004 19:08:35 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The calls have moved onto the Local Left hydrophone as the orcas move north through Blackney Pass. Two humpbacks are in Blackney as well... and it's also worth noting that this is A55's 15th birthday!

Paul

18 Oct 2004 19:27:40 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls for several hours & think that the orcas continued to the north from Blackfish Sound. We are waiting.

Paul

18 Oct 2004 23:09:20 PDT

**Tuesday October 19, 2004****Superb sounds!!**

The whales (we have heard both A1 and G calls) are travelling south through Blackney Pass headed for the Strait.

Helena

19 Oct 2004 02:29:01 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s and the I31s (at least) are in the Strait now and most likely heading east.

Helena

19 Oct 2004 03:31:48 PDT

Superb sounds!!

Itr sounds like the same groups are back and headed east towards Robson Bight.

A30s, A12s, A36s, I31s, Gs.

Helena

19 Oct 2004 04:19:31 PDT

Superb sounds!!

Itr sounds like the same groups are back and headed east towards Robson Bight.

A30s, A12s, A36s, I31s, Gs.

Helena

19 Oct 2004 04:19:31 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We've heard no calls for over an hour and think the orcas may have continued to the east past Robson Bight. However, we are not sure. We are waiting.

Paul

19 Oct 2004 07:05:32 PDT

Orcas near mics.

Good morning everyone! We've been hearing occasional calls on the rubbing beaches hydrophone for the past hour or so, i.e. since before it got light, but so far we can't see any orcas nearby.

Paul

19 Oct 2004 07:59:29 PDT

No orcas present.

It seems that the whales might have continued to the east. It has been "quiet" now for some time. We have noticed over the last few days that there might have been as many as 4 new babies in amongst the G groups who were present.

Helena

19 Oct 2004 13:18:50 PDT

No orcas present.

Still quiet and we are still waiting to see if the whales are going to come back from the east. There are lots of fish boats moving about in what looks like preparation for an opening. We did have a humpback again in Blackney earlier this evening.

Helena

19 Oct 2004 20:21:57 PDT

**Wednesday October 20, 2004****Superb sounds!!**

It sounds like all the "A" & "G" clan groups that headed east in Johnstone Strait early yesterday morning are on their way back to the west again. We're hearing them on the Critical Point hydrophone. There is no boat noise & we've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

20 Oct 2004 00:21:25 PDT

No orcas present.

Good morning everyone! We've heard no calls for several hours & are not sure what happened after boat noise took over the underwater soundscape of Johnstone Strait around 3:30am. It's just getting light on a calm ocean here & it is mostly quiet underwater. Altogether, it looks like we have a fine day ahead, & for the moment at least, we are waiting.

Paul

20 Oct 2004 07:23:48 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We just began to pick up faint A and G calls on Critical Point. It sounds like the groups are coming back to the west and will be passing Robson Bight.

Helena

20 Oct 2004 10:51:45 PDT

Orcas near mics.

Some of the orcas are in Robson Bight close to the Critical Point hydrophone - their calls are clear, despite the background boat noise, so we've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

20 Oct 2004 11:25:20 PDT

Superb sounds!!

After the A36s the A30s moved in closer to Critical. The Gs are still there, further offshore, with the A12s.

Helena

20 Oct 2004 12:33:16 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The various groups of A & G clan orcas are gradually making their way to the west in Johnstone Strait. Some of them are approaching CP & are visible on Channel A. We've sent an alert.

Paul

20 Oct 2004 12:51:01 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The A12s led the groups into and through Blackney Pass. We had a pretty good look at most of the groups and saw the I35s, G2s, G27s, G31s, G29s, A36s and finally the A30s. We think G46 (MB) of the G29s has a new baby. They were the last G group through (travelling with the A36s). G46 is 15 years old.

Helena

20 Oct 2004 14:58:36 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s have just travelled north through Blackney Pass - they have circumnavigated Hanson Island in about 3 hours. We heard a few calls from them while they were in Johnstone Strait, but they have been silent going Blackney... they are now entering Blackfish Sound, foraging as they go.

Paul

20 Oct 2004 18:52:05 PDT

Boat noise

Boat noise has taken over the underwater soundscape in Johnstone Strait and Blackfish Sound. We've heard no calls since the A30s were headed west in Blackfish Sound about 3 hours ago... once again, we are waiting.

Paul

20 Oct 2004 22:18:55 PDT

"MB" was named by Graeme and others who were there when Mike's ashes were cast out into the waters of Johnstone Strait, and just as they let his ashes go, the calf "MB" surfaced right there. Graeme told me that although he's not usually moved to emotion by the whales, he was very touched by this. An amazing event!

Dave@Hillsboro, Oregon

20 Oct 2004 22:11:47 PDT

**No orcas present.**

The boat noise has gone at last, & we're back to listening to a quiet ocean, though so far as we know, no orcas are nearby. We are waiting.

Paul

20 Oct 2004 23:19:20 PDT

Thursday October 21, 2004**Distant calls audible.**

Good morning everyone! We've been listening to distant "A" & "G" clan calls on the Flower Island hydrophone, so it seems possible that the crowd of orcas that has been together lately is still together & headed back into Johnstone Strait. If so, this could be another busy orca day! The new day is dawning here on a calm ocean & the sky is clear... looks like we have a lovely day ahead of us!

Paul

21 Oct 2004 07:43:31 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The A1s and the G clan groups have taken Weynton Passage into Johnstone Strait and are now eastbound from the western end of the Strait. It sounds, so far, like the same groups of the last few days.

Helena

21 Oct 2004 08:55:24 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The various groups of orcas (A & G clan) have been making their way to the east in Johnstone Strait for the past hour or so. They have mostly been on the Vancouver Island side, but a few minutes ago, one of the groups decided to head across the Strait towards CP. They are becoming visible on Channel A. We've sent an alert.

Pau

21 Oct 2004 10:04:01 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

While the A30s are foraging off the Blackney Pass "gap", the other groups of orcas are steadily making their way to the east. Some of them have reached the western boundary of the Ecological Reserve and will soon be in Robson Bight. The A36s are probably in front - we're listening to their calls on the Critical Point hydrophone. We're also occasionally hearing the A30s on the CP hydrophone.

Paul

21 Oct 2004 11:04:33 PDT

**Superb sounds!!**

The G clan calls we're hearing now are close to the Critical Point hydrophone. There is boat noise in the background, but the calls are clear just the same. If the orcas continue heading east, they may go into the rubbing beaches soon, though they tend not to do so as often at this time of year as they do during the summer. The A30s are meanwhile continuing to forage off CP (Channel A).

Paul

21 Oct 2004 11:55:20 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Some of the orcas have reached the Main rubbing beach - Channel A. The surface camera at CP is now on Channel B. We're sending another alert.

Paul

21 Oct 2004 12:30:09 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

Rubbing beach cameras now on Channel B, CP is on A.

Paul

21 Oct 2004 12:55:42 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

It looks like the rub is over... the orcas who were there seems to be heading back to the west again. Meanwhile, the A30s are still foraging off CP. Channel A.

Paul

21 Oct 2004 13:28:39 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The A30s are still being heard off the entrance to Blackney Pass but we can also hear the Gs and the other A1s coming back from the rub to the east.

Helena

21 Oct 2004 14:08:04 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The Gs, A12s, A36s have finally moved up closer to CP and the entrance to Blackney Pass.

Helena

21 Oct 2004 16:54:15 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The whales are really on the move now. They are opposite the entrance to Blackney, very vocal, lovely!

Helena

21 Oct 2004 17:04:33 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The whales finally, it seems, made up their minds to carry on to the west.

Helena

21 Oct 2004 18:24:08 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

It sounds like the orcas have turned around & are headed back to the east again. They have reached the Blackney Pass "gap". We're hearing numerous A & G clan calls on the CrPt, CP & PI hydrophones.

Paul

21 Oct 2004 19:55:13 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

We've heard no calls for some time & are not sure what happened to the orcas who were so vocal earlier this evening as it became dark. We think they are probably not far away, however... we are waiting.

Paul

21 Oct 2004 22:21:31 PDT

**Friday October 22, 2004****Multiple pod calls audible.**

We began hearing "A" & "G" clan calls, starting a little before 1am. The calls were initially on the CP then PI & most recently on the FI hydrophones... sounds like the orcas have travelled north through Blackney Pass & are now in Blackfish Sound. There is a strong SE wind blowing tonight.

Paul

22 Oct 2004 01:47:36 PDT

Distant calls audible.

Again we are hearing both A1 and G calls in Blackfish Sound. Perhaps the whales are making their way back into the area/

Helena

22 Oct 2004 06:49:11 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The whales have gone through Weynton Pass and into Johnstone Strait and are most likely heading east.

Helena

22 Oct 2004 08:35:00 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The orcas have reached the Blackney Pass "gap" in their movement to the east. Some of them have begun to forage and are visible from CP. Channel A. We've sent an alert.

Paul

22 Oct 2004 09:27:31 PDT

**Multiple pod calls audible.**

The various groups of A & G clan orcas have moved away from Blackney Pass & are

continuing to the east... we're listening to them on the Critical Point hydrophone.

Paul

22 Oct 2004 10:50:58 PDT

Orcas near mics.

We're hearing "A" & "G" clan calls close to the Critical Point hydrophone. There is boat noise present also, but the calls are loud & clear. It's possible the orcas will head to the east past CrPt soon, and may visit the rubbing beaches

Paul

22 Oct 2004 11:36:34 PDT

Orcas rubbing on the shore bottom.

The whales are rubbing. Channel A. We sent an ALERT.

Helena

22 Oct 2004 11:55:52 PDT

No orcas present.

It looks like the whales continued to the east for now.

Helena

22 Oct 2004 12:26:05 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls since the various groups of A & G clan orcas headed east past the rubbing beaches around noon today... we are waiting.

Paul

22 Oct 2004 20:00:55 PDT

Orcas near mics.

We're hearing A & G clan calls close to the Critical Point hydrophone, with heavy boat noise in the background... sounds like the orcas that went east earlier today are on their way back to the west & have reached Robson Bight.

Paul

22 Oct 2004 22:00:44 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The whales are moving west towards the Cracroft Point area.

Helena

22 Oct 2004 22:58:59 PDT

**Saturday October 23, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

It is possible the whales are moving further to the west. The tide is about to change to the ebb (it will move in a westerly direction) so they may go with it up to Weynton Passage.

Helena

23 Oct 2004 00:43:37 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s are off the entrance to Blackney Pass.

Helena

23 Oct 2004 09:33:29 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s are moving very slowly to the west. They have spread out and moved over closer to the Vancouver Island shore opposite Big Bay. We did not hear anymore calls from Flower island however two humpbacks did go north into Blackfish Sound from Blackney.

Helena

23 Oct 2004 14:08:22 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s silently entered Blackney Pass and travelled through to Blackfish Sound. They must have come back to the entrance along the Hanson Island side as they were favouring the Hanson side of Blackney as well. They were all together just gently moving steadily along.

Helena

23 Oct 2004 14:58:05 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s silently entered Blackney Pass and travelled through to Blackfish Sound. They must have come back to the entrance along the Hanson Island side as they were favouring the Hanson side of Blackney as well. They were all together just gently moving steadily along.

Helena

23 Oct 2004 15:05:15 PDT

Performing maintenance

OrcaLive will conduct server maintenance Sunday, 24 October 0:00 to 2:00 am (PDT) Please be aware that for about 30 minutes during this time comment updates, etc. will be out of service.

staff

23 Oct 2004 19:11:15 PDT

No orcas present.

Well it has been a few hours since the A30s went silently through Blackney and on to Blackfish Sound. The moon was a nice fill-in while we wait for the whales to return. There were two humpbacks in Blackney this afternoon.

Helena

23 Oct 2004 21:16:42 PDT

Ok, i'm just assuming you all mean the orca dads, so here they are:

Glenville (W2) is the father of Misty (A62)

Nigei (R3) is the father of Nahwitti (A56),

Foster (A26), and Fife (A60)

Strider (A6) is the father of Sutlej (A45)

Kitlope (R12) is the father of Surge (A61)

Caamano (R6-can't get the little accent over the n) is the father of Lama (C8)

I32 is the father of Hunter (C14)

Booker (C3) is the father of Goletas (I13)

Cracroft (A32) is, as i already said, the father of Skuna (I42)

Baronet (B2) is the father of Quatsino (I47) I also put it on WW

orcasforever@Toronto

23 Oct 2004 18:37:25 PDT

**Sunday October 24, 2004****Performing maintenance**

The live feed is not coming right now and we are investigating. Sorry for this inconvenience!

staff

24 Oct 2004 06:20:11

Performing maintenance

Good morning everyone! Our connection went down some time over the last few hours (we're not sure when) but it is up again now. Please excuse the inconvenience.

Paul

24 Oct 2004 08:49:05 PDT

Performing maintenance

There is a problem with date & time on comment postings that relates to the change of servers overnight. This problem will be corrected soon. Please excuse any inconvenience.

Paul

24 Oct 2004 09:35:51 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls since the A30s headed north in Blackney Pass yesterday afternoon. We are waiting.

Paul

24 Oct 2004 09:37:10 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls today. A southeast gale is blowing tonight. We are waiting.

Paul

24 Oct 2004 23:00:22 PDT

Monday October 25, 2004

Sorry, I was unable to post a message on the other side. The whales (the A1s) are near Robson Bight in Johnstone Strait.

Helena@orcalab

25 Oct 2004 04:33:07 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

Not sure which direction the whales are heading. They were last off Robson Bight.

Helena

25 Oct 2004 05:09:21 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

It sounds like the (A30s) are headed west toward the Cracroft Point area.

Helena

25 Oct 2004 05:24:19 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s have been in western Johnstone Strait & are now heading quickly eastwards towards the Blackney Pass "gap" & CP. They will soon be visible on Channel A. We're sending an alert.

Paul

25 Oct 2004 10:48:13 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The CP surface camera is on Channel B.

Sorry!

Paul

25 Oct 2004 11:00:54 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s are still foraging off the entrance to Blackney Pass, though some of them seem to be moving a bit to the west. They have been silent most of the time, though we can hear occasional "resting" calls. The CP surface camera is still on Channel B.

Paul

25 Oct 2004 13:40:40 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s headed north through Blackney Pass on the ebbing tide, silently. We've heard no calls from them since they arrived in Blackfish Sound.

Paul

25 Oct 2004 18:06:41 PDT

**No orcas present.**

We've heard no calls for several hours and think that the A30s probably continued to the north from Blackfish Sound & are now beyond the range of our hydrophones. However, we aren't sure. We are waiting.

Paul

25 Oct 2004 22:58:36 PDT

Tuesday October 26, 2004**No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! We heard no calls overnight, so once again we are waiting. Meanwhile, we're enjoying a calm, cool & cloudy morning with boat noise in the background.

Paul

26 Oct 2004 08:30:56 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s have just travelled south through Blackney Pass & are now coming in sight of CP. Channel A. They were silent most of the way through Blackney but became briefly vocal at the entrance to Johnstone Strait. We're sending an alert, hoping they will remain off CP for a while.

Paul

26 Oct 2004 09:51:44 PDT

Diane, depending on background acoustic conditions, we can hear orcas calling up to about 10km from our hydrophones. For sure, the orcas can hear one another at greater distances than that, but the exact range is not known.

Paul@OL

26 Oct 2004 10:01:39 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s are only vocal from time to time. Mostly doing N3 calls while they forage across the Strait from CP.

Helena

26 Oct 2004 13:00:36 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The very relaxed A30s have DRIFTED a bit further to the west, spread out between the entrance to Blackney and Big Bay.

Helena

26 Oct 2004 14:39:25 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The a30s travelled through Blackney Pass and into Blackfish Sound. They were vocal coming into the Pass and also made a few calls while there. But since they have gone into Blackfish Sound they have been quiet. There is also some pretty loud boat noise in Blackfish right now.

Helena

26 Oct 2004 16:17:18 PDT

**No calls but orcas nearby**

We went outside to enjoy the moon and heard blows. The whales are moving silently to the south. i trained the scope on the blows and could just make out the A30s mid channel opposite the Lab.

Helena

26 Oct 2004 20:51:33 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s made it to the Strait. They didn't call but their blows could be heard headed over to the Vancouver Island shore. We think that they probably went east.

Helena

26 Oct 2004 22:23:04 PDT

Wednesday October 27, 2004**Boat noise**

Good morning everyone! After a night without hearing orcas, we began hearing calls on the CrPt hydrophone a short while ago... sounds like the A30s are in Robson Bight. Boat noise intruded almost immediately, but is now receding & we're hearing echolocation as well as calls.

Paul

27 Oct 2004 09:12:18 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The echolocation is getting louder, so it's likely the A30s are fishing quite close to Critical Point.

Paul

27 Oct 2004 09:17:11 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The calls of the A30s are getting more distant on the Critical Point hydrophone. It's possible they have crossed to the Cracroft Island side of the Strait.

Paul

27 Oct 2004 09:52:28 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s are heading west from the Ecological Reserve.

Helena

27 Oct 2004 10:59:05 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s have crossed from the Vancouver Island shore and are headed to the Cracroft point area. Fiona is getting ready to film.

Helena

27 Oct 2004 11:19:50 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A30s are still close to CP & now in a close group. They have been mostly silent for quite a while. Meanwhile, another group of perhaps 20 or more orcas is heading east on the Vancouver Island side of Johnstone Strait. These orcas are now past Blinkhorn. They are also silent. & are likely to be a group that was sighted heading east past Alert Bay about 2 hours ago.

Paul

27 Oct 2004 13:55:16 PDT

**Distant calls audible.**

From their calls, it's now apparent that the newly arrived orcas are Offshores... we're listening to them on the CrPt hydrophone. They are already past Kaikash & are making their way quickly to the east, still on the Vancouver Island side of the Strait. Meanwhile, the A30s are also heading east - on the Cracroft Island side of the Strait, & slowly.

Paul

27 Oct 2004 14:34:11 PDT

Multiple pod calls audible.

The whales who came past Alert bay this morning and east in the Strait finally became vocal a short while ago. We believe that this is a group of Offshore whales. This year the offshores have visited the area quite a few times. The behaviour of the A30s is noteworthy.

Helena

27 Oct 2004 14:35:50 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The Offshores are mid strait at the east end of the Reserve area. Looks like they are determined to carry on to the east for now at least.

Helena

27 Oct 2004 15:55:37 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We began hearing distant "A" calls on the Critical Point hydrophone a short while ago & think the A30s are probably returning to the west after their trip to the east (at the same time as the Offshore orcas were going east) this afternoon.

Paul

27 Oct 2004 19:51:48 PDT

Superb sounds!!

The A30s are close to Cracroft Point. There is only a little boat noise in the background & their calls are clear, so we've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

27 Oct 2004 22:11:59 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A30s are travelling north through Blackney Pass. We're hearing occasional calls from them on the Local Left hydrophone. The ocean is still, the orcas' blows are clear, & we can almost see the moon behind clouds!

Paul

27 Oct 2004 22:48:12 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s have now entered Blackfish Sound. They are silent.

Paul27 Oct 2004 23:01:40 PDT

**Thursday October 28, 2004****No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! We've heard no orcas calling since around 11pm last night, when the A30s were heading into Blackfish Sound. They are probably somewhere to the north of us, though we're not sure. The Offshores are probably somewhere to the east of us, though we're not sure of that either. We are waiting.

Paul

28 Oct 2004 08:52:06 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s are back in the Strait. We are not yet sure where but they have called.

Helena

28 Oct 2004 10:25:06 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s are back in the Strait. We are not yet sure where but they have called.

Helena

28 Oct 2004 10:30:12 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s sound as if they are approaching the area off the entrance to Blackney Pass.

Helena

28 Oct 2004 11:12:55 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The a30s are still off of Cracroft point. They have been there since 11am!

Helena

28 Oct 2004 14:55:40 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The very silent A30s have travelled through Blackney Pass and into Blackfish Sound. They were spread out going through the Pass with A38 in the lead, the mums with their respective kids and A39 and A30 in the rear. They moved into the Pass just before the official slack tide. There was a little bit of foraging at the start and then they seemed to focus more on travelling on.

Helena

28 Oct 2004 16:59:35 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We can still hear the A30s in Blackfish Sound.

Helena

28 Oct 2004 19:04:22 PDT

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls for several hours & think the A30s probably continued to the north from Blackfish Sound.

Paul28 Oct 2004 23:39:47 PDT

**Friday October 29, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

The A1 calls (A30s) are coming from Blackfish Sound.

Paul

29 Oct 2004 10:54:07 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A30s are getting closer to the Flower Island hydrophone. There is a good chance they will be heading to Johnstone Strait via Blackney Pass soon. There is only a little boat noise & the calls are clear, so we've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

29 Oct 2004 11:13:28 PDT

Orcas near mics.

The A30s are getting closer to the Flower Island hydrophone. There is a good chance they will be heading to Johnstone Strait via Blackney Pass soon. There is only a little boat noise & the calls are clear, so we've sent a Messenger alert.

Paul

29 Oct 2004 12:06:12 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We can still hear the A30s in Blackfish Sound but their calls are super faint. We are wondering if they will take advantage of the flooding tide to use one of the passes to get into Johnstone Strait.

Helena

29 Oct 2004 12:49:30 PDT

Distant calls audible.

The A30s finally made it into the Strait via Weynton Passage on this blustery, rainy day.

Helena

29 Oct 2004 16:59:10 PDT

No orcas present.

Sorry to say but we have lost track of the A30s. Just before dark they were off Cracroft Point but by that time the tide was ebbing heavily and they may have gone out Blackney or carried on to the east. They went silent and the bad weather made visual tracking very difficult. It will be interesting to see where they turn up next!

Helena

29 Oct 2004 22:10:41 PDT

Thanks again, Allan, & thanks Jan, for your posting yesterday - I only noticed it a short while ago! Would it be possible to find out the details of the vote, i.e. how much it passed by? One story says "an overwhelming majority" approved the resolution, but I'd like to know the actual numbers, if possible.

Paul@OL

29 Oct 2004 13:44:33 PDT

<http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=39040>

Paul... "The European Parliament passed the moratorium resolution with 441 votes in favour, 15 against, and 14 abstentions."

<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2004/10/29/1099028210886.html?oneclick=true>

Allan@Carnoustie Scotland

29 Oct 2004 13:52:26 PDT

Thanks, Allan... that's amazing! And Hawke, Canada used to be a member of the IWC but left, probably to avoid the conflict between pro & anti whaling views in the government. If Canada were to join again, it would probably side with the whalers, i.e. joining wouldn't be in the best interests of whales.

Paul@OL

29 Oct 2004 14:10:04 PDT

**Saturday October 30, 2004****Orcas relaxing.**

We began hearing distant "resting" calls on the Critical Point hydrophone about half an hour ago.

Paul

30 Oct 2004 03:10:44 PDT

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

Good morning everyone! After a night of wind & rain during which we were aware that the A30s were in Johnstone Strait but didn't know where, they have suddenly appeared & are headed west from the Sophias towards CP. They should be within camera range soon & we'll send an alert. An added bonus this morning is that it is suddenly sunny!

Paul

30 Oct 2004 09:27:40 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s passed CP quickly and headed north through Blackney Pass... they are now in Blackfish Sound & are silent. Pointer was in front when they passed us, & Cedar was by herself with a group of Pacific whitesided dolphins, including a tiny new baby, around her.

Paul

30 Oct 2004 10:24:21 PDT

Distant calls audible.

We started to hear the A30s in Blackfish Sound again.

Helena

30 Oct 2004 13:06:22 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s are back in the Strait! It looks like they chose to go through Weynton Passage and east from there. They are now in the rip off the entrance to Blackney Pass and Cracroft Point.

Helena

30 Oct 2004 15:39:00 PDT

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

The A30s are leaving the Strait and heading into Blackney Pass. They have been so quiet!

Helena

30 Oct 2004 17:39:38 PDT

No calls but orcas nearby

The A30s are still in Blackney but are making their way to the north and Blackfish Sound bit by bit. They keep stopping for a bite to eat. They have yet to call.

Helena

30 Oct 2004 18:31:44 PDT

No orcas present.

We believe the A30s ended up in Blackfish Sound. They continued to be silent.

Helena

30 Oct 2004 20:17:26 PDT

**Sunday October 31, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

Good Morning. It sounds like the A30s are back in the Strait. Clocks went back, of course, so it is now just before %am PDT.

Helena

31 Oct 2004 04:54:44 PST

Distant calls audible.

Oops, I meant 5am! Still early.

Helena

31 Oct 2004 05:06:36 PST

Distant calls audible.

I'll start again! Good Morning. The A30s are back in the Strait. It is just after 5am (PST). Happy Halloween! I better put the coffee on.

Helena

31 Oct 2004 05:12:02 PST

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

The A30s may be coming into Blackney Pass.

Helena

31 Oct 2004 08:53:55 PST

Distant calls audible.

The A30s are moving into Blackfish Sound from Blackney Pass.

Helena

31 Oct 2004 09:18:43 PST

Distant calls audible.

We have been wondering for some time now whether or not the A30s have company. It sounds like, at least for now, the A36s are at the western end of Blackfish Sound.

Helena

31 Oct 2004 15:03:02 PST

No orcas present.

It is guess the pumpkin pod time. (Fiona gets the carving credit)

Jack O' L

31 Oct 2004 18:49:35 PST

Distant calls audible.

The A36s are in Johnstone Strait. Perhaps they came through Weynton Pass and are now headed to CP to find the A30s....

Helena

31 Oct 2004 19:19:21 PST

P pod - headed by P3 "Fiona"

OOooOOooOOooOO@OL

31 Oct 2004 20:35:57 PST

On all Hallo's eve when P pod is near, tis' the time that all candy fish have to fear. Their call sounds like a sizzle, even in osmia's mizzle. P's come only once, just this time of year, and you'll only see them if your RP is clear. They're elusive to all who don't love a whale, and only to OL do they come to regale. I hope a yahooer has captured this scene, and that everyone had a great Halloween!

OooOOooOooOoOo@OL

31 Oct 2004 21:15:15 PST

**No orcas present.**

They disappeared!

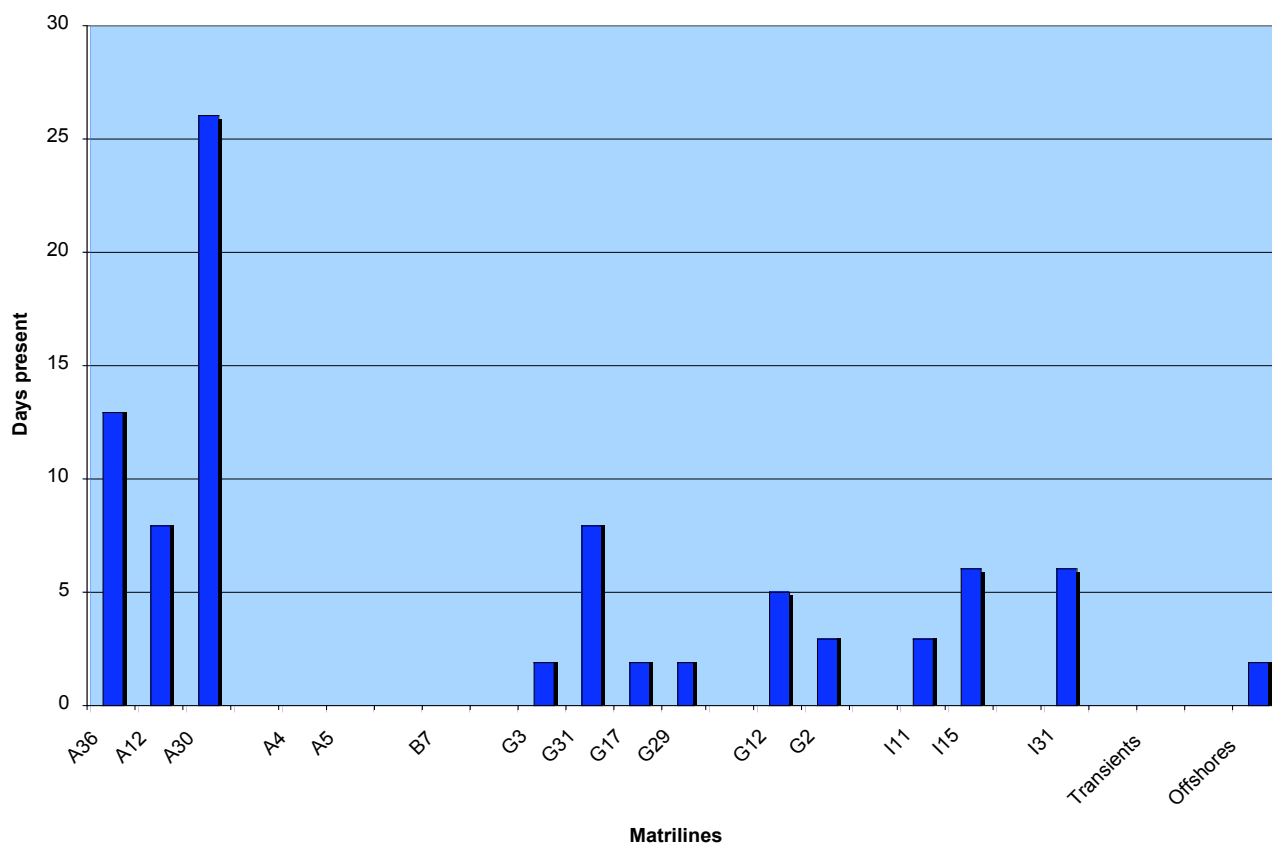
Helena

31 Oct 2004 22:52:51 PST





Present matriline in Oktober 2004



**Monday November 1, 2004****No orcas present.**

Good morning! I didn't post a comment this morning when we heard the A36s in Johnstone Strait. They were only briefly vocal and so we did not know where they ended up. No calls from the A30s since yesterday when they were in Blackfish Sound - although I did hear that they made a mysterious appearance at CP between 7 and 10pm. Just as I am writing this the A36s are vocal again. I'll go and find out where stand by!

Helena

01 Nov 2004 09:35:49 PST

Distant calls audible.

The whales are in Johnstone Strait.

Helena

01 Nov 2004 10:05:48 PST

Orcas near mics.

The A36s are approaching the entrance to Blackney Pass. Channel A. Sorry, We are unable to send alerts at this time.

Helena

01 Nov 2004 11:02:03 PST

No calls but orcas nearby

We think the A36s continued on to the west.

Helena

01 Nov 2004 12:38:19 PST

Distant calls audible.

The A36s are still quite vocal to the west of Cracroft Point. Meanwhile we are also able to make out very faint calls from another group, possibly the A30s returing, on Flower Island.

Helena

01 Nov 2004 14:58:52 PST

Distant calls audible.

The A36s are still quite vocal to the west of Cracroft Point. Meanwhile we are also able to make out very faint calls from another group, possibly the A30s returing, on Flower Island.

Helena

01 Nov 2004 18:06:03 PST

Orcas near mics.

The whales have moved closer to the entrance of Blackney Pass in Johnstone Strait. We suspect that the A36s have been joined by the A30s but it is still not perfectly clear so we are waiting until they become a bit more vocal. They must be slowly working their way east against the tide.

Helena

01 Nov 2004 19:02:45 PST

Distant calls audible.

The A36s may have passed CP now and continued east.

Helena01 Nov 2004 21:46:36 PST

**Tuesday November 2, 2004****Orcas near mics.**

Sorry we were unable to post comments earlier. The A30s joined the A36s in the Strait and they are still there together perhaps getting closer to Robson Bight.

Helena

02 Nov 2004 01:07:59 PST

Superb sounds!!

These are very unusual sounds. If it is an offshore group again they sound quite different.

Helena

02 Nov 2004 03:38:48 PST

Orcas near mics.

Good Morning! The A36s were briefly vocal but we are not sure where yet. We will have to wait and see - we did not feel the earthquakes here. Does anyone know what time they hit and how strong?

Helena

02 Nov 2004 07:16:46 PST

Distant calls audible.

There is a groups of whales heading west close to the Vancouver Island shore 1/2 way between the Reserve and Kaikash creek.

Helena

02 Nov 2004 08:53:22 PST

No calls but orcas nearby

We think this weatbound group is the offshore who came in early this morning. They are not very vocal and they are continuing to the west.

Helena

02 Nov 2004 09:10:16 PST

No orcas present.

The offshores continued west past Alert Bay & Port McNeill. It was estimated that there were 20-30 in the group, including a new baby!

Helena02 Nov 2004 13:23:53 PST

Good morning Helena. Thanks for the update. Kind of interesting to note that on Oct. 27 the offshores were seen in the strait and on the 28th. there was another series of quakes in the same area as todays. Wondering if they somehow sense these quakes comming on and move closer inland??

Brent@Coq. B.C.

02 Nov 2004 07:35:08 PST

02:02 PST magnitude 6.7

Helena, November 2 2:02 am PST: A series of earthquakes has occured west of Vancouver Island, B.C. The largest event at 02:02 PST (10:02 UTC) was a Mw=6.7 and was reported felt at Alert Bay, Port Alice and Bamfield, B.C.

jb@comox

02 Nov 2004 09:03:24 PST

**Wednesday November 3, 2004****No orcas present.**

Morning everyone. As far as we know there were no calls during the night. The offshores were last sighted just east of Pulteney Point yesterday afternoon and there were no sightings of the A1s. We will wait & see what the day turns up.

Helena

03 Nov 2004 09:15:05 PST]

Performing maintenance

We are experiencing power problems at CP which have caused our network to go down. Weather conditions may prevent us from fixing the problem for a day or two. We will be back up again as soon as possible. Meanwhile, please excuse the inconvenience.

Paul

03 Nov 2004 21:50:45 PST

Thursday November 4, 2004**No calls but orcas nearby**

We are up and running for the moment. We heard the A36s this morning around 8am very briefly. They were in the Bight and perhaps coming back to the west. Have a good day.

Helena

04 Nov 2004 09:48:03 PST

Performing maintenance

We went down again shortly after Helena posted her last comment. Hopefully, we will be up again by mid afternoon tomorrow. Thanks for your patience!

Paul

04 Nov 2004 22:51:48 PST

**Friday November 5, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

Well, despite the weather (not so sunny, not so calm) we are back up and running over here! This morning the A30s went north through Blackney Pass and into Blackfish Sound, and the A36s came up from the east around lunch time, and I believe we are listening to them calling on Crpt at this time.

Fiona

05 Nov 2004 15:12:29 PST

No orcas present.

The A36s, this afternoon came up to CP and continued west then they turned and went back to the entrance of Blackney and we lost track of them around 5:30pm.

Helena

05 Nov 2004 19:36:54 PST

No calls but orcas nearby

We began hearing calls from the A36s a short while ago, though they are silent at the moment & we're not sure where they are.

Paul

05 Nov 2004 23:32:55 PST

Orcas near mics.

We're hearing the A36s on the Parson Island & CP hydrophones - sounds like they are in the entrance to Blackney Pass.

Paul

05 Nov 2004 23:37:06 PST

Saturday November 6, 2004**Distant calls audible.**

Good morning everyone! We've been hearing distant calls on the Critical Point hydrophone since a little before 7am. There is heavy boat noise in Johnstone Strait as well, so the calls are difficult to hear. However, they are likely to be from the A36s, who have been calling off & on throughout the night. The wind has dropped & the ocean is much calmer this morning - it's just getting light here after a night of rain.

Paul

06 Nov 2004 07:20:33 PST

Orcas near mics.

The A36s are quite vocal at the moment, so we've sent a Messenger alert. We're listening to them on the Parson Island & CP hydrophones... sounds like they are in the entrance to Blackney Pass.

Paul

06 Nov 2004 08:57:39 PST

Distant calls audible.

The A36s have moved to the west and are opposite Big Bay foraging.

Helena

06 Nov 2004 12:05:10 PST

Boat noise

We began hearing distant "resting" calls, probably from the A36s, on the CrPt hydrophone a short while ago. Boat noise intruded almost immediately & now dominates the underwater soundscape in Johnstone Strait.

Paul

06 Nov 2004 18:33:28 PST

Distant calls audible.

Boat noise is still present but has lessened & the A36s have started calling again. We're listening to them on the CrPt hydrophone.

Paul

06 Nov 2004 19:55:35 PST

Distant calls audible.

The A30s have come back! We're listening to them on the CrPt hydrophone, as well as the A36s.

Paul

06 Nov 2004 20:15:05 PST

**Sunday November 7, 2004****No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! We heard no orcas calling overnight & think that the A30s & A36s probably headed east in Johnstone Strait together & have yet to return. However, we aren't sure. We are waiting, & meanwhile enjoying what looks like a pleasant change in the weather, with bits of blue peeking through grey skies & the strong winds diminishing.

Paul

07 Nov 2004 11:44:12 PST

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls today & think the A30s & A36s are probably somewhere to the east of us in Johnstone Strait. However, we still aren't sure. We are waiting.

Paul

07 Nov 2004 20:41:29 PST

**Monday November 8, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

We've heard a few "A" calls on the CrPT & CP hydrophones over the last hour or so... sounds like the A30s & possibly the A36s have returned!

Paul

08 Nov 2004 00:44:25 PST

Orcas near mics.

After several hours of silence, we're hearing the A36s again - they are probably in Robson Bight,

Paul

08 Nov 2004 04:20:07 PST

Orcas near mics.

Good morning everyone! It's a very wet morning here, the wind has dropped overnight, & the A36s are foraging in the Blackney Pass "gap". They are visible from CP, though not clearly because the visibility is poor. We're sending an alert even though the conditions aren't great.

Paul

08 Nov 2004 08:32:27 PST

Superb sounds!!

The A36s headed north through Blackney Pass at slack tide & are now in Blackfish Sound. Their calls sound excited, and we think they probably have Pacific whitesided dolphins or Dalls porpoises with them. We're sending an acoustic alert.

Paul

08 Nov 2004 15:19:22 PST

No orcas present.

We believe the A36s continued into Queen Charlotte Strait this evening.

Helena

08 Nov 2004 21:21:06 PST



**Tuesday November 9, 2004****Orcas near mics.**

The A36s are back in Johnstone Strait after spending much of yesterday afternoon in Blackfish Sound. I think they are coming up to the Blackney Pass gap.

Helena

09 Nov 2004 02:00:55 PST

Orcas near mics.

The A36s are past Cracroft Point (so is the boat unfortunately) and are headed toward the Ecological Reserve now. Earlier (just after 2am) we heard dolphins fairly close to the Bight as well.

Helena

09 Nov 2004 03:15:48 PST

Distant calls audible.

The calls of the A36s have been getting more distant recently - possibly, they are headed back to the west from Robson Bight. We're listening to them on the CrPt hydrophone.

Paul

09 Nov 2004 05:27:16 PST

Distant calls audible.

Good morning everyone! The A36s are still in the Strait & are calling every now & then. We're hearing them on the Critical Point hydrophone. It's a foggy but calm morning here & the rain is still falling a little.

Paul

09 Nov 2004 08:22:46 PST

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A36s have come up to the Cracroft Point/Blackney Pass area.

Helena

09 Nov 2004 11:27:48 PST

Distant calls audible.

The A36s are eastbound mid strait west of the Blackney Pass gap.

Helena

09 Nov 2004 15:02:41 PST

Orcas (may be) approaching cameras.

The A36s are back in the Blackney Pass gap, foraging... they are visible on Channel A.

Paul

09 Nov 2004 15:30:23 PST

Orcas near mics.

The A36s rushed through Blackney Pass and into Blackfish Sound, pausing only briefly before going out of sight.

Helena

09 Nov 2004 16:19:53 PST

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls for several hours & think the A36s may have continued to the north from Blackfish Sound. However, we're not sure. We are waiting.

Paul

09 Nov 2004 20:51:23 PST

**Wednesday November 10, 2004****Distant calls audible.**

Good morning! The A36s are in Blackfish Sound.

Helena

10 Nov 2004 07:48:17 PST

Distant calls audible.

The A36s are still in Blackfish Sound, where they have been for the past several hours. Judging from the echolocation we're hearing occasionally, they are probably foraging. It's possible they will head into Johnstone Strait on the flooding tide, which will commence soon.

Paul

10 Nov 2004 13:35:52 PST

No orcas present.

We're not sure what happened to the A36s after they were in Blackfish Sound this afternoon. They may have headed back to the north from Blackfish, though we're not sure. We are waiting.

Paul

10 Nov 2004 22:13:57 PST

Thursday November 11, 2004**Distant calls audible.**

Good morning everyone! After giving us the night off, the A36s are back in Blackfish Sound... we're listening to them on the Flower Island hydrophone. It's a lovely morning here with clear skies and just a hint of the fog that covered the ocean yesterday... looks like a lovely day ahead, with orcas!

Paul

11 Nov 2004 07:38:14 PST

Distant calls audible.

We're still hearing occasional calls from the A36s on the Flower Island hydrophone, though boat noise is dominating at the moment. It sounds like the A36s are content to stay in Blackfish Sound, though they could decide to take an easy ride into the Strait on the flooding tide, which is happening now.

Paul

11 Nov 2004 12:46:41 PST

Distant calls audible.

We're still hearing distant calls from the A36s on the Flower Island hydrophone... sounds like they're at the "top" of Blackfish Sound. They have missed the flooding tide, so it's not too likely they will head into Johnstone Strait before dark... however, they certainly could, if they decide to.

Paul

11 Nov 2004 16:04:00 PST

**Friday November 12, 2004****No orcas present.**

We've heard no calls for quite a few hours & think that the A36s have once again headed to the north after spending the day in Blackfish Sound. However, we aren't sure... we are waiting.

Paul

12 Nov 2004 00:10:28 PST

No calls but orcas nearby

Good morning everyone! We began hearing distant calls from the A36s on the Critical Point hydrophone about 7am, so after spending 2 days away, the 3 brothers are back in Johnstone Strait! It's a lovely morning here, with a spectacular sunrise. A strong southeast wind is blowing and we are expecting a very high tide early this afternoon... together, they are sure to add flavour to this already interesting day!

Paul

12 Nov 2004 07:51:39 PST

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

The A36s have decided to head north through Blackney Pass on the slack tide, which is happening now. They are passing OrcaLab at the moment & are silent... soon, they will be in Blackfish Sound again.

Paul

12 Nov 2004 09:34:29 PST

Orcas near mics.

We're now hearing occasional calls from the A36s in Blackfish Sound.

Paul

12 Nov 2004 10:45:26 PST

Distant calls audible.

We've just begun to hear calls from the A36s again. They are on the Critical Point hydrophone. It looks like the 3 brothers have come back into Johnstone Strait via Weynton Pass on the slack tide, which has been happening in the past little while.

Paul

12 Nov 2004 15:22:27 PST

Orcas approaching Orcalab.

The A36s are now headed north through Blackney Pass again, having made a quick trip around Hanson Island. They've picked up a group of Pacific whitesided dolphins, who are travelling with them. For the moment, the A36s are silent.

Paul

12 Nov 2004 15:32:23 PST

Orcas near mics.

The A36s are back in Blackfish Sound... we're listening to them on the Flower Island Hydrophone.

Paul

12 Nov 2004 16:12:32 PST

No orcas present.

We've lost track of the A36s again & are not sure what happened to them after they were in Blackfish Sound earlier this evening. We are waiting.

Paul12 Nov 2004 21:19:00 PST

**Saturday November 13, 2004****Superb sounds!!**

The A36s rushed through Blackney on their way to Johnstone Strait. It sounds like they are passing Cracroft Point at the moment and perhaps continuing east. Very lovely calls.

Helena

13 Nov 2004 01:39:43 PST

Orcas near mics.

We've been hearing occasional calls from the A36s on the CrPt hydrophone... it sounds like they are in or near Robson Bight. Boat noise is persistent, but the calls are sometimes clear.

Paul

13 Nov 2004 05:30:45 PST

No calls but orcas nearby

Good morning everyone! It's a cool morning here with a brisk breeze blowing at us from the southeast. The last stars of the night are still in the sky as this day begins. We've heard no calls from the A36s for more than an hour, but think they are not far away... possibly still near Robson Bight or possibly a little further to the east. Maybe they'll decide to go for an early morning rub, which would be a very nice treat for us as well as for them on this 2nd last morning of LIVE 2004!

Paul

13 Nov 2004 07:03:20 PST

Replay

We hope to begin replays of highlights from this season at 3pm PST today. The replay will be about an hour long. We will repeat it at 4 hour intervals, i.e. at 7pm & 11pm today, and at 3am, 7am and 11am tomorrow. If we are listening to live orcas (or viewing them) we will alter the replay schedule.

Paul

13 Nov 2004 08:03:44 PST

Boat noise

Before boat noise intruded again, we were hearing some lovely calls from the A36s on the Critical Point hydrophone. They are still in Robson Bight, & judging from the occasional echolocation we're hearing, having a bite to eat... sounds like breakfast time to me!

Paul

13 Nov 2004 09:20:01 PST

No calls but orcas nearby

We're not sure what has happened to the A36s. They may have gone to the east after being in Robson Bight, but we're not sure... it's unlikely they are far away. We are waiting.

Paul

13 Nov 2004 11:40:18 PST

No calls but orcas nearby

The A36s have left Robson Bight & are now headed west in Johnstone Strait, silently... they are approaching Kaikash, on the Vancouver Island side of the Strait. It's possible they may be visible on Channel A, but they're a long distance from CP.

Paul

13 Nov 2004 11:51:17 PST

No calls but orcas nearby

The A36s are probably in or near the entrance of Blackney Pass, but we can't see them from CP & they are making only occasional calls.

Paul

13 Nov 2004 14:32:54 PST

Replay

The first replay of this season's highlights will commence soon, at 3pm PST. The replay will run for just over an hour. We will repeat it at 4 hour intervals, the last replay being at 11am tomorrow. We may be experiencing streaming problems at the moment & suggest you select Channel B if you are accessing the 300K stream, and Channel A if you are accessing 56K. We hope you will enjoy recalling some of our favorite moments from this 5th season of LIVE!

Paul

13 Nov 2004 14:44:58 PST

No calls but orcas nearby

The A36s are silent for the moment, but they were calling occasionally throughout the replay. Their calls are on the Parson Island hydrophone... sounds like they are hanging out in the entrance to Blackney Pass, just out of sight of CP.

Paul

13 Nov 2004 16:09:53 PST



Orcas approaching Orcalab.

The A36s have decided to head north through Blackney Pass on the slack tide... they are silent at the moment but may start calling again when they get into Blackfish Sound.

Paul

13 Nov 2004 16:55:42 PST

No calls but orcas nearby

The A36s are moving through Blackney toward Blackfish Sound after spending the day in Johnstone Strait. They are silent at the moment. They were all travelling together mid channel.

Helena

13 Nov 2004 16:59:20 PST

Replay

Replay is just beginning. Both channels should be streaming normally now.

Paul

13 Nov 2004 19:00:14 PST

No calls but orcas nearby

We're not sure what happened to the A36s after they got to Blackfish Sound, but they are probably not far away... the tide is ebbing very quickly & they may have taken an easy ride with it to the north of Blackfish.

Paul

13 Nov 2004 20:09:15 PST

Replay

Please excuse any confusion about the replay schedule. Here are the remaining times: 11pm PST Nov. 13 (tonight); 3am PST Nov. 14; 7am PST, Nov. 14; 11am PST Nov. 14. This years live webcast will end at 3pm PST Nov. 14th.

Paul

13 Nov 2004 20:21:45 PST

Replay

Replay is just beginning.

Paul

13 Nov 2004 23:01:32 PST

Sunday November 14, 2004

Last day of the season

No orcas present.

We've heard no calls for quite a few hours and think the A36s probably continued to the north beyond Blackfish Sound earlier this evening. We are waiting. The next replay will commence at 3am PST.

Paul

14 Nov 2004 00:07:26 PST

You're very welcome, and goodnight everyone is this time zone... a violent storm is brewing here tonight, so it looks like we'll have an interesting last morning.

Paul@OL

14 Nov 2004 00:12:25 PST

A Thankyou to OL

All summer long I have sat and watched
Waiting to hear the now familiar calls
Or see those dorsal fins slicing through the
water
Every single minute of waiting has been a
minute well spent
The Orcas touch something deep within me
Their calls make me tingle inside like no other
sound
They make me feel whole
Peaceful and serene
At one with the important things in the world
They calm the storm inside of me
And smooth my ruffled feathers
When I feel scared of what is in front of me
I imagine Blackney and Pointer swimming at
my side
Guiding me through the rough weather
Staying with me until the waters calm
Like a drop of water hitting the surface of a
pool
The ripple spreading out
The peace engulfs me
And I feel calm and still
With Blackney and Pointer at my side in spirit
I can get through anything

jodie@england

14 Nov 2004 02:37:51 PST

Jodie, your poem is so beautiful... it touches my heart, as do you.

Paul@OL

14 Nov 2004 05:22:42 PST

**Replay**

We're very sorry, but we have been unable to begin the scheduled 3am replay on time. We will keep trying to solve the problem & will run the replay as soon as possible. Please excuse the inconvenience!

Paul

14 Nov 2004 04:00:42 PST

Replay

We will begin the next replay at 4:15am. Please excuse the delay

Paul

14 Nov 2004 04:09:01 PST

Replay

The next replay will commence at 7am PST.

Paul

14 Nov 2004 05:24:46 PST

Thank you OL for this peaceful place in such a nutty world. I will miss these wonderful creatures. The poems. The passion of those watching behind screens and I am so sad this wonderful place will be gone for awhile. When will this website reopen? Peace, harmony to all around the world. :(:(:(

Ayla@Iowa -- Really sad, today.

14 Nov 2004 07:12:21 PST

Are there any IDs on the underwater shots of the orca??

Allan@Carnoustie Scotland

14 Nov 2004 07:38:12 PST

Well it is time to say THANK YOU Paul, Helena, Anna, Fiona, Tomoko, Mary, Julie, Gigi, Robyn and Hide for all the wonderful moments of last season at OL and CP. The unexpected arrivals of the Offshores, the rear calls of Transients on the early morning of September 23 and almost all the NR family groups except the R clan. I wonder what happened to them this year... Also a big THANKS to NTT Data, TD Bank, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and all the other sponsors for their support. I am also very thankful that the OL comment board stays open for an occasional update of the movements of the whales and for sharing information. There is still so much to learn... Therefore I want to say thanks to Dave "eagle eye" Briggs, Ellen, Marcus, Brent, Cee, Allan and Osmia for sharing their knowledge and searching for interesting links.

Jan@Netherlands

14 Nov 2004 07:40:56 PST

Allan, the only orca that we can identify for sure underwater is Bend... he's the last one we see during the replay, and also the first orca we see at the rubbing beaches scene that follows.

Paul@OL

14 Nov 2004 07:56:39 PST

Jan, thanks for your "thanks" list! It's good to see you acknowledging so many of our dedicated assistants by name, and THANKS for putting NTT DATA at the top of your list of sponsors to thank... it's very true to say that without their generosity and faith in us, Orca-live would not exist! Thanks also for mentioning the TD Bank's Friends of the Environment Foundation... their support has enabled us to install the new camera at the rubbing beaches which resulted in the amazingly clear images we're now seeing! There are 3 other supporters we would like to mention by name because they are so important to us. The Born Free Foundation in the UK has for many years provided us with the core support we need to keep our "regular" project going; WDCS Germany, has provided key funding for our project in recent years; and OSS in Japan has for many years raised money and found the wonderful Japanese assistants who have become a mainstay of our operation. There are many others to thank of course, and we will provide a more complete list just before we end this webcast. Thanks again, Jan!

Paul@OL

14 Nov 2004 08:36:25 PST

Good morning OL and everyone online. This day came way too fast. Barbara@AR, email me sometimes. Either bayerle@hotmail.com or blowhole73@yahoo.com Witch, I second that. Please everyone at OL, let us get one more glimpse at you before you shut down. Well, I'm going to keep OL running quietly in the background today, and have my boxes of Kleenex ready. Can't wait for the cams to be back up in July. But hey, there is always the Turtle Cam!!!! Have a great day everyone! **Conny@home, rambling on with a heavy heart!!!**

14 Nov 2004 08:39:51 PST

Replay

The next replay will commence at 11am, PST.

Paul

14 Nov 2004 08:37:34 PST



Witch, the weather is far too bad for us to all get together for a final wave from CP this year... sorry about that!

Paul@OL

14 Nov 2004 08:44:28 PST

Good morning all. I am saddened that Paul, Helena and the rest of the OL staff will be unable to give us the goodbye wave this year. I guess our last view of Paul will be that underwater view in the highlights. I think we should all chip in and provide OL with an ocean liner that will allow them to move about in even the most inclement weather. Provided ofcourse, that there are no Orcas in the way and that the engines will be silent. All this by way of saying thanks to Paul, Helena, Anna, Fiona, Tomoko, NTT Data and all the other wupporters of OL Live. The internet would be a dreary place without this site. And thanks to all commenters and chatters. Your enthusiasm for this place is what makes it so special. I have mentioned a couple of times how global this place is. Just scroll down the comments and count the number of places represented. To the OL Staff, a safe and warm and prosperous new year and all best wishes for the holdiai season.

Jonish@Ocean Grove

14 Nov 2004 08:53:19 PST

Paul & Helena & Anna - thank you once again for your vision and dedication. You are living proof "...that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." (Margaret Mead) And your stamina amazes me. Also thanks to the volunteers and staff (to borrow Jan's list): Fiona, Tomoko, Mary, Julie, Gigi, Robyn and Hide... The sponsors deserve and will get a direct note from me in the coming weeks; this kind of "corporate" responsibility is refreshing and inspires hope. Lastly to all of the people out there on the comment board - it has been a joy coming to know your electronic persona and I have learned much from you. I look forward to keeping in touch on the WW yahoo site. Best of luck to all and an early season's greetings (I'm hoping that I find an OL DVD in my stocking this year!!!)

Tim@Colorado

14 Nov 2004 08:57:04 PST

Witch, it's true that we can't all be here for a final wave today, but I am trying to figure out something by way of a farewell for this season. Exactly what it will be I'm not quite sure yet... for the moment, it's a mystery.

Paul@OL

14 Nov 2004 09:15:05 PST

Good Morning all!! What a shame the weather won't cooperate Paul :(You'll just have to begin next season with a wave hello :) Lovely poem by Jodie... I wish the whales (and OL) could stay, if only just for you. Know that we're all thinking of you as you make your way to your recovery!! Positive and healing thoughts will come your way each and every day :)

LSBF@S!!

14 Nov 2004 09:29:06 PST

A few quick answers before I have to stop looking at your comments for a while... Buckeye, there's a very good chance that some (many) of the scenes shown in these highlights will make it into the 2004 DVD, but I don't know when it will be available.

Towhee, what you are suggesting may sound sensible but it's actually quite difficult - at some point we hope to produce a "commercial" run of the DVDs, at which time we will provide a more complete description of the content, but it's unlikely we will do it cut by cut. And Osmia, I know exactly where the bear scene is - it's on a tape right in front of me, I just forgot to include it, and you're right of course, it would have been nice to include I41 - I also know where he is (on tape) too. I realise that many of you have favourite scenes in your memory that we haven't shown in these highlights, and just hope they stay clearly in your minds, so you'll always have them!

Paul@OL

14 Nov 2004 09:46:23 PST



Hi Paul and all, one of the scenes I will remember during the coming season....the Christmas tree making its long, solitary and upright journey Happy Holidays , rest and warmth to all at OL (and online). Chat room becomes a way to form and cement friendships in the orca-less days ahead, and we need that contact, especially in the early stages of withdrawal! So one more once for the replay. Goodbye for now OL. Picture all waving madly at computers, applauding you all.

Inish@still searching for words in any language that convey all the gratitude I feel for every single soul involved in any way here at OL

14 Nov 2004 10:00:53 PST

Well that is a surprise closing :) I cannot thank Paul, Helena, Fiona, Tomoko, NTT, Jstream, all all that make orca live possible enough. You are a life saver and so much cheaper than therapy! Chat is open!

Pax@houston

14 Nov 2004 10:14:48 PST

Time to say Goodbye and Thank You Orca-Live. Dont know how to write all my feelings and thoughts in English, so just THANK YOU EVERYONE involved in OL-Live. Big Thanks to sponsors: NTT Data, TD Bank, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and all the other sponsors for their support. Also Thank You all Orca-holics writing to commentboard. Great learning and great laughs. I will miss it all untill opening time in 2005. Stay warm and safe this winther. EEEEEOOOOooooooo ; -D

Canda@DENMARK

14 Nov 2004 10:19:41 PST

Now, I am regretting this is the first and the last message as the audience. I couldn't enjoy the Orca-Live as the audience for this season. But, It was always my pride that I am one of Orca-Live staff. All my computer skill and struggle against the trouble were for it. If someone asked me "Do you work for IT?" I will answer "Never, except for the ORCA-LIVE". Or there cannot be The Internet without The Orca-Live. It is the great window to the Nature in the artificial network. It is so exciting and powerful more than the movie "Matrix". Everyone online, imagine there are many Nature windows in the Internet. We will be happy to know about real nature world, aren't we? In addition to this, I do not know the possibility of such great computer technology. Thanks for your great ideal, Dr. Spong, Helena and OrcaLab staff. We will spread this great Nature Network.

Seiji@Tokyo

14 Nov 2004 10:24:38 PST



Good Morning OL and Everyone! Well here it is the last morning. I am not the poetic one.... but what comes to mind is that OL's season coming to an end is like saying goodbye to old dear friends that go away for a few months, cause I certainly feel that way about you - Paul, Helena, Anna - David & Lisa (who we missed dearly this year!), Fiona, Gigi, Tomoko, Julie, Matt, Hide, Mary and all others - those of you who I have gotten to know personally and those who I just know online. This also goes for the many new and old online (and personal) friends I have made on this site, pls. don't hesitate to email me and stay in touch - you know who you are :) I appreciated all your kind words and support through this season, and I gladly gave mine :) This IS the greatest Internet community and I can't thank everyone involved enough to make it all happen. Orcalab's vision, and the many sponsors that saw it come to reality: NTT Data, NEUX, AXIS, JStream, OSS, Animal Welfare Inst., Born Free Foundation, Chroma Inc., Earth Is. Inst., Earthtrust, Endswell Foundation, Bluewater Adventures, IBM Canada, In Defence of Animals, Maple Tours, Namgis First Nation, Outpost Media, Stubbs Is. Charters, Seasmoke Charters & Se Orca Expeditions, Summerlee Foundation, Whale & Dolphin Conservation Soc., TD Bank's Friends of the Environment Foundation. The hard work of the team at Orcalab, listening to the whales at all waking hours, braving the weather and with all their hard work already, keeping us out here in the loop, that takes so much dedication - and you get my Award of Excellence and Appreciation. Thank You for being there. We love you all :)
Ellen@Richmond - Homepage:
<http://homepage.mac.com/wildorcaimages/PhotoAlbum6.html> and Email:
midsummer@telus.net OR
wildorcaimages@mac.com
 14 Nov 2004 10:35:49 PST

Performing maintenance

We are experiencing unexpected problems & are "down" for the moment. We will announce a new replay scedule as soon as we have restored live streaming. Please excuse the inconvenience.

Paul

14 Nov 2004 10:39:06 PST

Seiji, if you are still here, could you check to see why we have lost live streaming? I'm sending an email to JStream now. THANKS - it's great to "see" you here!

Paul@OL

14 Nov 2004 10:40:40 PST

No orcas present.

Good morning everyone! Sorry about the typos in my last comment - it was a shock to realise that we had just gone down! On the orca front, we heard no calls overnight & don't know what happened to the A36s after they were in Blackfish Sound in the early evening. We are waiting, & meanwhile somewhat anxiously awaiting a very high tide at 1:35pm PST that today's southeast storm will make even higher.

Paul

14 Nov 2004 10:50:45 PST

Paul, it sounds like you are worried about the tide. How high do you think it will be, and have you guys ever been 'flooded'? (My six year old was asking me wether I knew so I thought to ask you!) Please stay safe!!!

Conny@AR

14 Nov 2004 10:55:37 PST

Thanks for your concern, everyone, & please don't worry unduly. There's nothing happening here on the weather front that we haven't dealt with before... we just don't like to see our gardens washed away, and we dont like having me at CP & Helena at Hanson Island when conditions are like this. Fortunately, Fiona is at Hanson with Helena & they're working hard to try & secure our boats, bathtub, & everything else that is vulnerable as much as possible... then we just have to watch the ocean roll in!

Paul@OL

14 Nov 2004 11:02:24 PST

Take good care of each other, Paul, Helena, Fiona and Leo with all the inclement weather. Thank you for sharing the highlights they are fantastic! Well done everyone xxxxx

Jools@Bristol Uk

14 Nov 2004 11:06:51 PST

Oh I'm gonna miss ol! Thanks for everything, it was a great (my first) year!!! This is gonna be a very hard winter for me :P my first winter that I realise what I miss without Orca-live... Thank you so much! Luv ya xxx Heleen

Heleen@Holland

14 Nov 2004 11:11:40 PST



Paul, Helena, OL staff, NTT Data, sponsors, and community participants—after watching the highlights twice, I'm deeply moved and can't thank you enough. This marks the end of my 2nd year as a regular "lurker." I've now experienced the joy of finding an OL DVD in my mailbox and cried when the November shutdown email arrived. I'm impressed and fascinated by the profound impact a few committed individuals, employing the frontier of virtual communities, can have. There is hope for the world with people like each of you in it. Good-bye and stay safe everyone.

pj@poulsbo, wa

14 Nov 2004 11:17:32 PST

Hi Jools, & THANKS to you too... I'm sure you recall a bunch of the footage very well as your eye was behind the camera! I hope, by the way, that this isn't really the end of this season... I'm sure the streaming problem will be solved before long, & then we'll reschedule another replay, as well as THE end.

Paul@OL

14 Nov 2004 11:21:59 PST

This is the time where I say my goodbyes and look forward to seeing you all next year. Paul, Helena, Anna and all OL staff, This year's season was amazing! Thank you all sooo much! Also to all you orcalovers on the boards. It has been great reading your posts, looking forward to seeing you all for OL 2005, for my third season of watching :) Love ya all
Kate xox

Kate@Uk

14 Nov 2004 11:23:23 PST

have yet to see the highlights so I am with Paul - optimistic to the end - and sure there will be another highlight to watch. Thank you Paul for working so hard to see your dream come true; thank you to Helena and Anna who share your dream. And, thank you to all the volunteers at OL, all the sponsors and all the participants on this site. This year was the greatest yet! I look forward to 'meeting' you all again next July. I wish you all good health, much joy and happiness. TTFN

Anne@NV

14 Nov 2004 11:32:38 PST

Orcas near mics.

The A36s have come back into Johnstone Strait & are calling occasionally. We're listening to them on the CrPt hydrophone, so they must be getting close to Robson Bight. Unfortunately, we are still down, but we are trying to solve the problem & hope to be up again soon.

Paul

14 Nov 2004 12:07:12 PST

Performing maintenance

We're back, THANKS to JSTREAM & Atlux! We will let you know soon about the replay & ending schedule. Meanwhile, please enjoy some calls from the A36s, along with (sorry) persistent boat noise.

Paul

14 Nov 2004 12:23:09 PST

Replay

We will run one more replay of this season's highlights at 1pm PST. At 3pm PST we will close this season of LIVE, as previously scheduled.

Paul

14 Nov 2004 12:26:54 PST

Hello for the last time this season. I'm glad I'll be able to see a final replay. Albeit in 56k (need to call SBC). The friend I have in Fallujah I mention last week was killed last Tues. Just found out a little while ago. ~~/~ see you all next season =) =)

Steve@Katy, TX (still remembering those who have gone before and not returned)

14 Nov 2004 13:00:00 PST

It sure has been a great season. In the off season please feel free to stop by my Whale Watching forum and tell your own Whale Tales.

<http://forums.delphiforums.com/lovewhales/s>
tart That is the first place I post my Whale Watching stories and photos before they go to my pages and I always love to hear others experiences :-)

Kris@SoCal - photo pages

<http://ourworld.cs.com/beautifulwhales>

14 Nov 2004 13:16:03 PST



Streaming works fine here, Beeber - perhaps try restarting your computer. And Steve, thanks for sharing the terrible news about your friend with us. I'm sure we were all afraid for him when you told us he was in Fallujah, and now, the worst possible news. I just hope his family will be ok, and am sending my warmest thoughts to them and all the victims of this terrible conflict.

Paul@OL

14 Nov 2004 13:19:13 PST

Good morning OL - Paul, Helena, Anna, Fiona, & all the crew of OL, Orcateers & Orcadettes in Cyberland. Thank you Paul for making your Dream of OrcaLab a reality for us to share and learn. I'm one of the "originals" from the First season when you started, and it is still exciting to see our Orcas on screen or hear them. Saying Goodbye to all of you is difficult, as you have become such a great part of our day--our family--life! We have become a real Community here sharing much together (even advice to the love-lorn on Chat -lol) This has been an exceptionally wonderful year and thank you to NTT Data, NEUX, AXIS, JStream, OSS, Animal Welfare Inst., Whale & Dolphin Conservation Soc., TD Bank, and so many others involved in making this project an overwhelming international success. Thank you OL Team for dedication and hard work to bring this alive to us each season. You deserve the equivalent of the Orca Academy Award !! I will be sending in my Donation and orders for CD's. They are great gifts. Until we meet again, may everyone stay safe, happy, and well. Thank you for your wonderful "Dream Come True" Paul, Helena, & Team. We love you all and will miss you--and our beloved Orcas. xxxxxxxx
Terri OZ@Gold Coast, Qld., Australia
14 Nov 2004 13:23:12 PST

Whale that's it for me, have to go out now and will miss the official goodbye. So I'll say my thanks to all and wave now on my way out the door. THANKS....BYEEEEEE ouieeeee
grdnkat@nanaimo
14 Nov 2004 13:40:48 PST

As I sit here and watch these beautiful highlights, I have tears in my eyes knowing that tomorrow this site won't be here and I have nothing to look forward to. I want to thank everyone one @ OL and all the organizations that put so much hard work into this site to bring this into our lives. I will watch my DVD's to carry me through the winter and dream of the day next summer when you return. I have been here since season one and you just make it better every year. So thank you Paul, Helena, Anna and everyone else involved in this project, there are no words to thank you enough. I applaud you all. Have a safe, warm winter, rest and we'll talk to you next summer. I'll be waiting for the 2004 highlights DVD to come out. Take care.

beeb@san jose,ca

14 Nov 2004 13:51:53 PST

Replay

In deference to popular demand, we're going to replay the highlights one more time, beginning at 2:15pm. This will mean a delay in our closing until about 3:30pm. We hope that's ok with you all!

Paul

14 Nov 2004 14:12:01 PST

**No calls but orcas nearby**

Good bye everyone! Be safe and take care of each other. Thanks for all of your interest and support.

Helena & Fiona

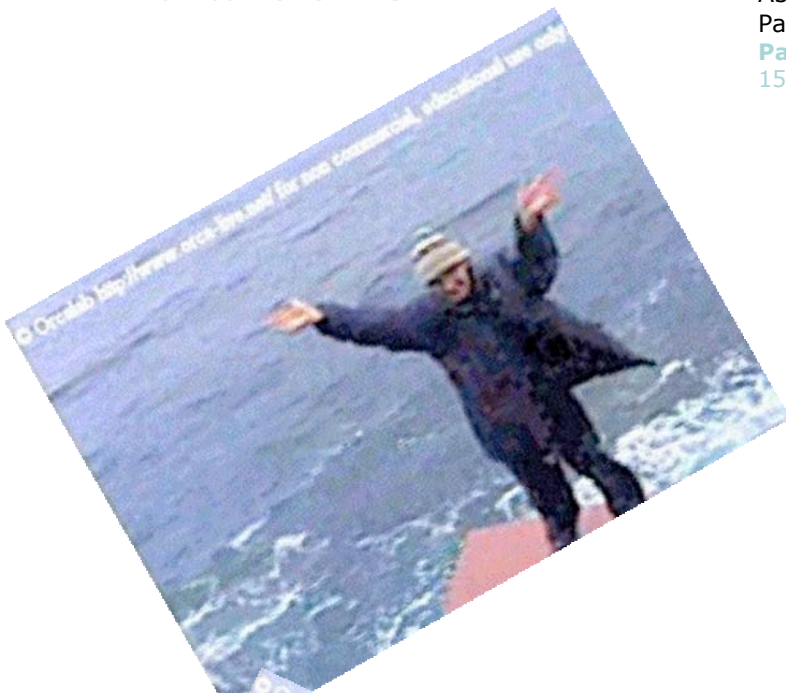
14 Nov 2004 15:45:22 PST

Monday November 15, 2004**No calls but orcas nearby**

Good morning everyone! The storm has passed and it's a lovely morning here. The A36 brothers are foraging in the Blackney Pass "gap".

Paul

15 Nov 2004 09:10:06 PST



**Wednesday November 17, 2004****No orcas present.**

Good morning everyone! Once again, we've heard no calls overnight. However, we did hear some "A1" calls in Blackfish Sound yesterday afternoon, making us think the A36s are probably not far away... it's also possible they've headed "out" at last. We are waiting, and meanwhile enjoying a pink & grey dawn, with a cool southeasterly breeze rippling the ocean.

Paul

17 Nov 2004 07:37:47 PST

Thursday November 18, 2004

Hello everyone! We thought to pop over to this side to say that it's great to see so many of you still here, still exchanging information, & just about as enthusiastic as ever! For our part, now that the "live" season is over, we're still listening & still expecting orca company to show up, though we've heard no calls for nearly 2 days. We had a heavy storm go through our area yesterday & last night, accompanied by more heavy rain. Things were much calmer this morning, & though a strong westerly wind is now blowing, all is well with us. We want to express our heartfelt appreciation to so many of you who sent us donations towards the end of the season... some of you are even sending us money regularly! In small or large amounts, it's all a huge help to us. THANK YOU, so much!! We hope all of you are enjoying this day (or night) wherever you are, & are sending our best wishes to you all... take care, please!

Paul & Helena@OL

18 Nov 2004 12:18:31 PST