

# Killer Whales Ecotype D of Southern Chile

## A catalogue of Photo-Identified Individuals

Effort from Patagonian toothfish fishing vessels (AOBAC)



## About the Catalogue

Very little is known about the killer whales ecotype D that inhabits the southern waters of Chile in the eastern South Pacific Ocean. Due to their typically offshore nature and infrequent sightings, very little is known about their ecology, movements, population structure and more.

The Killer Whale Ecotype D catalogue and sightings repository in southern Chile are the result of an collaborative effort with Asociación Gremial de Operadores de Bacalao de Profundidad de Magallanes (AOBAC), Centro de Estudios del Cuaternario de Fuego-Patagonia y Antártica (Fundación CEQUA), Observers of Instituto de Fomento Pesquero (IFOP) and as part of the 2017-2018 COLTO study on whale depredation on offshore fishing areas.

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**Identification Methods:**

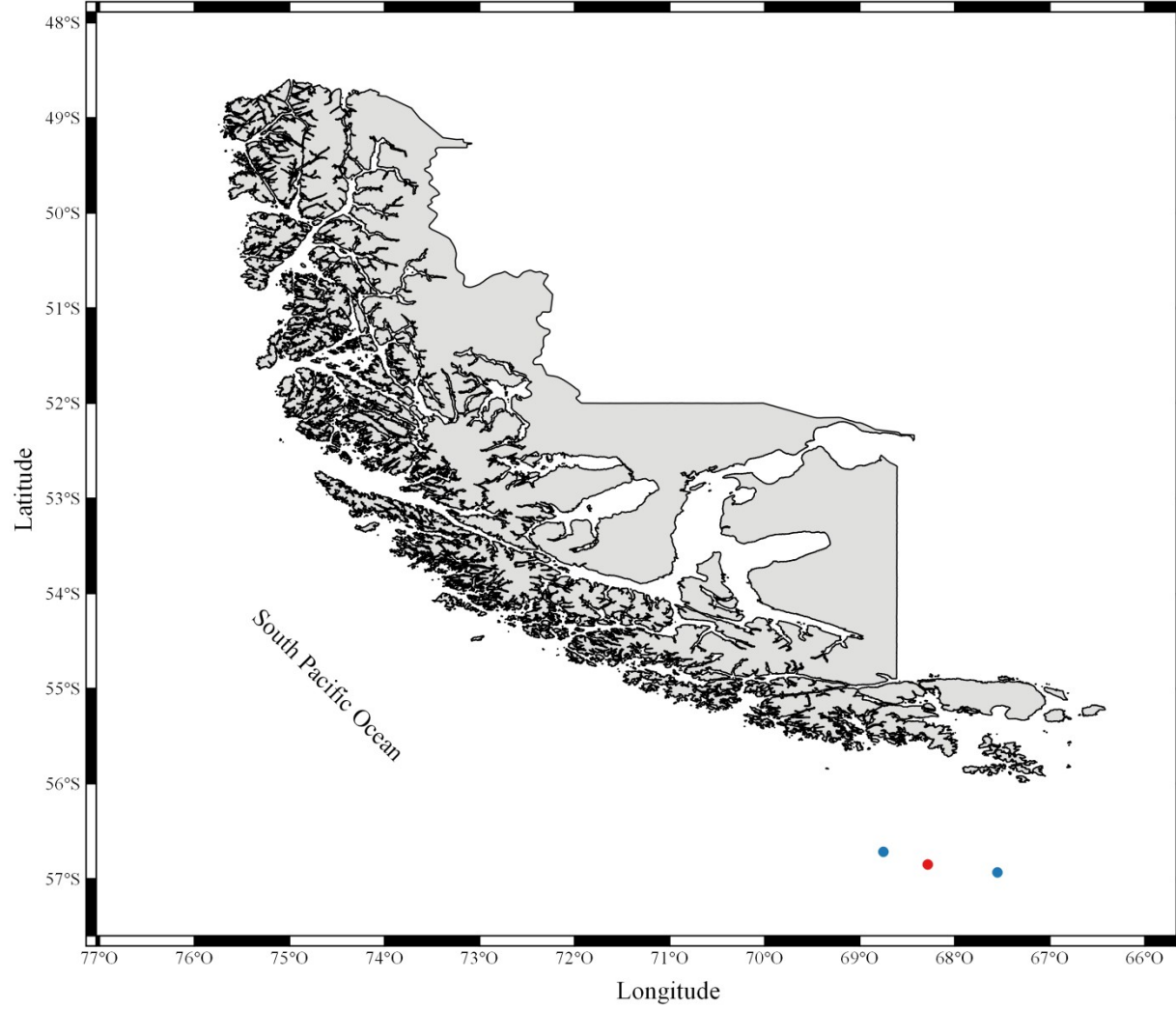
This catalogue uses the tears, nicks and scars found on the dorsal fin as the primary method to identify individuals.

**Saddle Patch Pigmentation:**

The saddle patch is the grey saddle-shaped area at the base of a killer whale's dorsal fin. It is typically used as a feature for identification in the study of other killer whales ecotypes. However, visibility and degree of shading in killer whales ecotype D does tend to vary from animal to animal and pod to pod have a saddle patch that is too faint to be a reliable feature for ID. In the cases where an individual's saddle patch is clear enough to be used in identification, the image has been cropped to include it.

**Limitations of opportunistic data:**

All encounters with these elusive, pelagic killer whales are opportunistic onboard of Patagonian toothfish fishing vessels. Please understand that image quality and availability varies. For this catalogue, we have used just one side of the dorsal fin that best shows the overall silhouette. Besides not all individuals of the pod was photographed, or photographed with a quality suitable for ID. At the top of each pod listing, an approximate number of animals sighted during that encounter has been given. This is based on the number of distinguishable individuals present in photographs.



Sightings of killer whales ecotype D in southern Chile.  
Sightings with ID individuals (blue) and without ID individuals (red).



**Sighting 1.** (approx. 5 individuals)



CH-D#001



CH-D#002

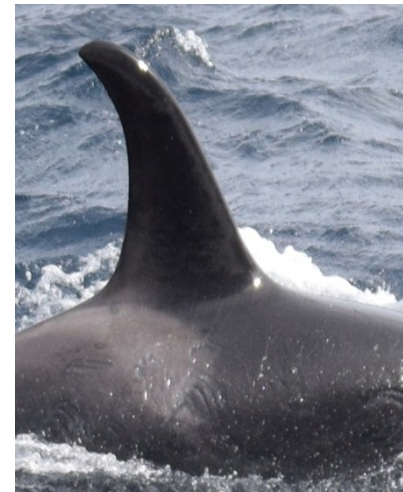


CH-D#003



CH-D#004

Vessel: Puerto Williams  
Sightings location: 56°56'S; 67°33'W  
Date: February 2017



CH-D#005

**Sighting 2.** (approx. 4 individuals)



CH-D#006



CH-D#007 (Mother)



Calf (more picture needed for ID)

Vessel: Puerto Williams

Sightings location: 56°43' S; 68°45' W

Date: February 2017