

Fluke Identification



Researchers discovered that each humpback whale has distinctive markings on the underside of their tail or fluke that are unique. They will ask themselves fluke identification questions to identify each whale.

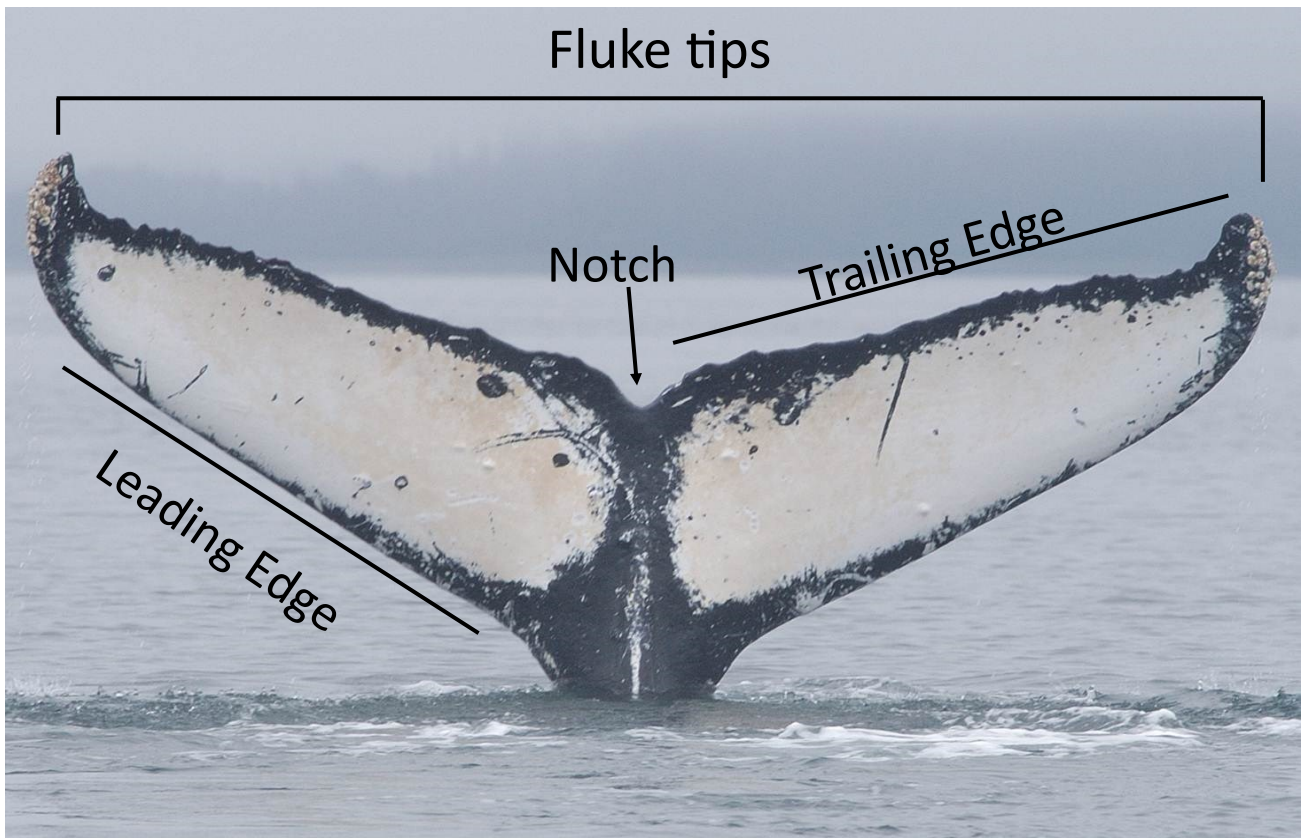
With digital cameras, researchers document humpback whales that visit park waters. When a female whale is sighted they also look to see, if they have a calf with them.

Fluke Identification Questions:

Fluke Shape: Are the flukes long and thin or stubby and thick?

Trailing Edge: Is the trailing edge jagged, saw-toothed, or smooth?

Color Pattern: What is the overall color of the fluke? Are there distinctive scars or splotches noticeable?





Whale #801: Female, First seen in 1985, mother of 8 calves, including Whale #1065



Whale #1065: Male, Born in 1992, calf of #801 documented singing in Glacier Bay in 2003 & 2007



Whale #516: Male, Born in 1974, oldest known humpback in SE Alaska. Nicknamed "Garfunkle"



Whale #581: Female, Mother of at least 13 calves . Gave birth 3 years in a row, twice in her lifetime.

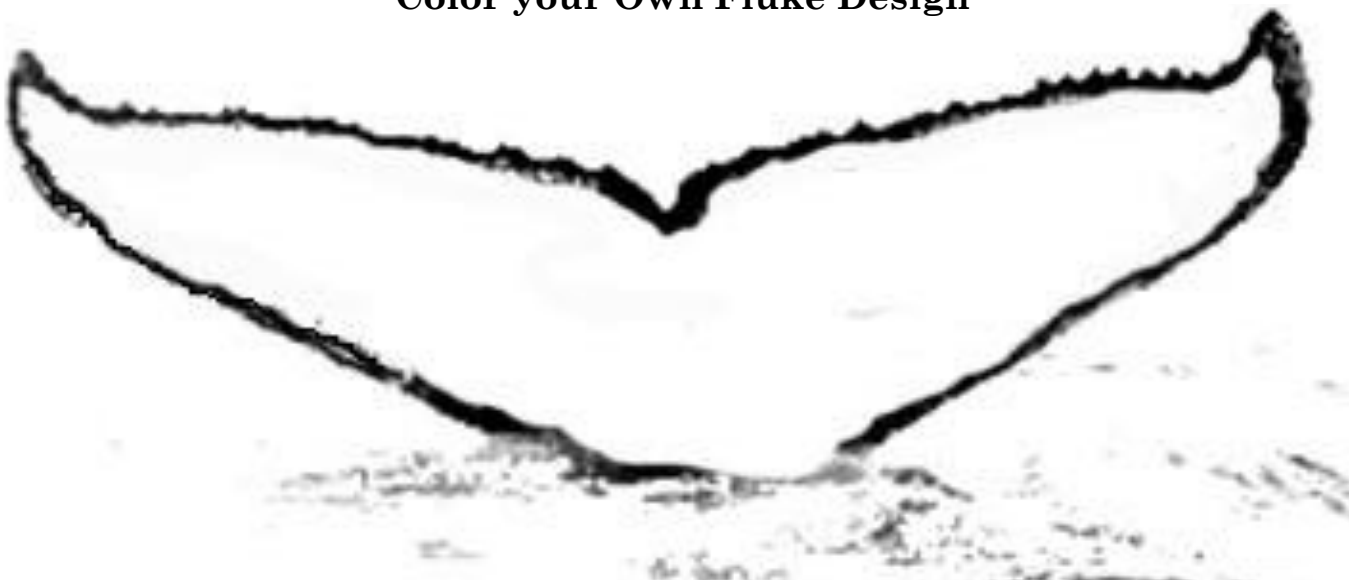


Whale #1014 : Female, born in 1989. Seen in Hawaii in 1991 & 2006



Whale #1299: Male, Born in 1997

Color your Own Fluke Design



Photos courtesy of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, taken under scientific research permits issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service