

# Naming Right Whales

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).

# Whales to name in 2018

More pictures can be found at the Catalog web site: <http://rwcatalog.neaq.org/>

EGNO	Sex	Age	Features to name on
		Class	

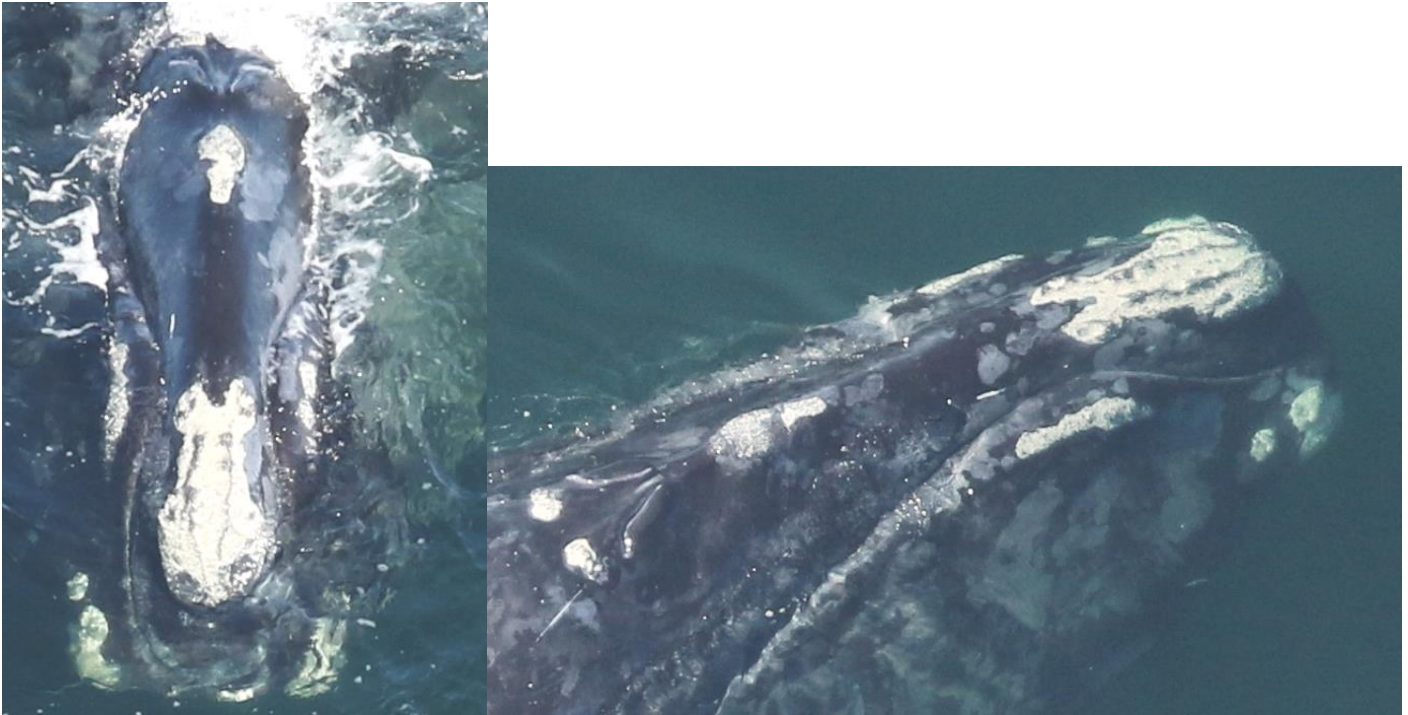
1409	M	A	Island placement askew, center island, line scar behind post blowholes
------	---	---	------------------------------------------------------------------------



1412	F	A	Scarring in front of bonnet, Iceland whale
------	---	---	--------------------------------------------



1812 F A "V" shaped indent in the center of the back of the bonnet, fine scar on right head, lots of ped scars, looks similar to 1802 and 3802.



1820 M A Cauliflower scarring on flukes, symmetrical, scar behind PBH callosities





2681 M A Clean, thick scar in front of the coaming



2930 M A Persistent thin scar connecting the islands



3232 F A Very interesting bonnet, lots of mandibles right

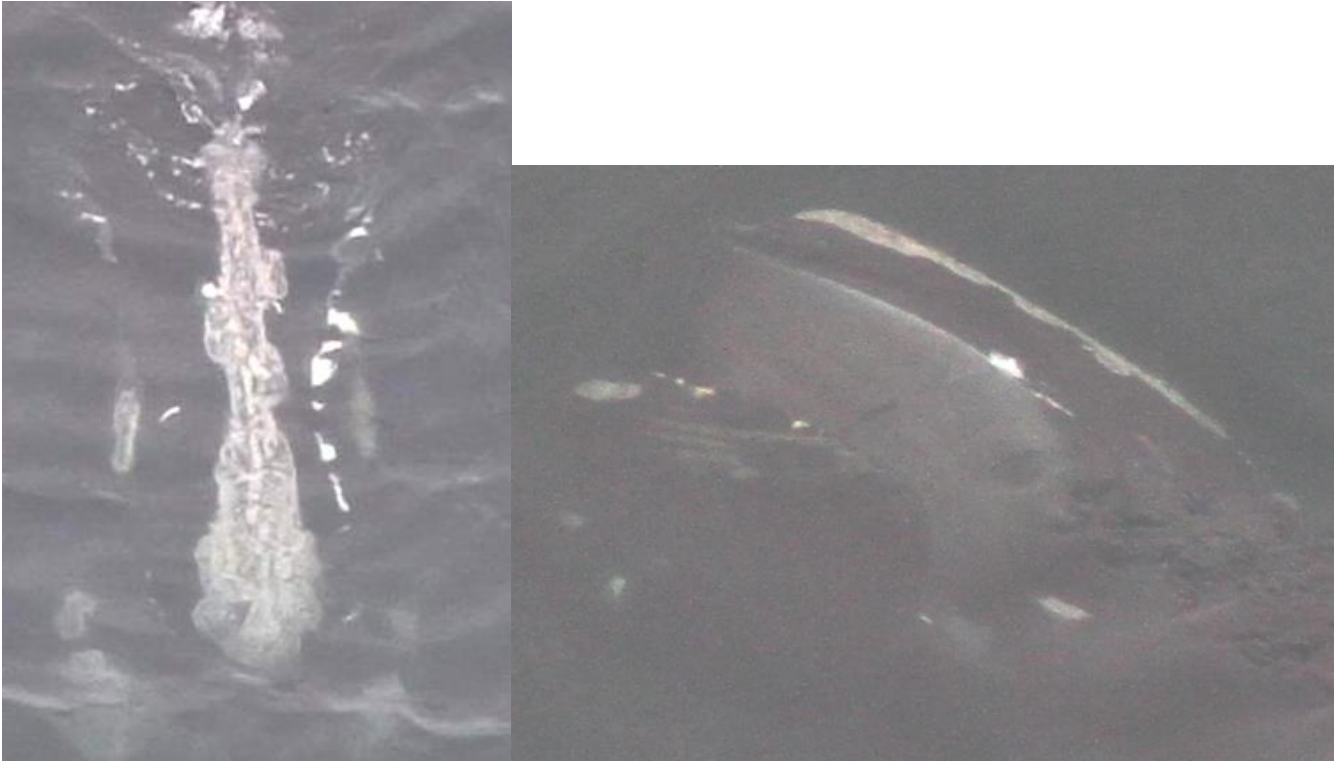


3317 F A Single post blowhole, small scar next to coaming, headlight, lots of white dots in 2017





3320 F A Double pen r, scarring on left lip like tick marks, new scar on left rostrum at lip line, very asymmetrical callosity



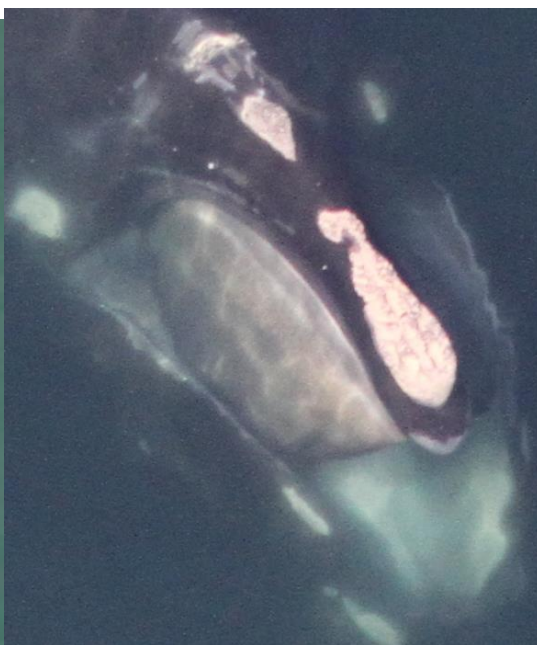
3740 M A Single island almost attached to the bonnet, distinctive tooth decay just in the middle



3830 M A Fused islands in middle of head, white dot r. head, big scar over right eye



3903 F A Changing cyamids by islands- sometimes a bald patch between bonnet and islands, bright white dot r. head



3940 F A Unique right head and bonnet, scar in middle of head



4129 M J Long bonnet, small scar on left lip visible from air





4140 M J Cauliflower flukes, right island that comes and goes, small pbh in center



4145 M J Continuous with island, peaky bonnet, looks similar to 1245 and 3845

