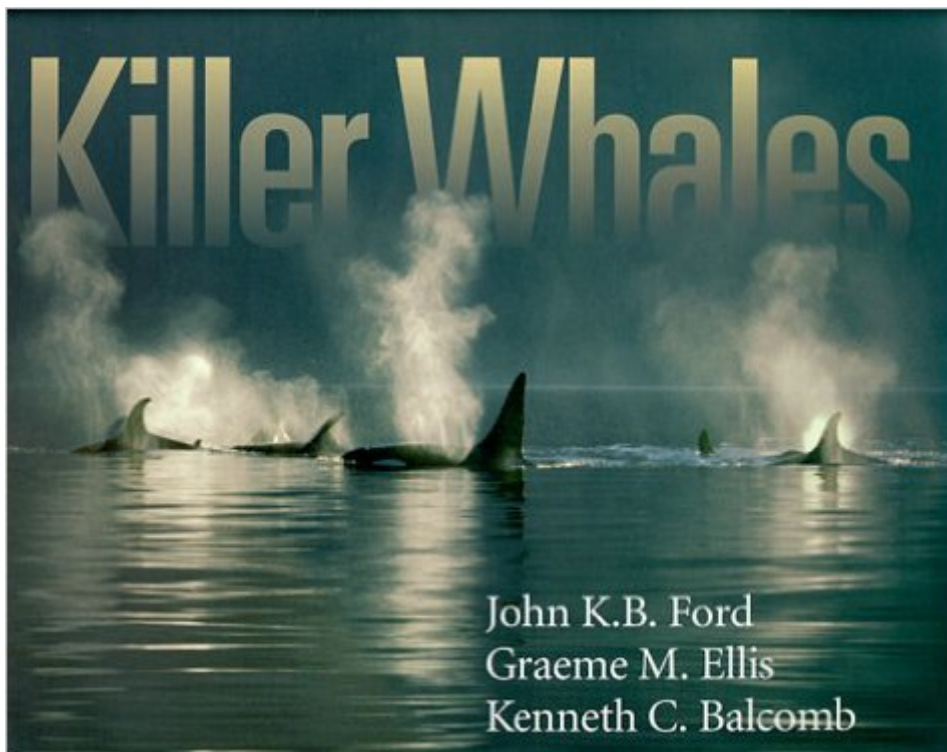


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# Killer Whales: The Natural History And Genealogy Of Orcinus Orca In British Columbia And Washington State



## Synopsis

Intended for both the biologist and the whale enthusiast, this book presents over 20 years of research findings on the killer whale populations of the northwest coast of North America, particularly Washington state and British Columbia. The registry contains a description of an entire population of wild killer whales. For each whale there is a photograph, a name code, pod membership, maternal lineage, and in many cases the age and sex. No similar catalogue exists for any other species of marine mammal. The narrative included with the registry provides highlights on the life history of killer whales, as well as information on where to find killer whales, how to recognize and photograph individuals, and how to behave around them.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This is an excellent book for anyone who is interested in orca whales. It has mass amounts of great information, it's easy to read, there are great photographs, and the ID catalogue of orcas is nothing but the best. This book is a must have for any whale-lover, researcher, or someone with just a general interest.

I just returned from a kayaking trip in the Johnston Strait just East of North Vancouver Island known as the inside passage. We had first hand views of the Orcas. This book was used as a reference manual to identify some of the whales. It has wonderful reference pictures of the known pods (families) in the area. It goes into great detail on their eating habits, language, and family history. It also explains their social behavior, and the differences between the pods. It is a wonderful

book full of pictures, and details.

Killer Whales (2000), written by killer whale experts John Ford, Graeme Ellis, and Ken Balcomb, provides an overview of the three "eco-types" of killer whales in the Pacific Northwest: the offshore, transient (mammal-eating), and resident (fish-eating) populations, with a focus on the latter type - transients are covered in the companion book Transients (1999), by the first two authors of this book. The book is divided into five chapters which describe the various differences between the three populations (e.g. appearance, diet, social structure, dialects, and occurrence), detail the social structure of resident orcas (from matrilineal communities), tell you where you can see killer whales, presents a photographic catalogue of resident killer whales to allow you to individually identify them in the field, and finally covers conservation concerns (including the availability of food, pollutants, and vessel disturbance) and their future prospects. "Sidebars" or interludes cover such topics as telling apart the three eco-types, how to differentiate males from females, and genetics. The book includes a number of (mainly) black-and-white photographs, several maps, a glossary, and a bibliography. Along with Transients (1999), this work offers a great resource for those wishing to learn more about killer whales in the Pacific Northwest.

May I first say I have never encountered a better identification book than Killer Whales and Transients. Both books are written by THE wild orca authority in the Pacific Northwest. Catalogued pictures and organized information of each individual in every pod along the coast from WA to northern BC along with accurate info on feeding, behavioral and other habits of the pods in Puget Sound and British Columbia. Truly a great book, and as I plan on researching these animals in my adulthood, it has been a great boost to my knowledge on them.

This book, the second edition for Ellis, Balcomb and Ford, is a beautiful book for anyone interested in whales, their habitat and their behaviour. Focusing on the Orcas of the Pacific Northwest, this book details their lives from what they eat, to their social habits. It includes a wonderful photo chart of all the Northwest Orcas still alive when this book was published. It is a bit heavy reading, with many complex scientific terms. I would not recommend for children, but if you know anyone with a fascination with whales, this book will turn it into an obsession.

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