

Sequim

Sequim is one of the matriarchs of K Pod, this means that she is a post-reproductive female, and that she leads a group of whales that primarily include her offspring, and her offspring's offspring; this group is known as a matriline. The matriarchy is one of the most important parts of the Southern Residents, as it is a major part of their social structure, as well as one of the characteristics that define the Southern Residents as unique in comparison to other types of killer whales. Currently, each of the three pods (J, K, and L) contain one major matriline, with a few sub-matriline in each pod. The matriarch is the head of the matriline, and often have several generations of their family with them. These matriline are almost always together for life, except for in rare cases such as orphaned calves.

When we were on our whale watching trip, we were incredibly fortunate to have a group of four orcas surface in an incredibly close proximity to our boat not just once, but twice. This is the first time in the history of the company that the whales twice surfaced that close to the boat, and we were incredibly lucky to be there to witness that event. The experience of the Orcas coming up to our boat was an incredible moment that deeply moved me. This day on the water with the orcas made me truly realize how incredible and intelligent the orcas are. This experience made me want to help protect this species, and gave me hope that our art will spread awareness and inform the public about the Southern Residents. This experience also helped me discover that my art will help others understand one of the identifying characteristics of the Southern Residents.

Kieran



