

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Cetacean Research Program
Pacific Biological Station
3190 Hammond Bay road
Nanaimo BC
V9T 6N7

Bay Cetology
Box 554
Alert Bay BC
V0N 1A0

September 30, 2019

Summer 2019 Bigg's Killer Whale Population Update

The Bigg's killer whale population is listed as Threatened in Canada. Population censusing by photo-identification is a key research activity outlined in the action plan for Bigg's killer whales (Fisheries and Ocean Canada 2016) and has been conducted on the Bigg's population each year since 1974. Since then, the Bigg's killer whale population in Canada has undertaken significant growth due to immigration, low mortality, and high rates of reproduction that are presumably correlated with increased prey availability. At the end of 2018 the subset of the population most often found in coastal waters totaled 349 individuals and had grown at an average of 4.1% per year since 2012 (Towers et al. 2019). The following list provides names of individuals in this population that have been born since the last population update published in Spring 2019 (see Towers et al. 2019).

T060G
T037A5
T034A1
T146C1

References

Fisheries and Oceans Canada. 2016. Action Plan for the Transient (Bigg's) Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*) in Canada [Draft]. *Species at Risk Act* Action Plan Series. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ottawa. iv + 29 pp.

Towers, J.R., Sutton, G.J., Shaw, T.J.H., Malleon, M., Matkin, D., Gisborne, B., Forde, J., Ellifrit, D., Ellis, G.M., Ford, J.K.B. and Doniol-Valcroze, T. 2019. Photo-identification catalogue, population status, and distribution of Bigg's killer whales known from coastal waters of British Columbia, Canada. *Can. Tech. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* 3311: vi + 299 p.

The logo for the Government of Canada, featuring the word "Canada" in a serif font with a small Canadian flag icon above the letter "a".