


BIGG'S KILLER WHALES

of Clayoquot Sound: a quick ID guide for mariners

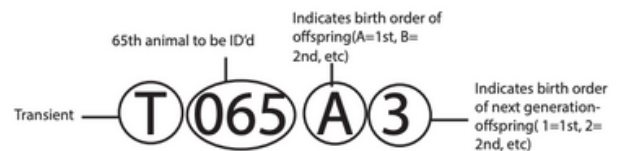


 Sydney Dixon

Who is included

This field guide includes the Bigg's Killer Whales that have been observed and identified **most frequently** in Clayoquot Sound **since 2018**.

Each gang page has a family tree* to visualize both known and possible relationships between killer whale individuals and indicate which whales travel together. We have chosen to **only include photographs of the matriarch and/or most recognizable members** from each gang. Gangs are listed within this guide **based on the number of individuals** found in each group from smallest to largest.



- T001 Deceased
- T001 Travels in gang
- T001 Travels in different gang
- Related and travel together
- Likely related and travel together
- Related but do not travel with this gang
- Likely related but do not travel with this gang

**Family trees are adapted from work done by DFO (Towers et al., 2019).*

T002B

(Is usually seen travelling with with the T060s)

T002B ♀



T002B
"Pedder"
Born: 1979
Sex: Female

Marcie Callewaert 2020



Marcie Callewaert 2020

T011A

(Seen travelling alone or with different gangs)

T011A ♂



T011A
"Rainny"
Born: ≤ 1978
Sex: Male

Eugene Stewart 2013



Greg Potter 2021

T077A

(Often travels with with T049C; "The Twins")

T077A ♂



T077A
"Saulitis"
Born: 1996
Sex: Male

Tim Tom 2014



Tofino Photography 2014

T049C

Often travels with T077A; "The Twins")

T049C ♂



T049C
"Nielson"
Born: 1998
Sex: Male

Brendon Bissonnette 2019

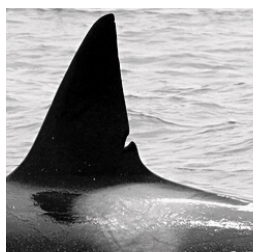


Brendon Bissonnette 2019

T010

(Travels with Son, T010C)

T010 ♀



T010
"Langara"
Born: ≤ 1964
Sex: Female

Wendy Szaniszló 2009



Brendon Bissonnette 2019

T010C

(Travels with mother, T010)

T010 ♀

T010C ♂



Brendon Bissonnette 2019



Brendon Bissonnette 2019

T068

(Initiated first observed case of infanticide in *O. orca*)

T068 ♀



T068
"Yakataga"
Born: ≤ 1970
Sex: Female

Howard Thom 2015



Peter Schulze 2015

T068A

(Initiated first observed case of infanticide in *O. orca*)

T068 ♀

T068A ♂



Tofino Photography 2014



Marcie Callewaert 2021

T109C

(Usually travels with her 2 offspring; looks very similar to T069)

T109C ♀

T109C1

T109C2



T109C
"Boca"
Born: 2002
Sex: Female

Brendon Bissonnette 2018



Sydney Dixon 2021

T028A

(Usually travels with her 2 offspring)

T028A ♀

T028A1

T028A2



T028A
"Slocum"
Born: 1994
Sex: Female

Peter Schulze 2013



Jason Fever 2013

T109 "The Big Mommas"

(Travels with her 3 offspring; known as "Big Momma's")

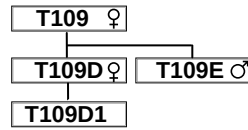


Peter Schulze 2012

T109
"Big Momma"
Born: ≤1977
Sex: Female



Brendon Bissonnette 2018



T109 and her daughter, T109A, have been documented in Clayoquot Sound since our research began in 1991. Until 1996, T109 and T109A had only visited Clayoquot Sound in the company of other gangs. In 1996 when T109B "Sem" was born, the family began visiting our waters on their own.

T109A2

(Travels with her 3 offspring)

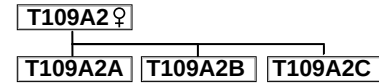


Brendon Bissonnette 2019

T109A2
"Fuser"
Born: 2005
Sex: Female



Brendon Bissonnette 2019



In 2016, T109 became a great-grandmother when her granddaughter T109A2 gave birth to her first calf, T109A2A. In 2019 T109A2A broke away from her mother's (T109A) gang to start her own. T109A2A is nicknamed "Seekah" for Seekah passage near Bamfield and T109A2B is nicknamed "Macoah" for Macoah passage in Ucluelet.

T109B

(Travels with her 3 offspring)

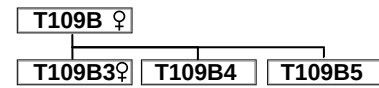


Marcie Callewaert 2021

T109B
"Sem"
Born: 1996
Sex: Female



Jason Feaver 2013



Born in 1996, T109AB is the second eldest daughter of T109. Prior to T109B's birth, the T109s were exclusively documented in Clayoquot Sound in the company of other gangs. Since then they have become some of the most iconic visitors of our waters.

T023C

(Travels with her 3 offspring)



Transient Killer Whale Project 2021

T023C
"Freshwater"
Born: 1990
Sex: Female



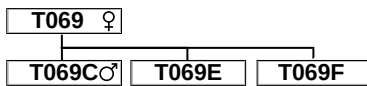
Transient Killer Whale Project 2018



T023C used to travel with her mother's gang, "The Motley Crew", a well known gang in Clayoquot Sound. Historically, the Motley Crew matriline rivalled the T109s (Big Momma's) in numbers. Unfortunately they suffered 6 losses in approximately 10 years. They now span 2 gangs totalling 9 members.

T069

(Looks very similar to T010)



Brendon Bissonnette 2021

T069
"Komox"
Born: ≤ 1974
Sex: Female



Sydney Dixon 2020

T069C

(Travels with mother (T069) & 2 siblings (T069E, T069F))



Brendon Bissonnette 2021

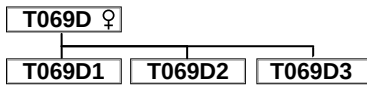
T069C
"Kye"
Born: 1995
Sex: Male



Sydney Dixon 2020

T069D

(Travels with her 3 offspring)



Eugene Stewart 2014

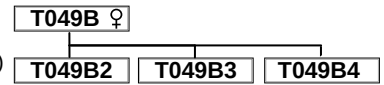
T069D
Born: 2001
Sex: Female



Howard Tom 2014

T049B

(Travels with her 3 offspring)



Brendon Bissonnette 2017

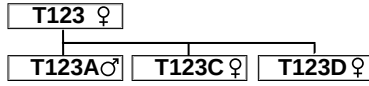
T049B
"Van"
Born: 1992
Sex: Female



Brendon Bissonnette 2017

T123

(Travels with her 3 offspring)



Brendon Bissonnette 2018

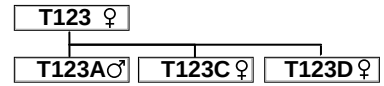
T123
"Sidney"
Born: ~1985
Sex: Female



Brendon Bissonnette 2018

T123A

(Looks very similar to T060C)



Brendon Bissonnette 2019

T123A
"Stanley"
Born: 2000
Sex: Male



Brendon Bissonnette 2021

T041A - "Ted's Gang"

(Travels with mother (T041) and 2 daughters - T041A2, T041A3)

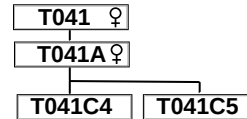


Brendon Bissonnette 2019

T041A
"Jemison"
Born: 1988
Sex: Female



Brendon Bissonnette 2019



Ted's Gang has been formally documented in Clayoquot Sound since 1991. T041 "Lawrie" has one surviving daughter (T041A) and two grandchildren T041A2 "Tree" and T041A3. T041A2 is named for Tree Island in Clayoquot Sound after being observed as a newborn in that area. T041A1 "Palm" (deceased) was named for SIMRS founder, Rod Palm.

T023 "The Motley Crew"

(Travels with her daughter and 3 grandchildren)

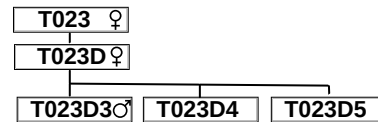


Transient Killer Whale Project 2018

T023
"Janice"
Born: ≤1964
Sex: Female



Transient Killer Whale Project 2018



Historically, the Motley Crew was one of Clayoquot Sound's strongest gangs. In the past, they visited our area more frequently than any other group. Today, they span 2 gangs and 9 members including T023 "Janice", T023D "Axel", T023D3 "Robin", T023D4 "Sixx" and T023D5.

T068C

(Travels with her 4 offspring)



Transient Killer Whale Project 2021

T068C
"Bazan"
Born: 1992
Sex: Female



Transient Killer Whale Project 2018



T068C "Bazan" is the youngest daughter of T068 "Yakataga". The T068 matriline consists of 13 members travelling in 3 gangs. T068C's offspring, T068C1 "Sila", T068C3 "Jacobsen", T068C4 and T068C5 travel together in a gang of 5. The T68 matriline is often spotted around South East Alaska and many of their nicknames are for Alaskan place names.

T069A

(Travels with her 4 offspring totalling 5 animals)

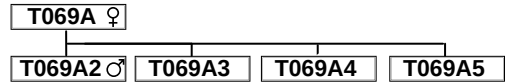


T069A
"Kitimat"
Born: 1989
Sex: Female

Peter Schulze 2013



Peter Schulze 2013



T069A "Kitimat" travels with her 4 offspring T069A2 "Hartley", T069A3 "K'wiisahii" (Quii-Sa-Hey), T069A4 "Našuk" (Na-Shook), T069A5 "Kismet". K'wiisahii and Našuk are named for the Nuu-Chah-Nulth phrase "he is a hunter" and the word for "strength". T069A2 "Hartley" is named to commemorate his rescue after stranding near Hartley Bay in 2015.

T060C

(Looks very similar to T123A. Travels with his mother, 3 siblings and T002B totalling 6 animals)

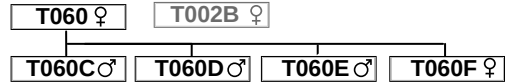


T060C
"Yelnats"
Born: 2001
Sex: Male

Brendon Bissonnette 2018



Brendon Bissonnette 2019



The T060 gang consists of 5 animals - T060 "Panthera", T060C "Yelnats", T060D "Onca", T060E "Lynx" and T060F "Tigris" - but often also travels with T002B "Pedder". It is unclear how T002B is related to this gang. T060C looks very similar to T123A "Stanley". "Yelnats" is "Stanley" spelled backwards to reflect on their similarities.

T109A "The Runaways"

(Travels with her 5 of her offspring)



T109A
"Runaway"
Born: 1990
Sex: Female

Brendon Bissonnette 2019



Sydney Dixon 2020

T109A4

(Travels with their mother and 4 siblings; "The Runaways")

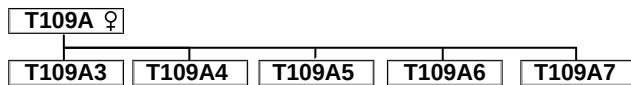


T109A4
"Garrett"
Born: 2009
Sex: Unknown

Brendon Bissonnette 2019



Sydney Dixon 2020



The T109As, "The Runaways", are Clayoquot Sound's largest and most frequently sighted gang in recent years. Since 2020, The Runaways have spent extended periods of time in Clayoquot Sound during the summer months, primarily in the inlets. During these extended stays, The Runaways were often in the company of other gangs from both within and outside of their matriline. The T109As split from the T109s in 2010. Runaway (T109A) has been observed in Clayoquot Sound every year from 1991-2022.

DIDN'T FIND THE WHALES YOU ENCOUNTERED?

Check the official 2019 DFO Bigg's Killer Whale Identification Catalogue or the 2016 SIMRS Bigg's Killer Whales of Clayoquot Sound Field Guide

Gangs and individuals also positively identified in Clayoquot Sound in recent years are the: T018/T019s, T028As, T037A1, T046Bs, T046Cs, T073B, T075Bs, T075Cs, T100s, T100Bs, T101s, T117/T120, T137s. T251

* Please note: Residents and Outer Coast Transients have been excluded from this guide