

Protrusion



Hey, check out my lump

Image Peter Schulze

On July 19, Peter (whale-watch driver/guide for Ocean Outfitters) shot Kawatsi (T020) rolling over and showing off his lump, pectoral flipper and white eye patch. Research folks have known about this deformity for some time but aren't sure what it is. Dr. Martin Haulena (Vancouver Aquarium Vet) suggests an abscess or seroma (ruptured small blood vessels). Dr. Stephen Raverty (Provincial Animal Health Center pathologist) agreed that it may be an abscess and added hernia or tumour to the list; I like the hernia idea as I sport one myself in about the same place. Nonetheless, he doesn't seem at all hindered by this oddity.

Kawatsi, aged about 50, and his younger lady friend Pandora (T021), aged about 45, have been regular visitors to Clayoquot Sound for at least the last 22 years. Pandora delivered two offspring over that time but neither has survived. Both Kawatsi and Pandora are getting a bit long in the tooth but we hope to see them for several years to come. Longevity is still a bit up in the air; the oldest living male we've known is Yankee One (T031) at about 59, and at about 50 years, Langara (T010) is the oldest living female.

Later...Rod info@strawberryisle.org