

Naming Right Whales

Each year, we will select 10-15 whales to be named. Anyone can email phamilt@neaq.org to request a whale to be named. Once we have a list of potential candidates, we go through and choose the ones that have distinctive enough traits to be likely to get reasonable names (right whales are particularly difficult to name because we use such a diverse set of features on each animal to match against). Once the final list has been compiled, the entire North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium receives an email with a link to a web site where potential names can be submitted. Anyone who is registered with the Consortium can submit names. You can also submit names on behalf of someone who is not registered. We try to leave a month for the nomination process.

When thinking of names, it is important to remember that recognizing whales in the field *is* the primary purpose for naming right whales. Real-time recognition of individuals allows researchers to determine, while at sea, whether we need a biopsy sample, if a whale has been satellite tagged previously, whether and when it was last seen entangled, etc. Therefore, the most useful names will be those that serve as a mnemonic device based on some physical feature that is stable and readily visible from a boat. It is researchers in the field that will most benefit from these names. Having said that, names also serve as a way for the general public to connect better with these animals and are extremely useful when an individual right whale is in the press. So, the aim is to have all names be both useful and tasteful (which we recognize not all of the past names have been!)

Criteria

In general, names should

- Be based on any physical feature that is regularly visible from a boat (callosity, scars, body or head shape). Try to avoid belly-based names as those will be less useful. Because cyamid coverage can change and obvious patterns in the callosity can come and go, the outline of the callosity is more useful than topographical features in the center of the callosity.
- Be palatable to the public. Because entangled, injured, or dead right whales can receive quite a bit of press, think about seeing the name splashed across the newspaper when you think of ideas.
- Not be names of corporations
- Not be proper names unless that name/person relates to the markings (for example, we have two whales with especially long lip callosities that are named after people who had distinctive mustaches).

After a month, nominating closes and the voting begins. People/organizations who have submitted an average of 50 sightings or more over the previous 3 years are eligible to vote. People can vote for one of the names, or vote for no name to be given. In the event of a tie, we ask for a re-vote for just the two names. Winning names are announced at the annual Consortium meeting in November.

Whales to name in 2020

More pictures can be found at the Catalog web site:

<http://rwcatalog.neaq.org/>

1334- Calving
female,
headlight,
distinctive head
shape, unusual
bonnet shape,
scar right head,
and missing in
non-calving
years



Images - EGNO: 1334

2013/02/21 FWRI/SEWS Image Name & Time: img_3289.jpg 14:35:10



1612- Calving female, two white dots on right head, tip of left fluke missing

Sighting: A 2009/01/14 AS/A Image Name & Time: asa-14jan09-_0055.jpg 15:08:50 [Info](#)



asa-14jan09- 0055.jpg 15:08:50 - (14 of 22) Zoom: 63% [Previous](#) [Next](#)
Sighting: A 2014/05/3 CCS/A Image Name & Time: 103_4509.jpg 11:45:45



Sighting: C 2009/02/21 FWRI/V Image Name & Time: img_3555.jpg 12:49:56 [ID Info](#)



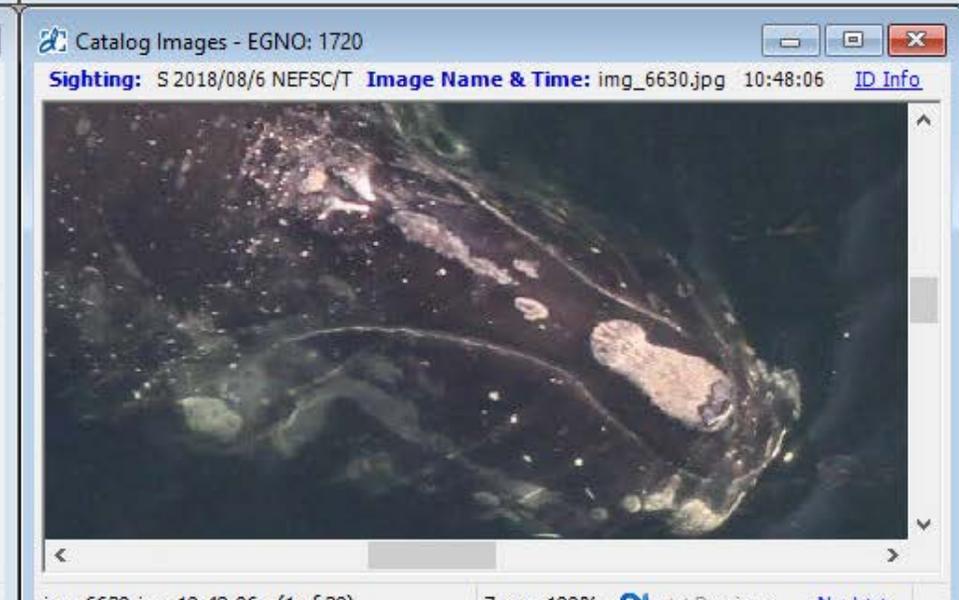
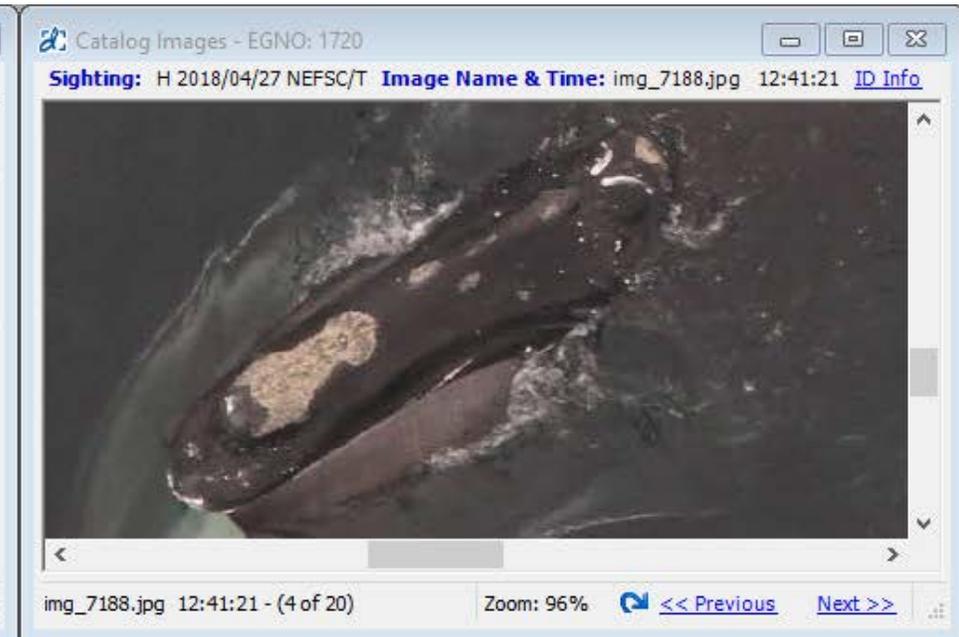
img_3555.jpg 12:49:56 - (6 of 22) Zoom: 100% [Previous](#) [Next](#)

Catalog Images - EGNO: 1612 [Info](#)

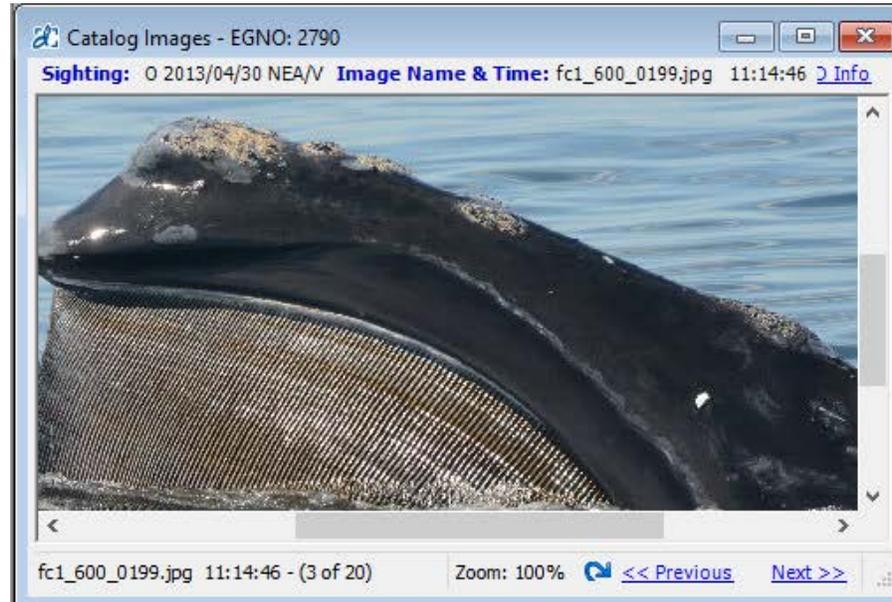
Sighting: A 2019/04/29 CCS/A Image Name & Time: 101_4035.jpg 09:56:22 [ID Info](#)



1720- Old male, marks on upper jaw, tooth decay, dip in rostrum, white blowholes, scar on left lower jaw



2790- Calving female, distinctive lip scars both sides, scar left head, tooth decay, two of her daughters are also up for naming



2791- Calving female, fluke scar, scar on blowhole



Catalog Images - EGNO: 2791

Sighting: B 2016/08/10 MICS/R Image Name & Time: rs.2016-08-10.ming.4033.jpg 17:12:29 [ID Info](#)



2912- Calving female, small islands, single post-blow, roman nose. 1612's calf, 21 y.o.



885.jpg 15:24:04 - (2 of 2) << Previous Next >>



img_7484.jpg 13:08:42 - (5 of 21)

Zoom: 100%

<< Previous Next >>

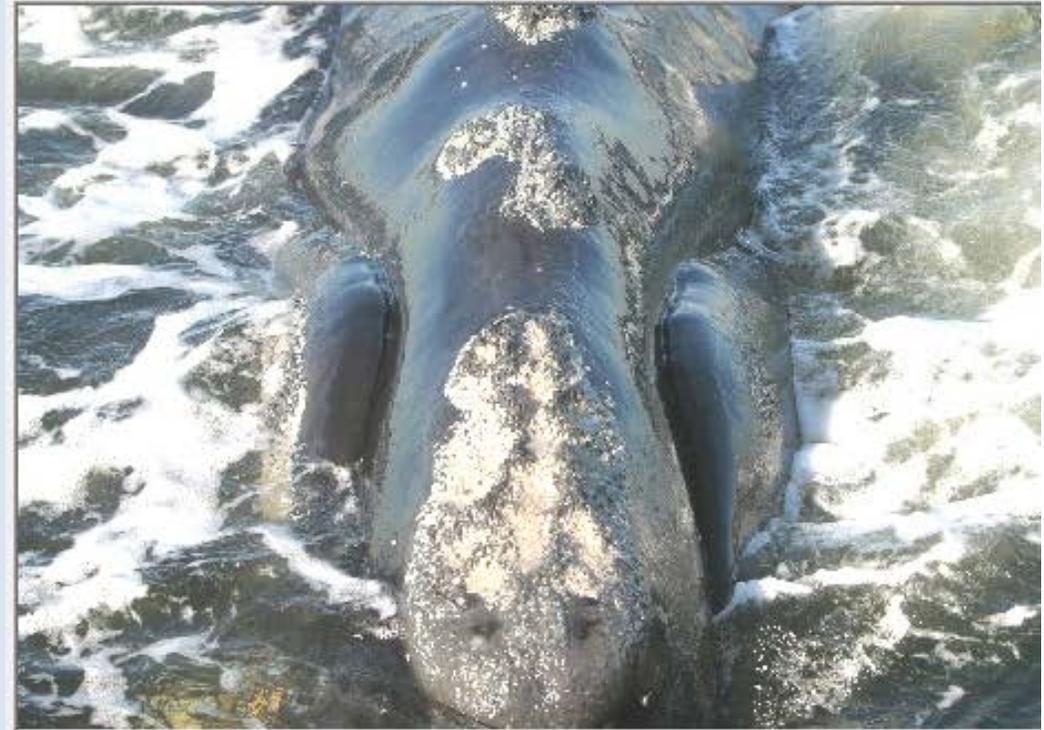


3245- 18 y.o. male, son of 1145 (Grand Teton), distinctive fused islands, dip in rostrum



Catalog Images - EGNO: 3245

Sighting: A 2016/08/15 NEA/N Image Name & Time: d300_no2_006.jpg 12:30:23 Info



img_8846.jpg 16:20:16 - (19 of 21)

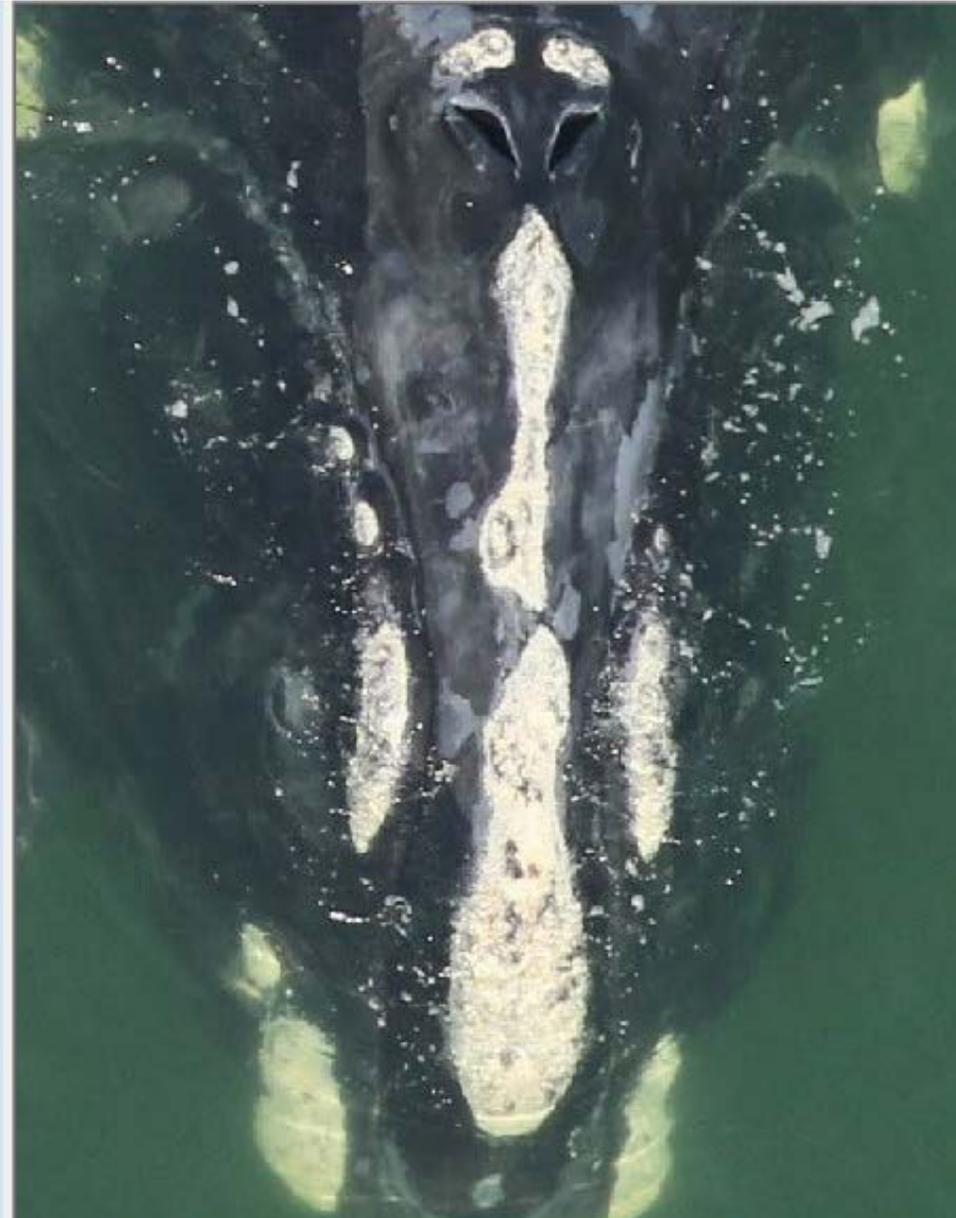
Zoom: 100% << Previous Next >>



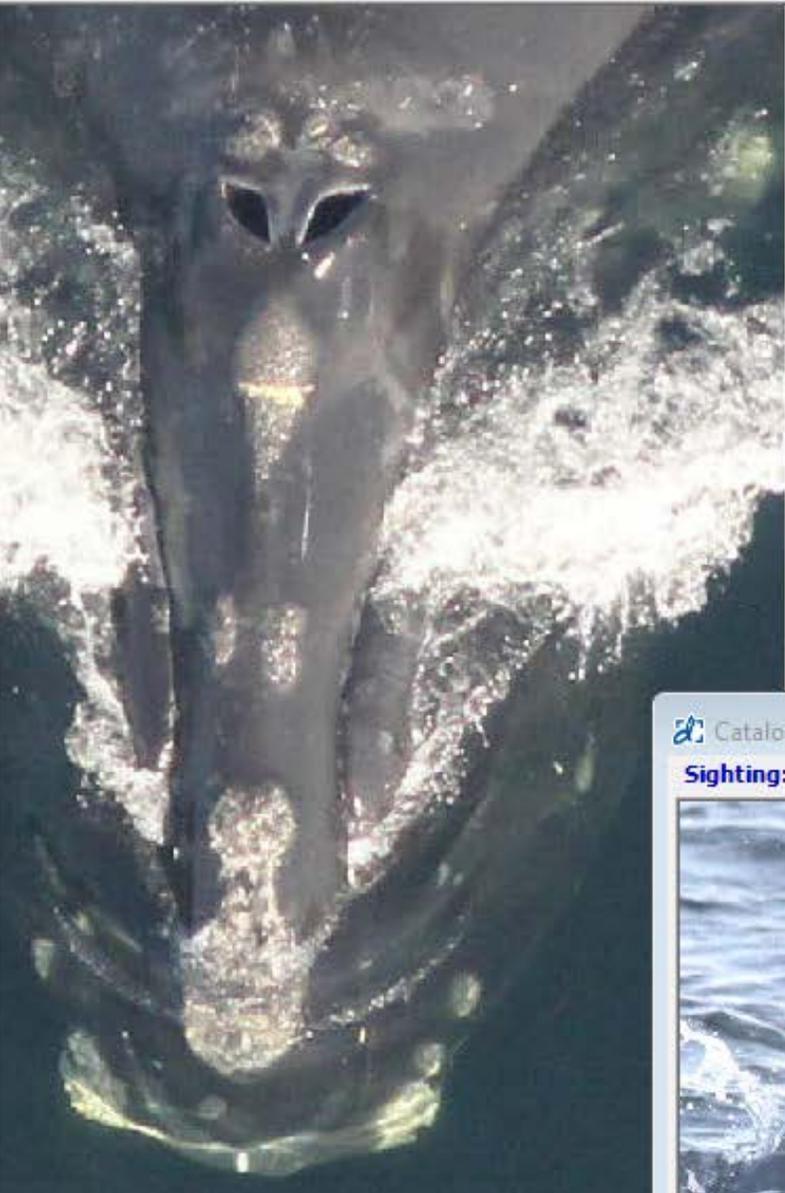
3317- Calving female, 17 y.o.
daughter of 1817 (“Silt”), scar
on head and single PBH, past
suggested names that were
not chosen are: Altamaha,
Bert, Blackjack, Cavebone,
Cliff-dive, Eyelash, Frida, Lash,
Segway, Sickle, Water Balloon



3370- Calving female with coaming with peninsula on only one side,
3 separate r. lip patches



3560- Calving female, 15 y.o. daughter of 1308, scar in coaming most distinctive feature, two white dots on left head, dip in rostrum



Catalog Image
Sighting: A 20
img_0006.jpg 13:48:14 - (6 of 20) Zoom: 39% << Previous Next >>



3730- Adult female, 13.y.o. daughter of 2430 ("Minus one"), unusually long coaming, elegant looking with few pens., white dot right head, scar along left body below pbh



3821- Adult male, 12 y.o. son of 1321 ("Mono"), fused pen right, pattern between left and right distinctive



< mg_4936.jpg 09:59:29 - (2 of 16) Zoom: 2x << Previous

Catalog Images - EGNO: 3821
Sighting: D 2012/02/15 CCS/I Image Name & Time: 103_4754.jpg 09:46:28



3890- 12 y.o. female, 12 y.o. daughter of 2790, fused island left distinctive, hopefully future mom



atalog Images - EGNO: 3890

ing: B 2018/08/3 MICS/M **Image Name & Time:** as.2018-08-03.ming.0090.jpg 12:44:29

[ID Info](#)



3951- 11 y.o. son of 1151 (“Mavynne”), prop scar on right side, memorable marks on both sides of upper jaw, two long lip callosities right, separated from mom during her entanglement



(2 of 19)

Zoom: 56%

[<< Previous](#) [Next](#)

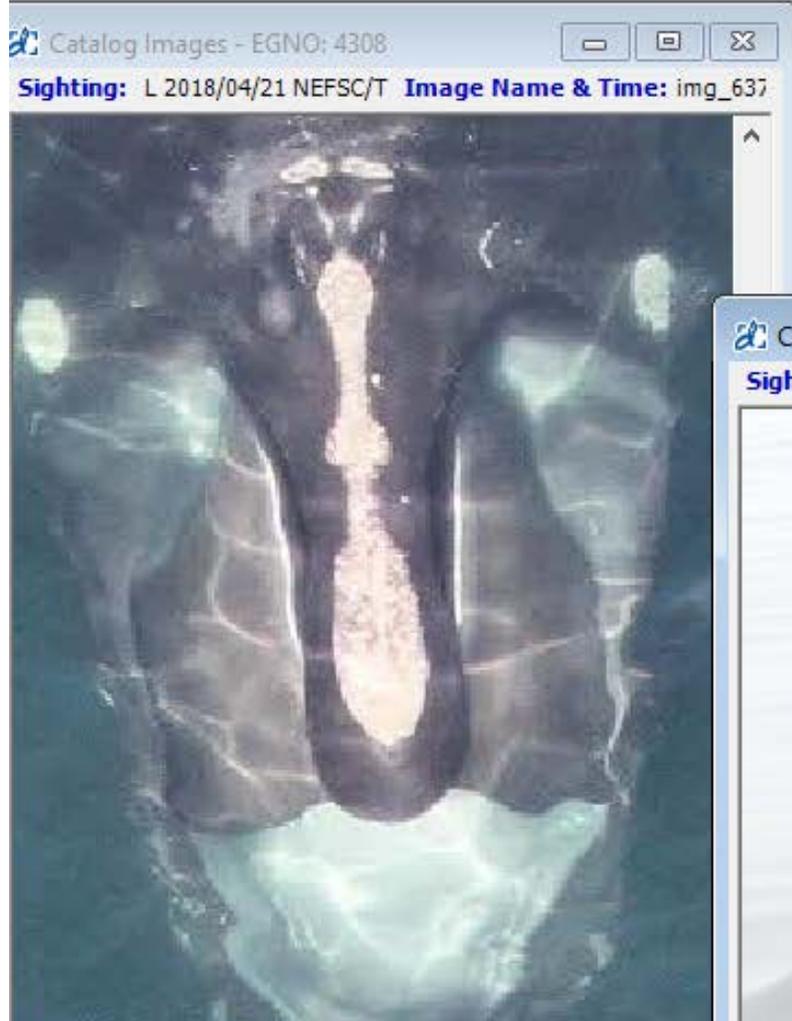
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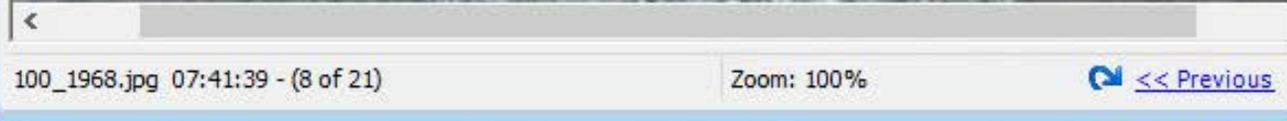
4190- Female, 9 y.o. daughter of 2790, distinctive back scar, hopefully future mom



4308- 7 y.o. daughter of 1408 ("Columbine"), two scars on left head, marks on lower jaw, hopefully future mom



4313- 7 y.o. daughter of 2413 ("Nauset"), shape of 1 PBH callosity, hopefully future mom, shifting callosity/cyamids



4340- 7 y.o. daughter of 1140 ("Wart"), distinctive bonnet, LOTS of mandibulars, important lineage (Wart's calf born in CCB), hopefully future mom

