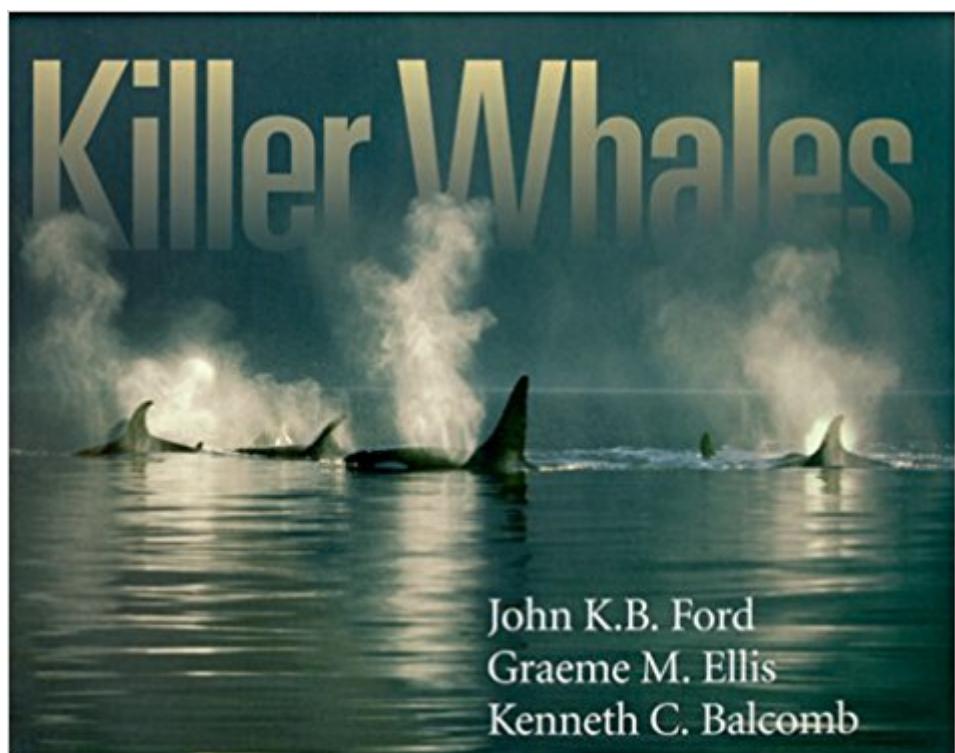


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# Killer Whales: The Natural History And Genealogy Of Orcinus Orca In British Columbia And Washington State



## **Synopsis**

Intended for both the biologist and the whale enthusiast, this book presents over 20 years of research findings on the killer whale populations of the northwest coast of North America, particularly Washington state and British Columbia. The registry contains a description of an entire population of wild killer whales. For each whale there is a photograph, a name code, pod membership, maternal lineage, and in many cases the age and sex. No similar catalogue exists for any other species of marine mammal. The narrative included with the registry provides highlights on the life history of killer whales, as well as information on where to find killer whales, how to recognize and photograph individuals, and how to behave around them.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Watching killer whales in the wild in British Columbia and Washington state is a popular recreational activity. Nothing quite matches the thrill of witnessing a pod of these immense creatures cutting through the waters of Johnstone Strait or listening to their strident underwater calls to each other in their own dialect. The second edition of this bestselling book presents updated results of over twenty-five years of killer whale research in British Columbia and Washington. Intended for both whale enthusiasts and researchers, it contains the latest information on what is known of killer whale natural history and presents a catalogue of close to 300 photographs of "resident" killer whales as well as a genealogical registry that enables readers to identify individual killer whales and their family groups. New in this edition is the latest information on the status and future prospects of west-coast killer whales - how they may be affected by declining salmon stocks, high levels of toxic

chemicals in their tissue, and increasing vessel traffic and underwater noise. Whale watchers will particularly appreciate revised suggestions and guidelines on how to view whales in the wild without disturbing them. The authors are active researchers who are widely regarded as the world's foremost authorities on killer whales. **FEATURES** - Lavishly illustrated with 300 identification photographs. - Indispensable guide for both whale watchers and researchers. - Written by the world's foremost authorities on killer whales. - Contains the latest research findings on killer whales.

This work is an astounding accomplishment and unique in the depth of knowledge for a wild vertebrate population. (Dean Fisher, Professor Emeritus, Department of Zoology, UBC)

If you have read any books previously on the lives of orcas, this book is an excellent source of furthering your knowledge. Learning about the individual pods and family members is great, but being able to look them up and study their genealogy makes the reading experience all the better. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone interested in orcas, or interested in nature in general.

I just returned from a kayaking trip in the Johnston Straight just East of North Vancouver Island known as the inside passage. We had first hand views of the Orcas. This book was used as a reference manual to identify some of the whales. It has wonderful reference pictures of the known pods (families) in the area. It goes into great detail on their eating habits, language, and family history. It also explains their social behavior, and the differences between the pods. It is a wonderful book full of pictures, and details.

I have a lot of books about killer whales, but this one is by far the best scientific book on orcas. It contains mass amounts of information on orcas, great pictures ,a really good ID catalogue (if not the best) and much more...A must have for everyone who's interested in Orcas

Love this book! Great info on NRKW and SRKW . Identification photos are fantastic! Lots of info on our resident pods!

Killer Whales (2000), written by killer whale experts John Ford, Graeme Ellis, and Ken Balcomb, provides an overview of the three "eco-types" of killer whales in the Pacific Northwest: the offshore,

transient (mammal-eating), and resident (fish-eating) populations, with a focus on the latter type - transients are covered in the companion book *Transients* (1999), by the first two authors of this book. The book is divided into five chapters which describe the various differences between the three populations (e.g. appearance, diet, social structure, dialects, and occurrence), detail the social structure of resident orcas (from matrilines to communities), tell you where you can see killer whales, presents a photographic catalogue of resident killer whales to allow you to individually identify them in the field, and finally covers conservation concerns (including the availability of food, pollutants, and vessel disturbance) and their future prospects. "Sidebars" or interludes cover such topics as telling apart the three eco-types, how to differentiate males from females, and genetics. The book includes a number of (mainly) black-and-white photographs, several maps, a glossary, and a bibliography. Along with *Transients* (1999), this work offers a great resource for those wishing to learn more about killer whales in the Pacific Northwest.

This book, the second edition for Ellis, Balcomb and Ford, is a beautiful book for anyone interested in whales, their habitat and their behaviour. Focusing on the Orcas of the Pacific Northwest, this book details their lives from what they eat, to their social habits. It includes a wonderful photo chart of all the Northwest Orcas still alive when this book was published. It is a bit heavy reading, with many complex scientific terms. I would not recommend for children, but if you know anyone with a fascination with whales, this book will it into an obsession.

May I first say I have never encountered a better identification book than *Killer Whales and Transients*. Both books are written by THE wild orca authority in the Pacific Northwest. Catalogued pictures and organized information of each individual in every pod along the coast from WA to northern BC along with accurate info on feeding, behavioral and other habits of the pods in Puget Sound and British Columbia. Truly a great book, and as I plan on researching these animals in my adulthood, it has been a great boost to my knowledge on them.

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