



J26 Mike, Inflatable Killer Whale!

Take Home Messages:

This is a rare opportunity to see them up close. View marine life from a distance; give them space, Be Whale Wise!

These animals are long lived, similar to humans. Granny, J2 is believed to be born in 1911!

These animals are family oriented, led by the eldest female.

Highly intelligent and communicate with sound.

Outdoor tips:

- Choose location that minimizes wind impacts
- Stake the whale using string and stakes in kit
- Put rubber bands around brochures so they don't blow away
- Use tape to prevent brochure stands from falling over
- Please DO NOT use outside if raining!

Target Audience: Outreach event, all ages

Purpose: Increase awareness of the endangered status of the Southern Resident killer whale population (J, K, and L pods) and highlight how scientists and NOAA managers use the annual census to monitor population trends, demography, and individual life histories. With technologies such as satellite tags, NOAA scientists hope to gain more understanding of where these animals go in the winter. Whereas D tags, we are hoping to track movement within the water column and record received levels of sound. This data will help recovery managers implement the recovery plan and work to protect the habitat of these animals. Ultimately sharing the threats that these animals face and inspiring our patrons to support recovery efforts is the goal. We hope that everyone who participates in this fin matching activity will realize that protecting these whales, really means protecting and restoring their habitat to ensure their survival.

Supplies Need:

- Inflatable whale box (with extension cord, lanyards, stakes, letters)
- Enough space for 25' long and a table
- Table cloth with NOAA logo runner
- Tri-fold display board in black bag, MMPA and Fin Matching hybrid
- Plastic stand (gender and ID tips & How long is this orca?)
- Measuring tape or Marine Mammal Markers
- Outreach brochures (Be Whale Wise, Whale Trail, Killer Whale Tales)
- Laminated ID guides, Marine Mammal guide, Two by Two video
- Stickers, coloring sheet, trading cards, Posters (Ecotype, Salish Sea)
- Outreach tub: Duct tape, blue painters tape, rubber bands, weights, string, business cards (stranding network), dry erase/vis-à-vis/regular

Highlight our partnerships and share ways to learn more:

- NWFSC- overview, tagging work and how that informs management
- SRKW Recovery Actions, how am I helping? Form online
- NOAA K-12 curricula (Killer whale recovery or Springer, A73)
- Be Whale Wise, brochures and website (<http://www.bewhalewise.org/>)
- Killer Whale Tales (presentations and school visits)
- Listen to Whales (<http://listen.orcasound.net/ListenLiveHere.aspx>)
- Promote Land based whale watching via The Whale Trail
- Orca listserv or West Coast Region website

Science, Service, Stewardship

Facts about Mike J26:

Mike is a 21 years old male.

Mike is life size, 21.2 ft. long (Avg. males ~21.3-23.6 ft. and about 22,000 lbs (11 tons); females 18-21 ft and 16,500 lbs.)

Mike's dorsal fin is currently 4.5' tall, they can reach 6'.



Facts about Mike's Family:

Mike swims with mom Slick J16, and two sisters Alki J36 and Echo J42.)

Mom was born in 1972, was 19 when she had Mike, was 24 when she had Keet; 27 when she had Alki, and 35 when she had Echo.

J26 was first seen on November 2nd, 1991 by the Center for Whale Research. Named after the "father of killer whale research," Dr. Michael A. Bigg, who passed away in 1991. His saddle patch reminds researchers at the Center for Whale Research of his probable uncle J3 (est.19953-1995). His probable grandmother was J7 (est. 1939-1983). On the same day J27 (Male • Blackberry • Born 1991) was discovered and neither new whale had been seen two weeks before when J-pod had been last encountered, thus making J26 and J27 close in age.

Activity Ideas:

1. This is your rare opportunity to see them up close and personal, great photo opportunity.
 - a. Show them their eyes, start a conversation about acoustics (clicks for navigation and foraging; whistles and calls for communication).
 - b. Talk about dorsal fin (males can get 6' tall, females are ~3' tall and sickle shaped) and coloration pattern on their bellies (use plastic display on Fin Matching Table).
 - c. Saddle patch, engage them in the Fin Matching Activity.
2. How long is this whale? In comparison to other whales around the world SRKW are quite small.
 - a. Have them walk the length and estimate? **He is ~ 21.2 feet long (~11 tons in weight)**
 - b. Do they think he is life size? **Yes, adult males range from 21.3-23.6', females 18-21'**
 - c. Use poster to compare to other species. **Transients are how much bigger? Why?**
3. Share with me three things you do at home to help protect killer whales?
 - a. Should we ever get this close to them? No, help us promote Be Whale Wise! We ask people to stay 200 yards away (two football fields). Promote land based whale watching, visit The Whale Trail.
 - b. Minimize pollution: Green Your Clean! Prevent toxic chemicals from entering our waterways.
 - c. Learn more about killer whales and the work NOAA is doing to protect them.
4. Thank them for stopping by and try to put something in their hands as they walk away, like a trading card, Be Whale Wise brochure or sticker sheet to help remind them who NOAA is & what we are doing to promote killer whale recovery, as well as Science, Service, & Stewardship.