

J, K, L POD • SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALES

# ORCA ID GUIDE



Center for Whale Research  
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# ORCA Identification

Like many other cetacean species, killer whales, also called orcas (*Orcinus orca*) can be identified on an individual basis by their natural markings and differences in fin shape. Orcas have an obvious dorsal fin that varies in shape and size, often with distinctive nicks or scars. The saddle patch also varies from individual to individual in shape, size, color, and scarring. In the case of the Southern Resident killer whales, individual identification allows us to maintain a precise census of the population where every individual is known and accounted for.

**J Pod** is made up of 6 matriline. The J14s are a two generation group of J37, J40, J45, and J49. The J19s consist of J19, J41, and J51. The J22s are J22 and J38. The J11s are J27, J31, and J39 who are the three offspring of deceased J11. The J17s are a three generation group of J17, J35, J44, J46, J47, and J53. The J16s are a two generation matriline made up of J16, J26, J36, J42, and J50. L87 has been traveling with J pod since 2010.

**K Pod** is made up of four matriline and a single individual. The K12s are a three generation group consisting of K12, K22, K33, K37, and K43. The K13s, is a two generation group, K20, K25, K27, K34, K38, and K44. The K14s consist of K14, K26, K36, and K42. The K16s, K16, and K35, tend to travel with K21 who is the last surviving member of the K18 matriline. These last three whales separate from the rest of K pod more often than the rest of the K matriline.

**L Pod** is currently split into three groups. The largest group consists of four matriline: L4s, L26s, L72s, and L47s. The L4s are an extended, three generation matriline consisting of two breeding-age sisters, L55 and L86, and their offspring. We use their deceased mother's name, L4, to tie the two sisters together. L55's offspring include L82, L103, L109, and L118. L82 has a juvenile son of her own, L116, and L103 had her first calf L123 in 2015. L86 has one subadult son, L106. The L26s consist of just two whales, L90 and L92, the daughter and probable grandson of L26, respectively. The L72s consist of two whales: L72 and her son L105. The second largest group, the L12s are made up of two matriline and three individuals: the L11s, L22s, plus L25, L85, and L87. The L11s are L41, L77, L94, L113, L119, and L121. The deceased L11 is used to tie the three siblings, L41, L77, and L94 together. The L22s are L22 and L89. L85 is the sole survivor of the L28 matriline and has a possible relationship to the L22s through deceased female L32. L87 was born into the L32 matriline and is a probable brother of L22. He has traveled with K pod and now exclusively J pod since his mom, L32, died in 2005. L25 is a post-reproductive female who is the sole survivor of the L25 matriline and has traveled with the L11s since the early 1990's. The last L pod group is made up of a single matriline and two adult males: the L54s, L84, and L88. The L54s are L54 and her offspring L108 and L117. The males L84 and L88 are sole survivors of their respective matriline (L9s and L2s) and are closely associated with the L54s.

# ORCA Population

April 2018 estimated SRKW population = 76

J Pod = 23

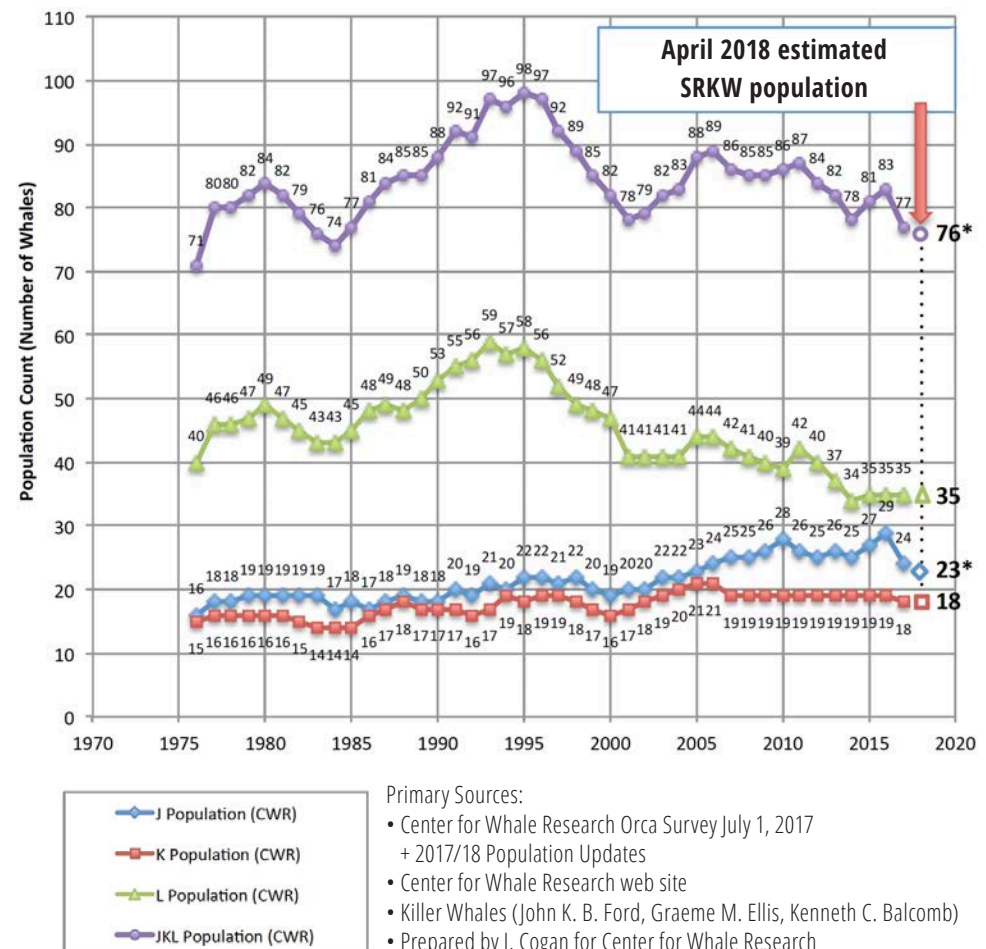
K Pod = 18

L Pod = 35

Annual population updates occur on July 1 each year.

The Southern Resident killer whales (SRKW), or Orcas, are a large extended family, or clan, comprised of three pods: J, K, and L pods. Pods are formed of matriline centered around older females, usually mothers or grandmothers. Both male and female offspring remain in close association with their mothers for life.

Southern Resident ORCA Population - J, K, L Pod Census as of July 1 each year



Primary Sources:

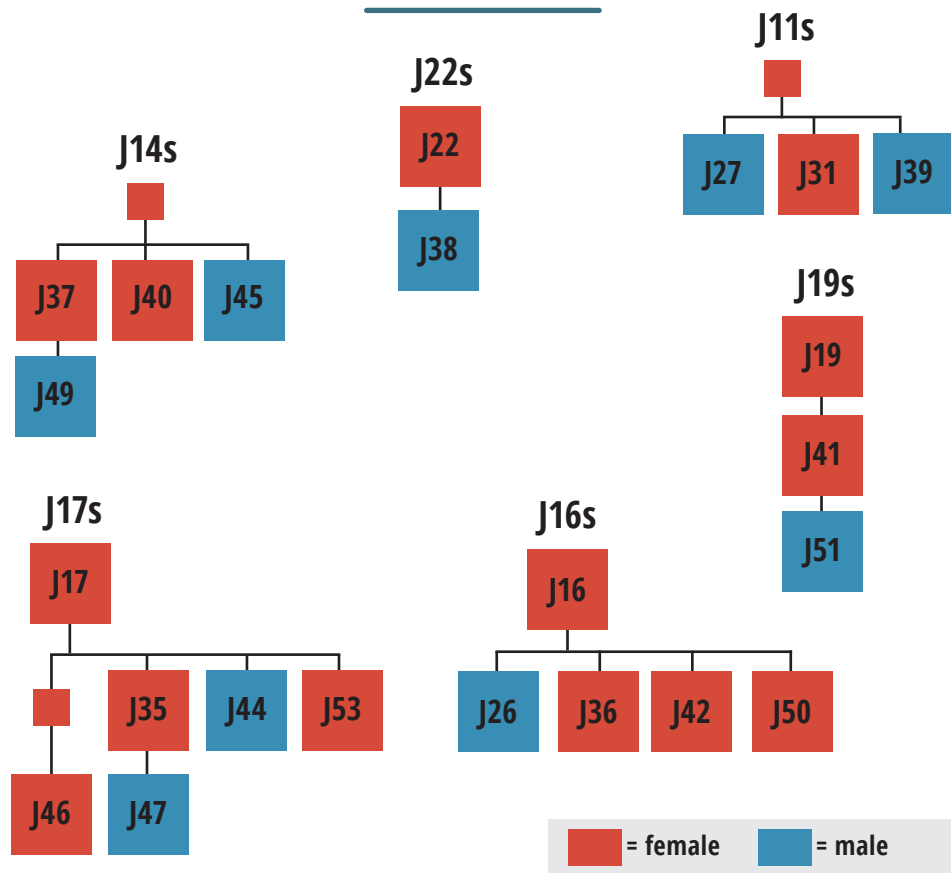
- Center for Whale Research Orca Survey July 1, 2017 + 2017/18 Population Updates
- Center for Whale Research web site
- Killer Whales (John K. B. Ford, Graeme M. Ellis, Kenneth C. Balcomb)
- Prepared by J. Cogan for Center for Whale Research



# Center for **Whale Research**

The CWR has been the leading voice for the gravely endangered Southern Resident killer whales (Orcas) generating over four decades of scientific research and health assessments that have been used to inform agency decision-makers and elected officials about the whales' ecosystem needs to ensure the viability of this social and beloved population. Our unique on-the-water research approach entails recording information through whale encounters that provides important social, demographic, health and geographic information. We provide this information to U.S. and Canadian government agencies annually for conservation and management purposes. Please support our important work today!

## J POD



### J14 Matriline • J37, J40, J45, J49



## J16 Matriline • J16, J26, J36, J42, J50



J16 • Female • Est. 1972  
Mother of J26, J36, J42, J50.

## J16 Matriline (con't) • J16, J26, J36, J42, J50



J50 • Female • Born 2014  
Mother is J16; siblings J26,  
J36, J42.



J26 • Male • Born 1991  
Mother is J16; siblings J36,  
J42, J50.



J36 • Female • Born 1999  
Mother is J16; siblings J26, J42,  
J50.



J42 • Female • Born 2007  
Mother is J16; siblings J26,  
J36, J50.





**J11 Matriline • J27, J31, J39**



J27 • Male • Born 1991  
Siblings J31, J39.

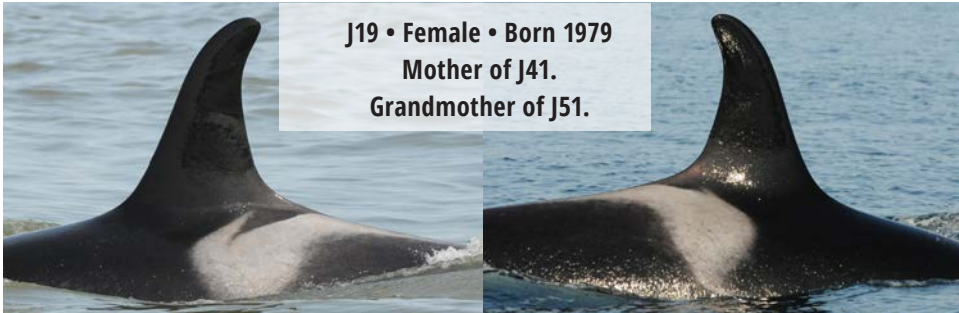


J31 • Female • Born 1995  
Siblings J27, J39.



J39 • Male • Born 2003  
Siblings J27, J31.

**J19 Matriline • J19, J41, J51**



J19 • Female • Born 1979  
Mother of J41.  
Grandmother of J51.

**J19 Matriline (con't) • J19, J41, J51**



J41 • Female • Born 2005  
Mother is J19. Mother of J51.



J51 • Male • Born 2015  
Mother is J41.

**J22 Matriline • J22, J38**



J22 • Female • Born 1985  
Mother of J38.



J38 • Male • Born 2003  
Mother is J22.



**J17 Matriline • J17, J35, J44, J46, J47, J53**



**J17 • Female • Born 1977**  
Mother of J35, J44, J53  
Grandmother of J46, J47.

**J17 Matriline • J17, J35, J44, J46, J47, J53**



**J47 • Male • Born 2010**  
Mother is J35.



**J35 • Female • Born 1998**  
Mother is J17; siblings J44, J53.  
Mother of J47.



**J53 • Female • Born 2015**  
Mother is J17;  
siblings are J35, J44.



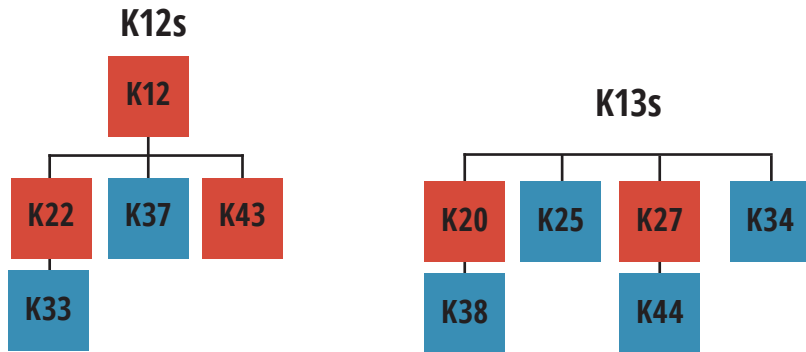
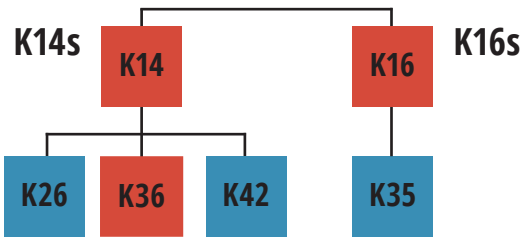
**J44 • Male • Born 2009**  
Mother is J17; siblings J35, J53.



**J46 • Female • Born 2009**  
Mother is J28 (deceased).



# K POD



■ = female    ■ = male

## K12 Matriline • K12, K22, K33, K37, K43





**K12 Matriline (con't) • K12, K22, K33, K37, K43**



**K43 • Female • Born 2010**  
Mother is K12;  
siblings K22, K37.

**K13 Matriline (con't) • K13, K20, K25, K27, K34, K38, K44**



**K34 • Male • Born 2001**  
Mother is K13;  
siblings K20, K25, K27.

**K13 Matriline • K20, K25, K27, K34, K38, K44**



**K20 • Female • Born 1986**  
Mother is K13; siblings K25,  
K27, K34. Mother of K38.



**K38 • Male • Born 2004**  
Mother is K20.



**K25 • Male • Born 1991**  
Mother is K13;  
siblings K20, K27, K34.



**K44 • Male • Born 2011**  
Mother is K27.



**K27 • Female • Born 1994**  
Mother is K13; siblings K20,  
K25, K34. Mother of K44.





**K14 Matriline • K14, K26, K36, K42**



**K14 • Female • Born 1977**  
Sibling K16. Mother of K26,  
K36, K42.

**K16 Matriline • K16, K35**



**K16 • Female • Born 1985**  
Sibling K14. Mother of K35.



**K26 • Male • Born 1993**  
Mother is K14;  
siblings K36, K42.



**K35 • Male • Born 2002**  
Mother is K16.



**K36 • Female • Born 2003**  
Mother is K14;  
siblings K26, K42.



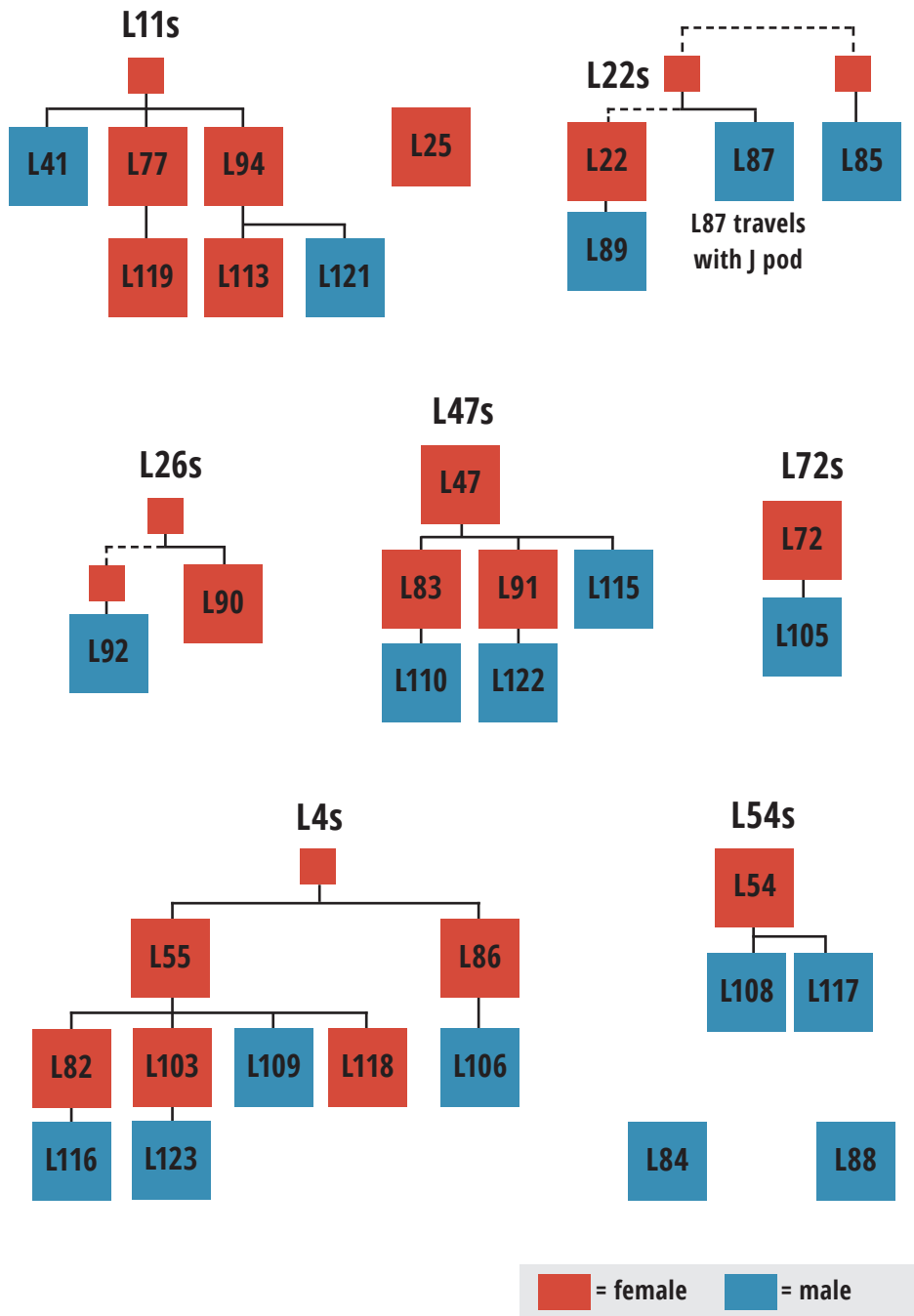
**K21**  
**K21 • Male • Born 1986**  
Sole survivor of K18 matriline.  
Associated with K16s.



**K42 • Male • Born 2008**  
Mother is K14;  
siblings K26, K36.



# L POD



## L11 Matriline • L41, L77, L94, L113, L119, L121





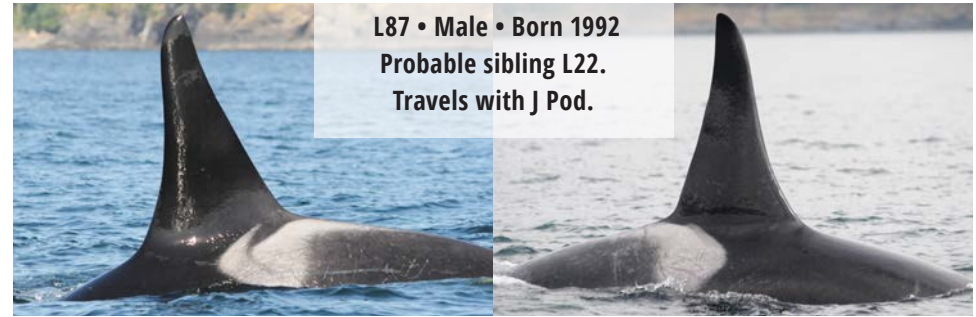
**L11 Matriline (con't) • L41, L77, L94, L113, L119, L121**



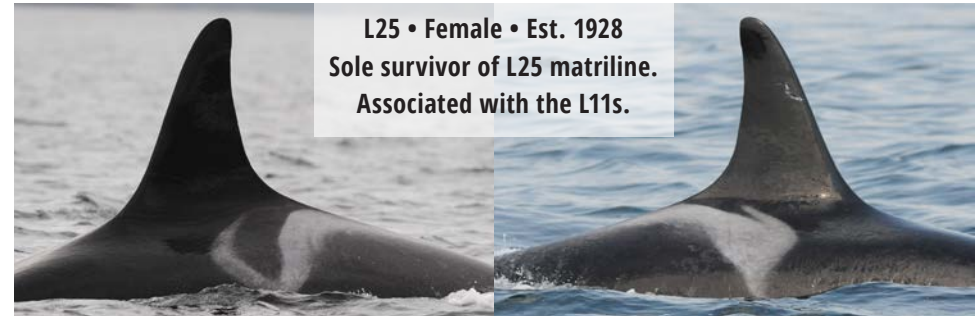
**L119 • Female • Born 2012**  
Mother is L77.



**L121 • Male • Born 2015**  
Mother is L94; sibling L113.

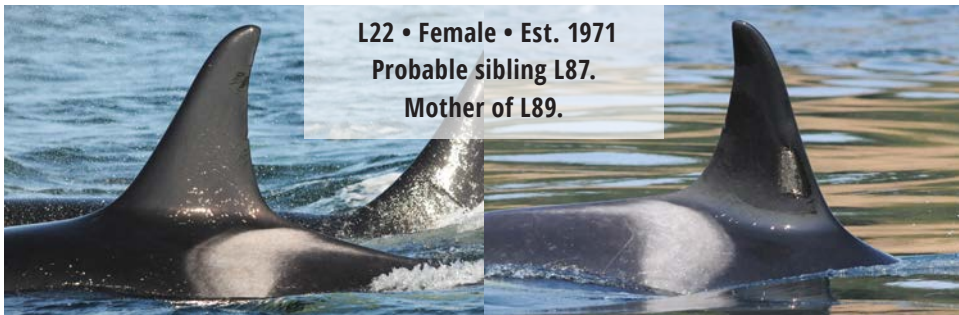


**L87**  
**L87 • Male • Born 1992**  
Probable sibling L22.  
Travels with J Pod.



**L25**  
**L25 • Female • Est. 1928**  
Sole survivor of L25 matriline.  
Associated with the L11s.

**L22 Matriline • L22, L89**



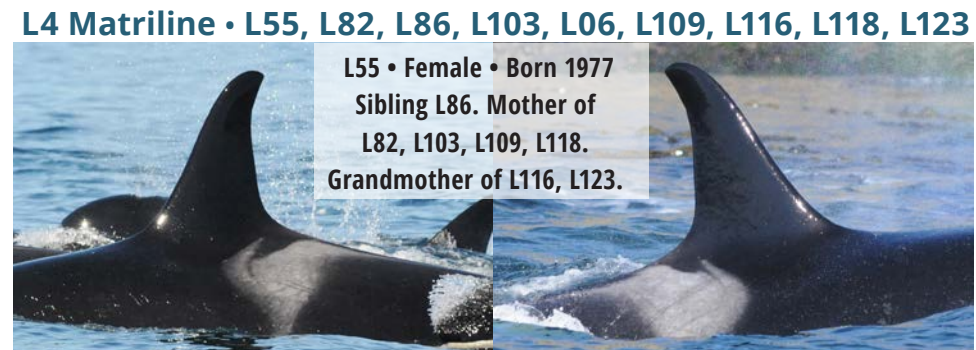
**L22 • Female • Est. 1971**  
Probable sibling L87.  
Mother of L89.



**L85**  
**L85 • Male • Born 1991**  
Sole survivor of L28 matriline.  
Associated with L11s & L22s.



**L89 • Male • Born 1993**  
Mother is L22.



**L4 Matriline • L55, L82, L86, L103, L06, L109, L116, L118, L123**  
**L55 • Female • Born 1977**  
Sibling L86. Mother of  
L82, L103, L109, L118.  
Grandmother of L116, L123.



**L4 Matriline • L55, L82, L86, L103, L06, L109, L116, L118, L123**



**L82 • Female • Born 1990**  
Mother is L55; siblings L103,  
L109, L118. Mother of L116.

**L4 Matriline • L55, L82, L86, L103, L06, L109, L116, L118, L123**



**L109 • Male • Born 2007**  
Mother is L55;  
siblings L82, L103, L118.



**L86 • Female • Born 1991**  
Sibling L55. Mother of L106.



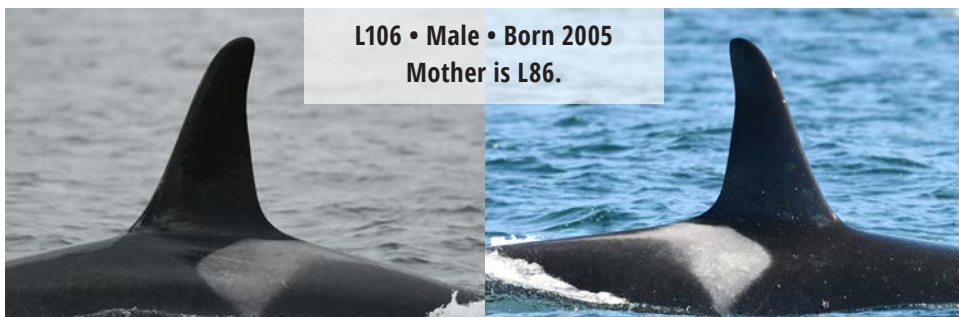
**L116 • Male • Born 2010**  
Mother is L82.



**L103 • Female • Born 2003**  
Mother is L55; siblings L82,  
L109, L118. Mother of L123.



**L118 • Female • Born 2011**  
Mother is L55; siblings L82,  
L103, L109.



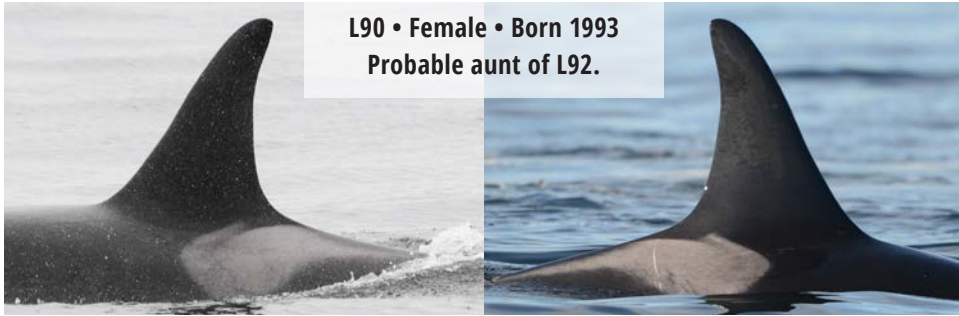
**L106 • Male • Born 2005**  
Mother is L86.



**L123 • Male • Born 2015**  
Mother is L103.



**L26 Matriline • L90, L92**



**L90 • Female • Born 1993**  
Probable aunt of L92.



**L92 • Male • Born 1995**  
Probable grandson of L26.

**L72 Matriline • L72, L105**



**L72 • Female • Born 1986**  
Mother of L105.



**L105 • Male • Born 2004**  
Mother is L72.

**L47 Matriline • L47, L83, L91, L110, L115, L122**



**L47 • Female • Born 1974**  
Mother of L83, L91, L115.  
Grandmother of L110, L122.



**L83 • Female • Born 1990**  
Mother is L47; siblings L91,  
L115. Mother of L110.



**L91 • Female • Born 1995**  
Mother is L47; siblings L83,  
L115. Mother of L122.



**L110 • Male • Born 2007**  
Mother is L83.



**L47 Matriline (con't) • L47, L83, L91, L110, L115, L122**



L115 • Male • Born 2010  
Mother is L47;  
siblings L83, L91.

**L54 Matriline (con't) • L54, L108, L117**



L117 • Male • Born 2010  
Mother is L54; sibling L108.



L122 • Male • Born 2015  
Mother is L91.

**L84**



L84 • Male • Born 1990  
Sole survivor of L9 matriline.  
Associated with L54s.

**L54 Matriline • L54, L108, L117**



L54 • Female • Born 1977  
Mother of L108 & L117.

**L88**



L88 • Male • Born 1993  
Sole survivor of L2 matriline.  
Associated with L54s.



L108 • Male • Born 2006  
Mother is L54; sibling L117.





The Southern Resident orcas are **gravely endangered**.  
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