

# August 12, 2002 at the Great South Channel

- [SIGHTING SUMMARY](#)

- [PHOTOS](#)

- [VIDEOS](#)

## Sighting summary

Cetaceans	Birds
<p><b>Humpback Whales: 150+</b>  <b>Fin whales: ~ 15</b>  <b>Minke whales: ~7</b>  <b>~100 Atlantic White sided dolphins</b>  <b>~100 Atlantic White beaked dolphins</b>  <b>~ 50 Common dolphins</b></p>	<p><b>Greater Shearwaters: ~3100</b>  <b>Sooty Shearwaters: ~220</b>  <b>Cory's Shearwaters: 7</b>  <b>Manx Shearwaters: 4</b>  <b>Wilson's Storm Petrels: ~ 860</b>  <b>Leach's Storm Petrels: 4</b>  <b>Common Terns: 38</b>  <b>Northern Gannet 1</b>  <b>Pomarine Jaeger 1</b></p>

## Photos



Wizard, 1990 calf of Petrel, female



Tornado, 1988 calf of Fringe, female



Parens, 1987 calf of Sod, male



Alphorn, 1983 calf of Molson, male



Rattan, first seen in 2000, sex unknown



Tornado, 1988 calf of Fringe, female



Canopy, 1998 calf of Valley, sex unknown



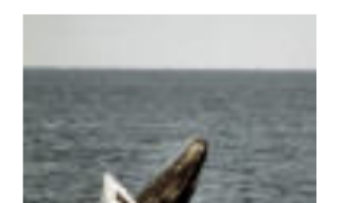
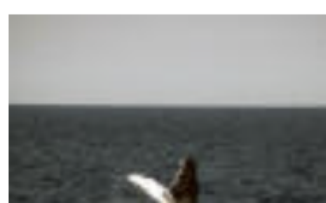
Fragment, 1995 calf of Compass, sex unknown



Reflection, first seen 1992, female



match still in progress



<b>TRIP TYPE</b>	<b>DATES and TIMES</b>
<p><b>MONTAUK TO THE GREAT SOUTH CHANNEL</b></p>	<p><b>JULY 20-22, 2003 - A rousing success!!</b></p> <p><b>70 humpbacks (28 known individuals; 11 new calves; 31 yet to be identified).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF INDIVIDUALS.</b></li> <li>• <b>CLICK HERE FOR PHOTOS</b></li> </ul> <p><b>2 fin whales; 2 minke whales; 1 sei whale; 10 Atlantic white sided dolphins</b></p> <p><b>Greater, Sooty, and Cory's Shearwaters; Wilson's and Leach's storm petrels; Northern Fulmars; Greater Black-back, Herring and Laughing Gulls; Common terns</b></p>
<p><b>MONTAUK TO VEATCH AND HYDROGRAPHER CANYONS</b></p>	<p><b>AUGUST 3-5, 2003 - Another success!!</b></p> <p><b>White faced storm petrel, Wilson's storm petrels, Leach's storm petrel; Greater, Cory's, Manx and Audubon's Shearwaters.</b></p> <p><b>1 humpback, 7 fin whales, 1 sperm whale, 1 Minke whale, 100+ bottlenose dolphins, 200+ common dolphins, 100+ Risso's dolphins.</b></p> <p><b>The trip was shortened due to rough seas and we returned in the early morning of 8/4.</b></p>
<p><b>MONTAUK TO THE GREAT SOUTH CHANNEL</b></p>	<p><b>AUGUST 17-19, 2003 - Again a success!!</b></p> <p><b>120 humpbacks (87 photographed; 16 ID's immediately; 7 calves); 5 fin whales; 10 minke whales; 50-70 Atlantic white sided dolphins.</b></p> <p><b>Greater Shearwaters, Sooty Shearwaters, Cory's Shearwaters, Manx Shearwater, Wilson's Storm Petrels, Leach's Storm Petrels, Pomarine Jaegers, Northern Gannets</b></p>

August 17-19, 2003 sighting summary (**PHOTOGRAPHS** below and videos will be added shortly):

The detailed list of humpback sightings was compiled by Cara Pekarck of **THE WHALE CENTER OF NEW ENGLAND** who joined us to help identify individuals.

## August 17-19, 2003 Sighting Summary

<b>Cetaceans</b>	<b>Birds</b>	<b>Others</b>
<b>Humpback Whales: 120</b> <a href="#">CLICK HERE FOR DETAILED LIST</a> <b>Fin whales: 5</b> <b>Minke whales: 10</b> <b>Atlantic White sided dolphins: 50-70</b>	<b>Greater Shearwaters</b> <b>Sooty Shearwaters</b> <b>Cory's Shearwaters</b> <b>Manx Shearwater</b> <b>Wilson's Storm Petrels</b> <b>Leach's Storm Petrels</b> <b>Pomarine Jaegers</b> <b>Northern Gannets</b>	<b>1 basking shark</b>

## List of sighted humpbacks:

<b>August 18, 2003</b>		<b>August 19, 2003</b>
Reflection	Glo	Meteor
Tunguska	Rattan	Reflection
Walrus	Compass and calf	Filament
Fulcrum	Circuit	Giraffe
Giraffe	Meteor	Compass and calf
Pepper and calf	Anchor	Stonehenge and calf
Wyoming	Tiara	
Meteor	57 unknowns	14 unknowns

<b>July 21, 2003</b>	<b>July 21, 2003 (east of Chatham)</b>	<b>July 22, 2003 (east of Chatham)</b>
Sabot	Duo	Compass and calf
Geometry	Tunguska	Salt and calf
Photon	Zipper and calf	Triad and calf
Chain and calf	Filament	Eruption
Cacophony	Zebra	Tiara
14 unknowns	Leukos and calf	Firefly
	Touché	2 unknowns
	Quote	
	Buckshot and calf	
	Glo	
	Firefly	
	Thalassa and calf	
	Compass and calf	
	Thread	
	Tear	
	Tiara	
	Fragment	
	Rocker	
	Walrus	
	15 unknowns	

## August 8-10, 2004 at the Great South Channel

- [SIGHTING SUMMARY](#)
- [DETAILED LIST](#)
- [Photos](#)
  - [click here for AUGUST 9](#)
  - [click here for AUGUST 10](#)

### Sighting Summaries

The detailed list of humpback sightings was compiled by Mason Weinrich of [THE WHALE CENTER OF NEW ENGLAND](#) who joined us to help identify individuals.

#### August 8-10, 2004 - Great South Channel

CETACEANS	BIRDS	OTHERS
<p><b>Humpback Whales: 25+</b>  <a href="#">CLICK HERE FOR DETAILED LIST</a>  <b>Fin whales: 5</b>  <b>Minke whales: 12</b>  <b>Sei Whale: 22</b>  <b>North Atlantic Right Whales: 8</b>  <b>Atlantic White sided dolphins: 75</b>  <b>Long-finned pilot whales: 20</b>  <b>Common dolphins: 70</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">click here for photos FROM AUGUST 9</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">click here for photos FROM AUGUST 10</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Greater Shearwaters</b>  <b>Cory's Shearwaters</b>  <b>Manx Shearwaters</b>  <b>Sooty Shearwaters</b>  <b>Wilson's Storm Petrels</b>  <b>Leach's Storm Petrels</b>  <b>Common Terns</b></p>	<p><b>1 harbor seal</b></p>

#### List of sighted humpbacks:

Certain ID's	Likely ID's	Unknowns
<b>Plateau</b>	<b>Vampire or Dracula</b>	<b>9-11 individuals</b>
<b>Falcon</b>	<b>Habenero</b>	
<b>Strike</b>	<b>Stylus</b>	
<b>Zeppelin</b>	<b>Tunguska</b>	
<b>Tear</b>		
<b>Draco</b>		
<b>Roswell</b>		
<b>Eruption</b>		
<b>Fracture</b>		
<b>Beacon</b>		
<b>Putter</b>		
<b>Fragment</b>		
<b>Mostaza</b>		

## August 14-16, 2005 at the Great South Channel

The early morning of our 5th trip to the Great South Channel in four years started in fog and remained foggy with limited visibility throughout much of the morning. This did not hamper our ability to find humpback whales. Based upon our sightings in previous years, we decided upon a search area and were with our first group of whales by 7:15 AM. Our day began with a trio, Echo and her 4th calf being escorted by Tectonic. Our whale sightings for the day ended hours later as a minke whale breached 27 times. Our second day was as rewarding as the first. Look below for the ID's and some images of the 30 humpbacks we encountered, including 6 cow/calf pairs.

- [SIGHTING SUMMARY](#)
- [DETAILED LIST](#)
- [PHOTOS](#)
- [VIDEOS](#)

### Sighting Summaries

The detailed list of humpback sightings was compiled by Cara Pekarcik of [THE WHALE CENTER OF NEW ENGLAND](#) who joined us to help identify individuals.

## Great South Channel August 14-16, 2005

### Cetaceans

**Humpback Whales: 30**  
[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILED LIST](#)  
**Minke whales: 5**  
**Atlantic White sided dolphins: 40**

### Birds

**Greater Shearwaters**  
**Cory's Shearwaters**  
**Manx Shearwaters**  
**Sooty Shearwaters**  
**Wilson's Storm Petrels**  
**Leach's Storm Petrels**  
**Common Terns**

### List of sighted humpbacks:

Identifications
<b>ECHO AND HER 4TH CALF (FEMALE)</b>
<b>FIREFLY AND HER 3RD CALF (MALE)</b>
<b>ZEPELIN AND HER 3RD CALF</b>
<b>Purity and her 9th calf</b>
<b>Binary and her 4th calf</b>
<b>Blackhole and her 2nd calf</b>
<b>CRYSTAL</b>
<b>DUCKPIN</b>
<b>Tunguska</b>
<b>LEONID</b>
<b>Springboard</b>
<b>Dracula</b>
<b>Tilt</b>
<b>TECTONIC</b>
<b>Spike</b>
<b>Polaris</b>
<b>Loon</b>
<b>Canopy</b>
<b>Infinity</b>
<b>Lariat</b>
<b>SALOON</b>
<b>Danforth</b>
<b>2 unidentified humpbacks</b>

# Great South Channel August 13-15, 2006

## Cetaceans

Humpback Whales: ~60  
[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILED LIST](#)  
 Fin whales: 20  
 Minke whales: 20  
 Common dolphins: 200  
 Pilot whales: 30

## Birds

(Counts courtesy of Angus Wilson)

Greater Shearwaters (2,940)  
 Cory's Shearwaters (1)  
 Sooty Shearwaters (1,281)  
 Manx Shearwater (1)  
 Wilson's Storm Petrels (630)  
 Leach's Storm Petrels (2)  
 Black Legged Kittiwake (1); (juv/1st-winter  
 Red-necked Phalaropes  
 South Polar Skua (8+)  
 Pomarine Jaeger (2 adults, 1 dark phase)  
 Comic Tern 1 (Common or Arctic)  
 Common Tern 50 (inshore waters)  
 Great Black-backed Gull 11 (offshore only count)  
 Herring Gull 16  
 Red-necked Phalarope 5  
 Laughing Gull 3 (inshore)

## Partial list of sighted humpbacks:

### Identifications as of 1/09/2007

BLACKHOLE

Candelabra

CANE & calf

Chasm

Chinook

Cluster

DUSKY

EASEL

Exclaim

Fairway

Filigree

GAMMA

Ghost

HUYANA

HWC #0756

Inchworm

JUMANJI

KITE

LEVEL

Loon

LYNX & CALF

Navajo

PARAS

PHANTOM & CALF

SAMOVAR

SLOPE

Snowplow

Stump

TOUCHÉ

ZODIAC

The early morning of our 7th trip to the Great South Channel (from Montauk) in six years started with clear calm conditions and unlimited visibility. We had heard reports of a many whales near the BB buoy and we headed there. Our first pair of humpbackwhales were sighted at 6:51 AM. Over the ensuing 12 hours, we were almost constantly with new whales as we traveled north. Our first day produced encounters with 6 cow/calf pairs (all identified) and 11 other individuals (all but 3 identified).

Perhaps the most interesting encounter was with a 9 year old female named **Ganesh**, who was known to have her first calf this year. We saw her, but with no calf. We found her in the middle of a prolonged breaching and chin slapping bout. While she was with us, she breached over 70 times during 40 minutes. Finally, her calf showed up, and she stopped breaching and the two of them left the area.

After 12 hours, we anchored for the night, exhausted, yet excited and ready for more the next day. Our birders were blown away by the numbers and diversity of the birds we encountered. For example, we saw over 4700 Greater Shearwaters alone, that first day. Another incredible fact was that one of the South Polar Skuas had an ID band on its leg. The bird was later identified as one ringed on 9.2.2005 by Markus Markus, Institute of Ecology at Friedrich Schiller University, he said "... it bred successfully in the last seasons. Our investigated populations are at King-George Island / Antarctica (62° 12' S, 58° 58' W)..." This sighting is one of the first banded South Polar Skuas from the coast of North America!!

On the following morning, we were essentially awakened at 6:10 by our first whale, a humpback named **Lava**. We also had our first fin and minke whale, a short while later. We had to leave the area by 9:00 AM, having sighted 5 additional humpbacks (2 cow/calf pairs and a singleton).

For Rob Jett's perspective on the trip, go to

[HTTP://CITYBIRDER.BLOGSPOT.COM/2007/08/WHALES-AND-SEABIRDS.HTML](http://CITYBIRDER.BLOGSPOT.COM/2007/08/WHALES-AND-SEABIRDS.HTML)

[HTTP://CITYBIRDER.BLOGSPOT.COM/2007/08/IN-MY-POSTING-ABOUT-CRESLI-WHALE.HTM](http://CITYBIRDER.BLOGSPOT.COM/2007/08/IN-MY-POSTING-ABOUT-CRESLI-WHALE.HTM)

## Summer 2007

<b>Great South Channel 8/14-16, 2007</b>	
<b>Cetaceans</b>	<b>Birds</b>
<b>Fin whale: 1</b> <b>Minke whale:1</b> <b>Humpback Whales: 30</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bungee's 2005 calf</li> <li>• Green bean</li> <li>• Howler</li> <li>• Jungle</li> <li>• unknown (type 4)</li> <li>• unknown (entanglement scar)</li> <li>• Cardhu's 2006 calf</li> <li>• Appaloosa <u>and</u> calf</li> <li>• Glo <u>and</u> calf</li> <li>• Pumpkinseed</li> <li>• unknown (type 3)</li> <li>• Thalassa</li> <li>• Plateau <u>and</u> calf</li> <li>• Ganesh <u>and</u> calf</li> <li>• Solas</li> <li>• Ursa <u>and</u> calf</li> <li>• Mars <u>and</u> calf</li> <li>• Lava</li> <li>• Citation <u>and</u> calf</li> <li>• Pogo <u>and</u> calf</li> <li>• <u>Lascaux</u></li> <li>• Dune</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common Loon - 30</li> <li>• Cory's Shearwater - 3</li> <li>• Great Shearwater - 5,816</li> <li>• Sooty Shearwater - 780</li> <li>• Manx Shearwater - 36</li> <li>• Manx/Audubon's Shearwater - 5</li> <li>• Wilson's Storm-Petrel - 630</li> <li>• SOUTH POLAR SKUA - 2 (incl. 1 banded)</li> <li>• Pomarine Jaeger - 6</li> <li>• Parasitic Jaeger - 2</li> <li>• LONG-TAILED JAEGER - 1</li> <li>• Black-legged Kittiwake - 4</li> <li>• Great Black-backed Gull - 282</li> <li>• Herring Gull - 400</li> <li>• LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - 1</li> <li>• Common Tern - 1050</li> <li>• BLACK TERN - 4</li> <li>• Atlantic Gannet - 19</li> <li>• shorebird sp. - 3</li> <li>• White-winged Scoter - 1</li> </ul>





watch us watching them.

After 12 hours, we anchored for the night, exhausted, yet excited and ready for more the next day, and we were still surrounded by whales all night long. The whale pictured on the left here kept swimming around us and spy hopping throughout the night and early morning until day break. I awoke at 4:00 and

brushing my teeth above and next to the whale along the aft railing. After 22 years of whale interactions and research, that was a new experience for me.

Our birders were once again blown away by the numbers and diversity of the birds we encountered,

In the following morning, we were essentially awakened at 6:10 by our



## Summer 2008

### Great South Channel 8/10-12, 2008

#### Cetaceans

##### DAY 1 (11 Aug 2008)

- #0802 WC
- unknown A
- unknown B
- unknown C
- Compass' 06 calf
- Thalassa's 05 calf
- unknown E
- unknown F
- unknown G
- unknown H
- Hancock's 07 calf
- Scrape and her calf
- Garden
- Polkadot
- Raccoon
- Howler
- #0803 WC
- Rotary and her calf
- unknown I
- unknown J
- unknown K
- Madari
- Klondike

##### DAY 2 (12 Aug 2008)

- unknown H
- Thalassa's 05 calf
- Trim and her calf
- unknown G
- Rattan
- Jenga
- Rotary and her calf

#### Birds

##### DAY 1 (11 Aug 2008)

- Cory's Shearwater - 35
- Great Shearwater - 5,119
- Sooty Shearwater - 65
- Manx Shearwater - 5
- Wilson Storm-Petrel - 1,240
- LEACH'S STORM-PETREL - 6
- Northern Gannet - 6
- Semipalmated Sandpiper - 3
- Red-necked Phalarope - 1
- large shorebird sp. - 10+
- Herring Gull - 5
- Great Black-backed Gull - 45
- Black-legged Kittiwake - 1
- Common Tern - 1,450
- SOUTH POLAR SKUA - 1
- Pomarine Jaeger - 12 (incl 3 ads)
- Parasitic Jaeger - 2
- Northern Waterthrush - 1
- Prairie Warbler - 1 )

##### DAY 2 (12 Aug 2008)

- Common Loon - 9 (Nantucket Sound)
- Cory's Shearwater - 39
- Great Shearwater - 2,159
- Sooty Shearwater - 19
- Manx Shearwater - 1
- Wilson Storm-Petrel - 357
- LEACH'S STORM-PETREL - 9
- Northern Gannet - 5
- Herring Gull - 18
- Great Black-backed Gull - 67
- Laughing Gull - 30
- Black-legged Kittiwake - 1 (harassed by Parasitic Jaeger)
- Common Tern - 980
- Black Tern - 1
- Pomarine Jaeger - 3 (including 1 adult with large tail spoons)
- Parasitic Jaeger - 4
- Northern Waterthrush - 1 (from previous day)

[CLICK HERE FOR PHOTOS](#)



A. H. Kopelman for CRESLI and Viking Fleet

[CLICK HERE TO SEE OTHER BREACHING HUMPBCKS](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR A GALLERY OF ALL PHOTOS FROM THE 2009 TRIP](#)

[CLICK HERE TO SEE A LIST OF ALL HUMPBCKS FROM CRESLI TRIPS SINCE 2002](#)

## Summer 2009

### Great South Channel 8/16-18 /2009

#### CETACEANS

#### Birds

Minke whales (8)

Finback whales (2)

Atlantic white-sided dolphins  
(600)

Humpback whales (63): 14  
UNKNOWN and 49 KNOWN

- Algebrao
- Altair
- Bramble
- Calderas and calf
- Cat Eyes
- Cava
- Draco
- Duo and calf
- Ember
- Exclaim
- Firefly
- Flyingfish
- Fragment
- Freefall
- Galactic
- Habanero
- Hangman
- Hatpin
- Hornet
- Inchworm
- Infinity
- Jet
- Leonid
- Level
- Loon
- Mostaza
- Parens
- Phosphorescence
- Pisces and calf
- Quercus and calf
- Rattan and calf
- Ravine Ravine's 2008 calf
- Samovar
- Sirius
- Strike and calf
- Stump
- Thalassa and calf
- Treasure
- Ventisca
- Wave

- Cory's Shearwater
- Great Shearwater
- Sooty Shearwater
- Manx Shearwater
- Audubon's Shearwater
- Wilson Storm-Petrel
- Leach's Storm Petrel
- Parasitic Jaeger
- Red-necked Phalaropes
- Red Phalarope
- Least Sandpipers
- Herring Gulls
- Great Black-backed Gulls
- Common Terns
- Arctic Terns



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Humpback whales (63): 14  
UNKNOWN and 49 KNOWN

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- Flyingfish
- Fragment
- Freefall
- Galactic
- Habanero
- Hangman
- Hatpin
- Hornet
- Inchworm
- Infinity
- Jet
- Leonid
- Level
- Loon
- Mostaza
- Parens
- Phosphorescence
- Pisces and calf
- Quercus and calf
- Rattan and calf
- Ravine Ravine's 2008 calf
- Samovar
- Sirius
- Strike and calf
- Stump
- Thalassa and calf
- Treasure
- Ventisca
- Wave

- Cory's Shearwater
- Great Shearwater
- Sooty Shearwater
- Manx Shearwater
- Audubon's Shearwater
- Wilson Storm-Petrel
- Leach's Storm Petrel
- Parasitic Jaeger
- Red-necked Phalaropes
- Red Phalarope
- Least Sandpipers
- Herring Gulls
- Great Black-backed Gulls
- Common Terns
- Arctic Terns

## August 14- 16, 2011 Stellwagen Bank trip

### Humpbacks everywhere!!!

#### 8/15/11 WAS THE DAY OF BREACHING

#### 8/16/11 WAS THE DAY OF COOPERATIVE BUBBLE FEEDING

73 individual whales were sighted; 6 are unknown and 67 HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED including 40 new ones for our trips.



8/15/11 ONE DAY OF BREACHING

FLUKE AND ID PHOTOS FROM 8/15/11

### AUGUST 15, 2011: BREACHING AND BREACHING!!

The passengers and crew of the Viking Starship were treated to an amazing two days of non-stop humpback activity on our offshore whale watch trip. This year we headed to Stellwagen Bank and found our first humpbacks at daybreak on Monday. The day was intermittently stormy and the humpbacks were breaching repeatedly through our 10 hours of observations. We were able to get close to and photograph 44 humpbacks on Monday 8/15.

#### CRESLI/Viking Fleet 2011 Offshore trip: Day 1



### AUGUST 16, 2011: COOPERATIVE BUBBLE FEEDING!

We didn't think that anything could top our first day – but we were wrong. At daybreak on day two (8/16) we encountered our first of 36 humpbacks that were bubble feeding in large groups all around us and as far as one could see. Massive open-mouth surface feeding displays were seen throughout our time with the whales on Tuesday, and they were joined by thousands of pelagic birds and hundreds of Atlantic white-side dolphins. UTTERLY AMAZING!



**Below is an alphabetized list of the whale seen.**

**ABRASION**

**AEROSPACE**

**ALGEBRA**

**ALPHORN**

**AMPERSAND**

**APHID**

**ARTILLERY**

**ASWAN**

**BACKGAMMON**

**BANYAN**

**BARB**

**BELLY**

**BOLIDE**

**BOLIDE'S 2011 CALF**

**BOUNCE**

**BOWLINE**

**BRISTLE**

**BUZZARD**

**CAJUN**

**CANOPY**

**CANOPY'S 2011 CALF**

**CANTILEVER**

**CENTIPEDE**

**CIRCUIT**

**CONFLUX**

**CORAL**

**DIVISION**

**DRACULA**

**ECHO**

**EMBER**

**EPEE**

**ERUPTION**

**FIREFLY**

**FRACTURE**

**GANESH**

**GANESH'S 2011 CALF**

**GREENBEAN**

**HANCOCK**

**HIPPOCAMPUS**

**INFINITY**

**JABIRU**

**JOY**

**JUMANJI**

**LARIAT**

**MIDNIGHT**

**MILKWEED**

**MUSIC**

**PELE**

**PERESID'S 2010 CALF**

**PIVOT**

**PIXAR**

**PLEATS**

**POGO**

**POLARIS**

**PUMBA**

**PUMPKIN SEED**

**PUTTER**

**RATTAN**

**SCRATCH**

**SOOT**

**STONEWALL**

**STORM**

**STRIKE**

**TAPIOCA**

**TEAR**

**TRACER**

**TUNGUSKA**

**VENTISCA'S 08 CALF**

**VENOM**

**VENOM'S 2011 CALF**

**WALRUS**

**WAVE  
WINDROSE  
4 UNKNOWNNS**

## August 12-14, 2012 at the Great South Channel

18 HUMPBACKS, 4 FIN WHALES, 1 MINKE WHALE, 600 COMMON DOLPHINS, AND THOUSANDS OF PELAGIC BIRDS

Another successful Great South Channel trip (our 12th trip since 2002). We are still at 100% success at finding whales on our offshore trips. On this trip we found 18 humpback whales (12 have been ID'd by Orla O'Brien of WCNE and others). Only one of these have made it to Stellwagen this year. Also found a few fin whales; a voraciously surface feeding minke whale; and an aggregation of about 600 common dolphins.



We have now encountered **655 humpbacks in our 12 trips to the Great South Channel**. With the assistance of the Whale Center of New England, the Center of Coastal Studies, and the FlukeMatcher groups on Flickr and Facebook we have **PHOTO-IDENTIFIED 269 DIFFERENT WHALES** during these trips.

### PHOTOS

[CLICK HERE TO SEE A LIST OF ALL HUMPBACKS FROM CRESLI TRIPS SINCE 2002](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR A GALLERY OF OUR IDENTIFIED HUMPBACKS FROM 2002-2012](#)

## August 12-14, 2012

13-Aug 2012	14-Aug 2012
<i>Wave</i>	<i>Filigree and '12 calf</i>
<i>Pitcher</i>	<i>Lilium</i>
<i>Blackbird</i>	<i>Gargoyle</i>
<i>Breeze</i>	
<i>Divingboard</i>	
<i>Dancer</i>	
<i>Asparagus</i>	
<i>Osprey</i>	
<b>4 unknowns</b>	<b>2 unknowns</b>

# In the Great South Channel

**Monday, August 12, 2013:**

Our 13th trip to the Great South Channel in the past 12 years was definitely not an unlucky one. In fact, it was one of the best of all time. Our 1st morning, with nearly flat seas and unlimited visibility made finding the whales as easy as waiting for the sun to rise. We began to see blows off in the distance, 20-30 blows at a time on the port side, and just as many on the starboard of the bow, forming what is best described as the "picket-fence" effect. Whales were everywhere. Our first area gave us easily 75 whales and we able to get close and photograph scores of humpbacks, minkes, and a few fin whales. By 10 AM some had taken over 1000 photos. We heard of a group of 50 whales north of us and we headed there and found them.



We stayed with the second group through late afternoon and were treated the amazing sights of sideways surface lunge-feeding on massive quantities of krill. Folks looked for the red patches and found whales, dolphins, sand eels, and sharks feeding on krill, and shearwaters feeding on the sand eels. Earlier in the day we had seen whales bubble-feeding and open mouth feeding, sights many of us had seen before, but the krill feeding was spectacular and a new one to observe for almost all of us.

78 humpbacks photographed on this day (64 identified, 14 to be indentified), 20 minke whales, 2 fin whales, 20 white-sided dolphins, bubble feeding, open-mouth feeding, sideways lunges, multiple breaches, pectoral flipper slapping, tail slapping, kick-feeding, spy-hopping, trumpet blows, moms and calves and thousands of pelagic birds – and that was just day 1 (12 hours of sighting effort).

**Tuesday, August 13, 2013:**

Our second day began with fog, whales, and dolphins all around us. We weighed anchor and headed south towards where we had our first massive group of whales, hoping to find visibility and whales. Once the fog was gone, the whales were easily seen again. Today, some repeats, but also lots of whales we hadn't seen before. There were often traveling in pairs. One breached about 12 times near us, while off in the distance, we saw humpbacks breach at once. What a way to end our trip! We had 4.5 hours of sighting effort on our 2nd day and encountered 22 humpbacks (16 identified). Of the 22 identified, 10 had not been seen during the previous day.c

## **Totals:**

**97 humpback whales** (82 identified, 15 unknowns)

**20 minke whales**

**4 finback whales**

**50 Atlantic white-sided dolphins**

**Brown shark**

**Blue shark**

**~2000 Cory's Shearwaters**

**~6000 Great Shearwaters**

**~500 Sooty Shearwaters**

We are still reviewing the photos - but have **IDENTIFIED 77 OF THE 97** humpback whales we encountered.

We have now encountered **778 humpbacks in our 13 offshore trips to the Great South Channel and Stellwagen, and locally.** With the of the members of the Gulf of Maine Humpback group, the Center for Coastal Studies, Allied Whale, Boston Harbor Cruises, and the FlukeMatcher groups on Flickr and Facebook, we have **PHOTO-IDENTIFIED 319 DIFFERENT WHALES** during these trips

# August 12-13, 2013

12-Aug 2013	13-Aug 2013
ALTAIR	A-PLUS
AMPERSAND	BLACKHOLE
ANGUS	BOMBAY
ASWAN	CONVICT
BLACKHOLE	CROWN
BOWLINE	DUSKY
BUCKSHOT & 2013 CALF	ECHO
CAJUN	EMBER
CALDERAS	GAP
CANTILEVER	JUMANJI
CHINOOK	LEVEL
CONVICT	PERSEID
COOKOUT	SKATEBOARD
CORAL	STONEWALL
COSMOS	TECTONIC
DASHDOT	YAGTZEE
DOME	6 MORE
DUSKY	
EMBER	
FERN	
FIREFLY & 2013 CALF	
GANESH	
GANGPLANK	
GLO & 2013 CALF	
GOM-0882	
GOM-1010	
HABANERO	
HORNET	
INCHWORM	
INFINITY	
IRIS	
ISOCELES	
JOY	
JT	
LARIAT	
LEUKOS	
LICHEN	
LILIUM	
LONGBOARD	
LOON	
MAYO	
MEERKAT	
MIRA	
ORBIT	
PENINSULA	
POLARIS	
POX	
RAPIER'S 2009 CALF	
RUNE (MOLSON) & 2013 CALF	
SCRATCH	
SCRIMSHAW	
SHIMMER	
SKATEBOARD	
SNARE	
SOOT	
TEAR	
THICKET	
THREAD	
THUMPER	
TRACER	
TRIM	
TUNGUSKA	
TWISTER	
UNDERLINE	
VERTEX	
WARRIOR	
9 MORE	



# August 12-13, 2013

12-Aug 2013	13-Aug 2013
ALTAIR	A-PLUS
AMPERSAND	BLACKHOLE
ANGUS	BOMBAY
ASWAN	CONVICT
BLACKHOLE	CROWN
BOWLINE	DUSKY
BUCKSHOT & 2013 CALF	ECHO
CAJUN	EMBER
CALDERAS	GAP
CANTILEVER	JUMANJI
CHINOOK	LEVEL
CONVICT	PERSEID
COOKOUT	SKATEBOARD
CORAL	STONEWALL
COSMOS	TECTONIC
DASHDOT	YAGTZEE
DOME	6 MORE
DUSKY	
EMBER	
FERN	
FIREFLY & 2013 CALF	
GANESH	
GANGPLANK	
GLO & 2013 CALF	
GOM-0882	
GOM-1010	
HABANERO	
HORNET	
INCHWORM	
INFINITY	
IRIS	
ISOCELES	
JOY	
JT	
LARIAT	
LEUKOS	
LICHEN	
LILIUM	
LONGBOARD	
LOON	
MAYO	
MEERKAT	
MIRA	
ORBIT	
PENINSULA	
POLARIS	
POX	
RAPIER'S 2009 CALF	
RUNE (MOLSON) & 2013 CALF	
SCRATCH	
SCRIMSHAW	
SHIMMER	
SKATEBOARD	
SNARE	
SOOT	
TEAR	
THICKET	
THREAD	
THUMPER	
TRACER	
TRIM	
TUNGUSKA	
TWISTER	
UNDERLINE	
VERTEX	
WARRIOR	
9 MORE	



## **In the Great South Channel**

**Monday, August 10, 2015:**

**Our 15th trip to the Great South Channel in the past 14 years was another amazing adventure. In fact, it was one of the best of all time. Our 1st morning, began with sei whales, followed by fin whales, humpbacks, minke whales and dolphins. The real fun began after 6:00 PM when scores of humpbacks, in groups of up to ten began to cooperatively bubble feed. It was amazing to watch this go on for 1.5 hours.**

**Tuesday, August 12, 2014:**

**Our second day began with clear skies and , whales, and dolphins, and breaching. We weighed anchor and headed to a new area and found new whales we hadn't seen the previous day. Today, some repeats, but also lots of whales we hadn't seen before. And our 2015 Breachfest took place**

### **PHOTOS**

**VIDEO 1 BY SCOTT YOUNG**

**VIDEO 2 BY SCOTT YOUNG**

**VIDEO 1 BY TIM FRANCIS**

**VIDEO 2 BY TIM FRANCIS**

## **TOTALS FOR THE TRIP**

**80 humpback whales (18 unknowns)  
20 minke whales  
3 finback whales  
3 Sei whales  
100 short-beaked common dolphins  
1 Blue shark  
1 Basking Shark  
500 Wilson's Storm Petrels  
25 Leach's Storm Petrels  
200 Cory's Shearwaters  
2000 Great Shearwaters  
25 Sooty Shearwaters  
15 Manx Shearwaters  
5 Parasitic Jaegers  
1 Skua sp.  
3 Northern Gannets  
1 Skua sp.  
2 Phalarope sp.**

**We have now had 944 humpback encounters in our trips to the Great South Channel, Stellwagen Bank, and locally. With the assistance of Laura Howes of Boston Harbor Cruises, the Gulf of Maine Humpback group, the Center for Coastal Studies, Allied Whale, and the FlukeMatcher groups on Flickr and Facebook, we have **PHOTO-IDENTIFIED 372 DIFFERENT WHALES** during these trips.**

# August 10-11, 2015

AUGUST 10,2015	AUGUST 11,2015
IF	DRACULA
JIGSAW	INFINITY
NEWTON	PHOSPHORESCENCE
SAMOVAR	AMULET
PEAJACK 2012 CALF	AMULET 2015 CALF
STACCATO	CIRCUIT
GLO-STICK	BRISTLE
WAVE	SCARAB
CRYSTAL	SCARAB 2015 CALF
CAT EYES	
BINARY	3 UNKNOWNNS
POLARIS	
J.T.	
WYOMING	
THALLASSA	
PHAROS	
EGRET	
GANESH	
PUTTER	
JOUST	
DIVINGBOARD	
DIVINGBOARD 2015 CALF	
GHOST	
ELECTRON	
DOME	
STORM	
PLEATS	
SHUFFLEBOARD	
SHUFFLEBOARD 2015 CALF	
IRIS	
ENTROPY	
FULCRUM	
FULCRUM'S 2015 CALF	
MEDAL	
STUB	
ABRASION	
ABRASION 2015 CALF	
TECTONIC	
PIXAR	
BUZZARD	
LYNX	
FRAGMENT	
ROCKER	
SPIRIT	
MARSH	
FRACTURE	
CIRCUS	
ASWAN	
SPLICE	
THICKET	
LILLIUM	
YAHTZEE	
TILT	
CONFLUX	
14 UNKNOWNNS	

## In the Great South Channel 2016



**Monday, August 15, 2016:**

Our 17th trip to the Great South Channel in the past 16 years was another amazing adventure. In fact, it was one of the best of all time. Our 1st morning, began with fin whales, humpbacks, minke whales and dolphins. We had whales around us from sunrise to sunset

**Tuesday, August 16, 2015:**

Our second day began with clear skies and whales all around us. We maneuvered the vessel and allowed the sounds of over 50 feeding humpbacks be the wake up alarm for all passengers

[GREAT SOUTH CHANNEL PHOTOS - DAY 1 \(8/15/16\)](#)

[GREAT SOUTH CHANNEL PHOTOS - DAY 2 \(8/16/16\)](#)

[VIDEO 1: BUBBLE AND KICK FEEDING](#)

[VIDEO 2: COOPERATIVE FEEDING](#)

### TOTALS FOR THE TRIP

121 humpback whales (104 identified and 17 unknowns)  
20 minke whales  
1 finback whales  
20 short-beaked common dolphins  
500 Wilson's Storm Petrels  
25 Leach's Storm Petrels  
200 Cory's Shearwaters  
2000 Great Shearwaters  
25 Sooty Shearwaters  
15 Manx Shearwaters  
1 Pomarine Jaegers

We have now had 1135 humpback encounters in our trips to the Great South Channel, Stellwagen Bank, and locally. With the assistance of Laura Howes of Boston Harbor Cruises, the Gulf of Maine Humpback group, the Center for Coastal Studies, Allied Whale, and the FlukeMatcher groups on Flickr and Facebook, we have **PHOTO-IDENTIFIED 430 DIFFERENT WHALES** during these trips.

# August 15-16, 2016

Day 1 partial list (8/15/16)	Day 2 partial list(8/16/16)
14 HOURS OF OBSERVATIONS	4.5 HOURS OF OBSERVATIONS
Cane	Rattan & calf
Sweep	Alphorn
Thread	Putter
Duckpin	Hornet
Right Bar (Liner) & calf	Fulcrum
Grackle	Viking
Obtuse	Samara & calf
Epee	Mend
Windrose	Meteorite
Cardinal	A-Plus
Pitcher	Ganesh & calf
Hatchmark	Glo-Stick
Jenga	Pleats
Andreas	Abrasion & calf
Coral	Phosphorescence & calf
Sirius	Ridgeline
Iota	Elephant
Zodiac	Mantis
Bramble	Phantom and calf (again)
Fez	Boat Hook (again)
CCS 2014 unnamed	Canopy (again)
Tau & calf	Calderas and calf (again)
Ivory (Purity)	Bounce and calf (again)
Cosmos & calf	Infinity (again)
Cat Eyes	Eruption and calf (again)
Phantom & calf	Buckshot (again)
Giraffe	Ursa (again)
Hippocampus	Cat Eyes (again)
Soot	Thread (again)
Leonid	
HWC#9611 (NYC0028)	2 unknowns
Nazca	
Pivot	
Bounce & calf	
Batcave	
Pox	
Scrape	
Lynx & calf	
Snowslide	
Canopy	
Centipede	
Bandit	
Flock	
Artillery	
Peninsula	
Monarch & calf	
Glo & calf	
Rocker	
Chaise	
Leukos 2010 calf	
Tracer	
Zeppelin & calf	
Eruption & calf	
Inchworm	
Circuit	
Boat Hook	
Stub	
Ursa	
Cantilever	
Bowline	
Calderas & calf	
Infinity	
Azrael	
Scratch	
Buck Shot	
Parens	
Whiplash	
Bolide	
Dracula	
15 unknowns	

## In the Great South Channel August 2017

Our 19th trip to the Great South Channel in the past 17 years was another amazing adventure.



### Monday, August 14, 2017

ALL PHOTOS FROM THE AUGUST 2017 GREAT SOUTH CHANNEL TRIP: DAY 1

We arrived in the Great South Channel around daybreak, the air was crisp and cold and the seas were calm. We were 59 nautical miles (nm) almost due east of Oak Bluffs, and 35 miles east of the northern tip of Nantucket. Shortly before 6:00 AM we saw our first cetaceans, a pod of about 40 Risso's dolphins (*Grampus griseus*). These relatively rare dolphins (estimated 11000 in the Western North Atlantic) were a great way to wake up everyone.

8 nm to the NW, and a little over an hour later, we encounter our first of 59 humpbacks (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), an hour later and 4 nm to the NNW we encountered about 300 short-beaked common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*). One hour later and 8 nautical miles to the NW, we find our first of nearly 100 minke whales (they were everywhere we went for the 30 hours in the GSC), and a few minutes later we begin to see more humpbacks, including Wizard (27 year old female) and Northstar (identified by its massive gash just in front of its dorsal fin). From that point on we continued to see humpbacks, minkes, and thousand of shearwaters (4000 Great, 80 Cory's, 300 Sooty, and 6 Manx) and thousands of storm petrels (~1000 Wilson's and 7 Leach's). The whales and others were either searching for or eating sand eels. The sand eels were patchily distributed and whenever whales began to feed, they would be beset by shearwaters, gull, and terns, waiting for the "left-overs."

We saw bubble-ring feeding by single humpbacks, as well as by cooperative groups. The entire repertoire of feeding behaviors and surface active behaviors, as well as trumpet blows were seen and heard. Fog encased us on occasion and we traveled east to try and escape it, but there were few birds, no bait and no whales, so we headed back and the fog had dissipated, we were once more amongst the whales, and kept finding more. Eventually over the course of an area bounded by radius of 3 nm, we found whales for the next 8 hours.

Our Captains (Steven D. Forsberg and Dave Geller) moved the vessel away from the shipping lanes and we drifted overnight with the tide. .





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Photos from

**Day 2 - August 15, 2017**

ALL PHOTOS FROM THE AUGUST 2017 GREAT SOUTH CHANNEL TRIP: DAY 2

At 6:00 AM, we headed 5 nm south to where we found whales previously and again, we found them. Some were the same, and there were new whales also: Circuit, Face-off, Treasure, Phosphorescence, Music, Conflux, Glo-Stick and calf, Colt, Stub, and Drip had not been seen on the previous day. The conditions were spectacular, clear, calm, and wonderful. Again, we were treated to the full panoply of behaviors including some calves that were repeatedly breaching. 4.5 hours later, the time had come to head back to Oak Bluffs and eventually back to Montauk. What a trip!





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There's room so please join us on our next trip (August 13-15; 51 hours long)

AUGUST GSC TRIP INFORMATION AND LINKS

## TOTALS FOR THE TRIP

- 59 Humpback whales (46 identified and 13 unknowns)
- ~100 Minke whales
- 300 Short-beaked common dolphins
- 40 Risso's dolphins
- 4000 Great Shearwaters
- 300 Sooty Shearwaters
- 80 Cory's Shearwaters
- 6 Manx Shearwaters
- 1000 Wilson's Storm Petrels
- 7 Leach's Storm Petrels
- 5 Pomarine Jaegers
- 2 Jaeger sp.
- 6 Northern Gannet
- 6 Double-Crested Cormorant
- 10 Common Terns
- 50 Laughing Gulls
- 100 Herring Gulls
- 50 Great Black Backed Gulls

We have now had 1231 humpback encounters in our trips to the Great South Channel, Stellwagen Bank, and locally. With the assistance of Laura Howes of Boston Harbor Cruises, the Gulf of Maine Humpback group, Dr. Jooke Robbins of the Center for Coastal Studies, Allied Whale, and the FlukeMatcher groups on Flickr and Facebook, we have PHOTO-IDENTIFIED 454 DIFFERENT WHALES during these trips.



# August 14-15, 2017

## IDENTIFIED HUMPBACKS

Alligator

Bandit

Buzzard

Canopy

Canopy '17 calf

Circuit

Colt

Condensation

Conflux

Cosmos

Cosmos '17 calf

Crystal

Deuce

Dice

Dome

Draco

Drip

Epee

Equals

Face-off

Farfalle

Fray

Ghost

Gladiator

Glo-Stick

Glo-Stick '17 calf

Infinity

Jupiter

Kappa

Kickoff

Lobo

Lollipop

Mudskipper

Multiply

Music

Northstar

Osprey

Peninsula

Phosphorescence

Samovar

Samovar '17 calf

Scylla

Shards

Stub

Treasure

Wizard

13 Unknowns



## August 13-14, 2018

PHOTOS FROM THE AUGUST 2018 GREAT SOUTH CHANNEL TRIP

This year's trip was not as productive as past year's trips. A crash of sand lance (sand eel) populations in the Great South Channel has forced many of our typical humpbacks to seek out other prey in other places.

We were expecting a trip with lots of searching, but dense fog everywhere made it impossible. When the fog lifted we found common dolphins, a grey seal, an ocean sunfish, and a minke, but no humpbacks.

Late on our first day, it was decided to travel north to the SW edge of Stellwagen Banks National Marine Sanctuary and anchor overnight, and our Captains (Steven D. Forsberg and Dave Geller) did so.

We weighed anchor shortly after 6:00 AM and found whales within 7 minutes. It was here that we encountered Etch-a-sketch, then later we found Dyad and her 2018 calf. It was amazing to watch them nursing. Shortly later we found Diablo. Fog rolled in again, but we were able to spend time with a trio of female humpbacks, Wizard, Perseid, and Dome before having to head to the Cape Cod Canal, then to Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard, then back to Montauk.



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Dyad and her 2018 calf surfacing during nursing.

## TOTALS FOR THE TRIP

**7 Humpback whales:**

*Etch-a-sketch*

*Dyad and her 2018 calf*

*Diablo*

*Wizard*

*Dome*

*Perseid*

**1 Minke whale**

**100 Short-beaked common dolphins**

**1 Ocean sunfish**

**Great Shearwaters**

**Sooty Shearwaters**

**Cory's Shearwaters**

**Manx Shearwaters**

**Wilson's Storm Petrels**

**Northern Gannet**

**Common Yellowthroat**

## In the Great South Channel

August 2019

**Our 21st trip to the Great South Channel in the past 18 years was another successful trip, but with fewer whales than usual. Behaviors were spectacular!**



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### August 12, 2019

Report by Carl Safina and Patricia Paladines

On the evening of Sunday, August 11, 2019, we left Montauk with somewhat indefinite plans. The threat of big weather approaching Great South Channel had made us decide to alter our course towards Stellwagen Bank in Cape Cod Bay and perhaps head as far as and Jeffreys Ledge in the Gulf of Maine. But during our overnight run, the forecast equivocated, and we decided to go to Great South Channel as originally planned because the bad weather was going to hold off. So we altered course again overnight, and headed to Great South Channel, arriving a couple of hours after dawn. Many of the passengers had slept outside in the open air under the stars on the deck above the main cabin. The air was warm and sea conditions mild, giving no hint that bad weather was on the way for the next day.

The first marine mammals we saw were a group of perhaps two dozen short-beaked common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*), moving unusually fast as though focused on chasing prey. A while later we encountered several very large finback or fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*) to perhaps 80 feet in length, and a minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*).

We left the fin whales to search for humpback whales. We cruised the Channel for a while before sighting distant blows. For the rest of the day we stayed with several humpbacks in fine weather.

There can hardly be anything more joyful on the ocean than seeing a humpback whale slapping its long, angelic, pectoral fins in what appears to be idle play. Perhaps it is just that. Passengers delighted in seeing the whales raising their broad tail flukes before deep dives, and in their startling forceful blows as they returned to the surface.

Several times, whales breaching out of the ocean put on spectacular shows. Many of the passengers got superb photos of these leaping humpbacks. Many of the humpbacks are individuals known to whale researchers and recognizable mainly by distinct markings on the underside of their tail flukes. Known whales we spotted included Gladiator (known since 2007), Yoo Hoo (known since 2002), Strike (known since 1985, more than 34 years old), and Shuffleboard (known since 1997).

We also saw approximately three blue sharks and we kept loose track of seabirds and their relative numbers. Seabird diversity was down a bit. No Leach's Storm Petrel, no Arctic Tern, for instance. In the following list the low numbers are closer to being accurate counts of what we saw, while the hundreds of Great Shearwaters represent only a loose approximation of numbers.

Though we squeezed Monday and its good weather out of a bad forecast for the rest of the week, we aborted the trip at around 4 pm rather than stay overnight as usual because bad weather was in fact headed to Great South Channel overnight. We spent the night cruising back toward Montauk where we arrived mid-morning on



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## TOTALS FOR THE TRIP

**4 Humpback whales:**

*Gladiator*

*Yoo Hoo*

*Spike*

*Shuffleboard*

**60 Atlantic White-sided dolphins**

**6 fin whales**

**650 Great Shearwaters**

**4 Sooty Shearwaters**

**2 Cory's Shearwaters**

**6 Manx Shearwaters**

**175 Wilson's Storm Petrels**

**2 Northern Gannet**

**40 Herring Gull**

**25 Black-backed Gull**

**6 Laughing Gull**

**3 Blue sharks**

## PHOTOS

We have now had 1332 humpback encounters in our trips to the Great South Channel, Stellwagen Bank, and locally. With the assistance of Laura Howes of Boston Harbor Cruises, the Gulf of Maine Humpback group, Dr. Jooke Robbins of the Center for Coastal Studies, Allied Whale, and the FlukeMatcher groups on Flickr and Facebook, we haveWe have now had 1231 humpback encounters in our trips to the Great South Channel, Stellwagen Bank, and locally. With the assistance of Laura Howes of Boston Harbor Cruises, the Gulf of Maine Humpback group, Dr. Jooke Robbins of the Center for Coastal Studies, Allied Whale, the FlukeMatcher groups on Flickr and Facebook, and Gotham Whale, we have **PHOTO-IDENTIFIED 488 DIFFERENT WHALES** during these trips.