

## New Calf



Brand New

John Forde

John Forde (whale watch driver/guide for The Whale Centre) shot these two near Tree Island on August 3. Mom (T041A) was nudging the calf (T041A2) along and lifting him/her up indicating that the youngster had very recently been born. I'm thinking we may name it Tree if it survives the first critical year.

It's curious to me that Mom and infant were not with the Grandmother (T041). We know that oldest daughters will often leave home to start a new gang when they have their own offspring. This practice regulates optimum gang size but in this case there were only two surviving members as the big male (T044) had died in April 2011. If this new Mom does not hook back up with her Mother, she will likely join up with another gang in order to help provide for the youngster; ambushing sea mammals is not so easy when you're a single Mom. Note that this change will also leave the 40 year old Grandmother on her own.

These two are descended from Ted's gang (T041's).

"In June '91 Ted Goodspeed and I spent a day photographing T041's off Lennard Island. In June '92, the day of Ted's eulogy, I was again with them, this time off Long Beach. Their old letter designation was "T", so from then on we have referred to these guys as Ted's gang. Ted was a great lover of whales and all wild things. His film footage of Gray Whale bottom feeding was the best, to date, close up look at this behaviour in Canadian waters."

Later...Rod [info@strawberryisle.org](mailto:info@strawberryisle.org)