



Sperm Whale IDs

Encounters with *Physeter macrocephalus* in Ogasawara, Japan



Tony Wu, October 2009









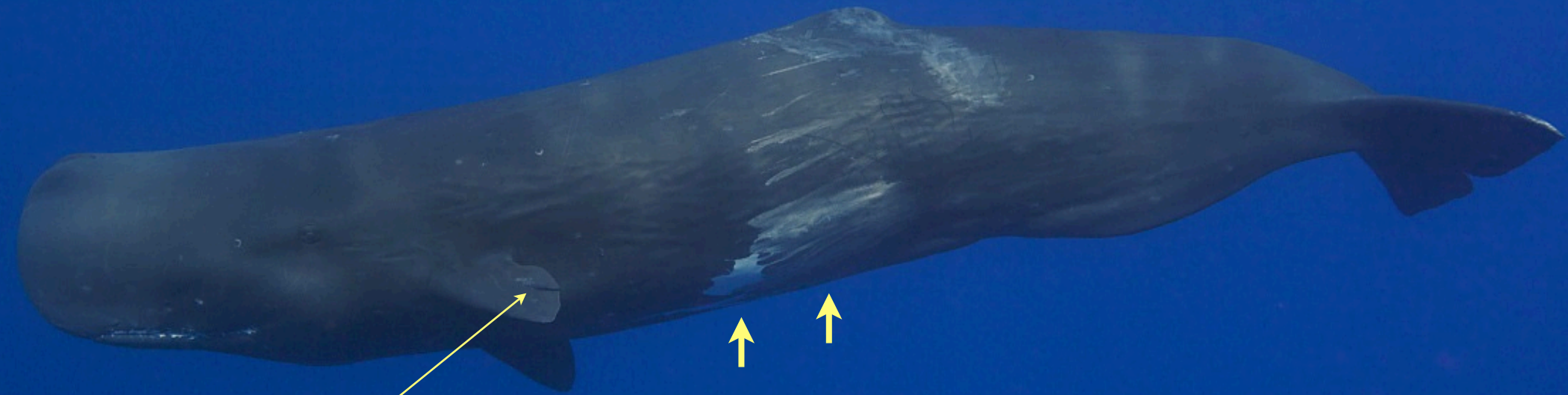
#1/2009 ♀

- Encountered alone on 10 Oct
- White spot ventral area



#2/ 2009 ♀

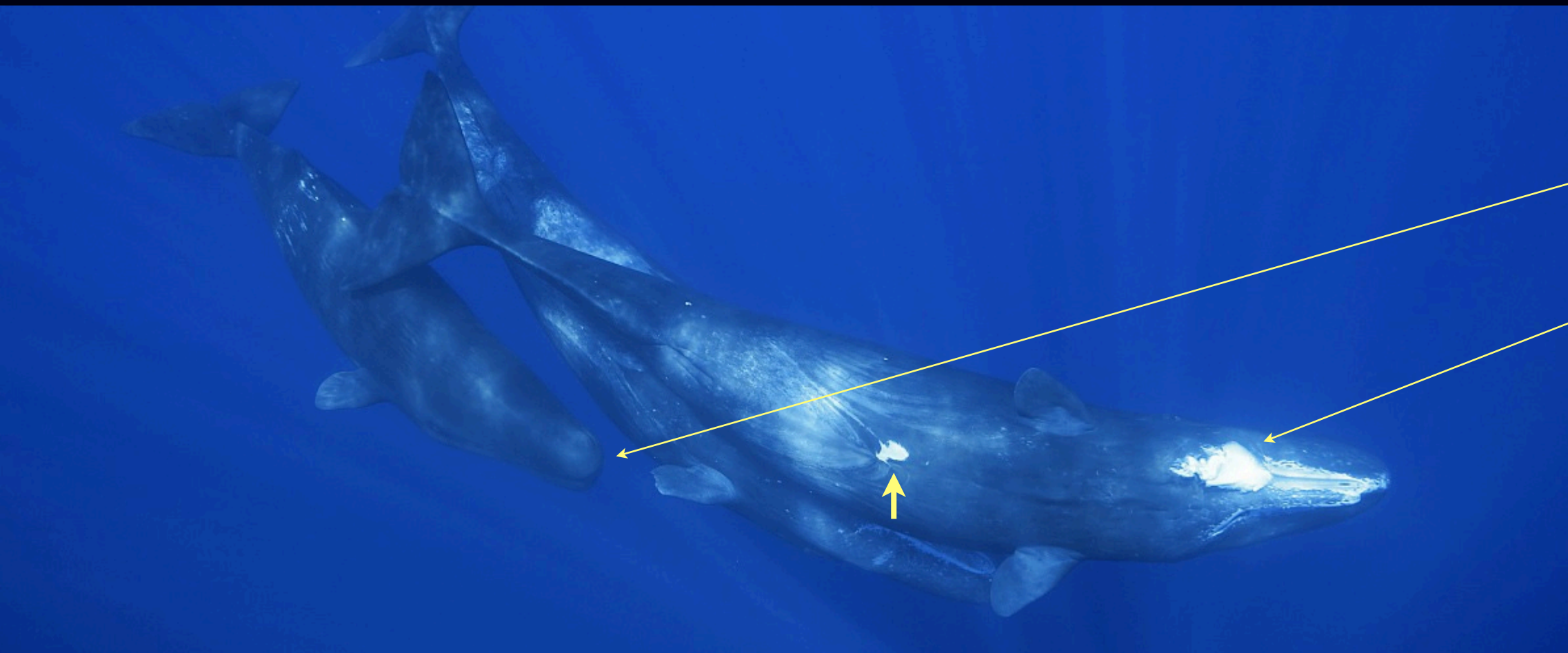
- 11 October; 14 October together with #6/ 2009
- Unique white pattern ventral area
- White areas on left torso
- Presence of remora
(*Question: Do remoras stay on the whale during deep dives?*)





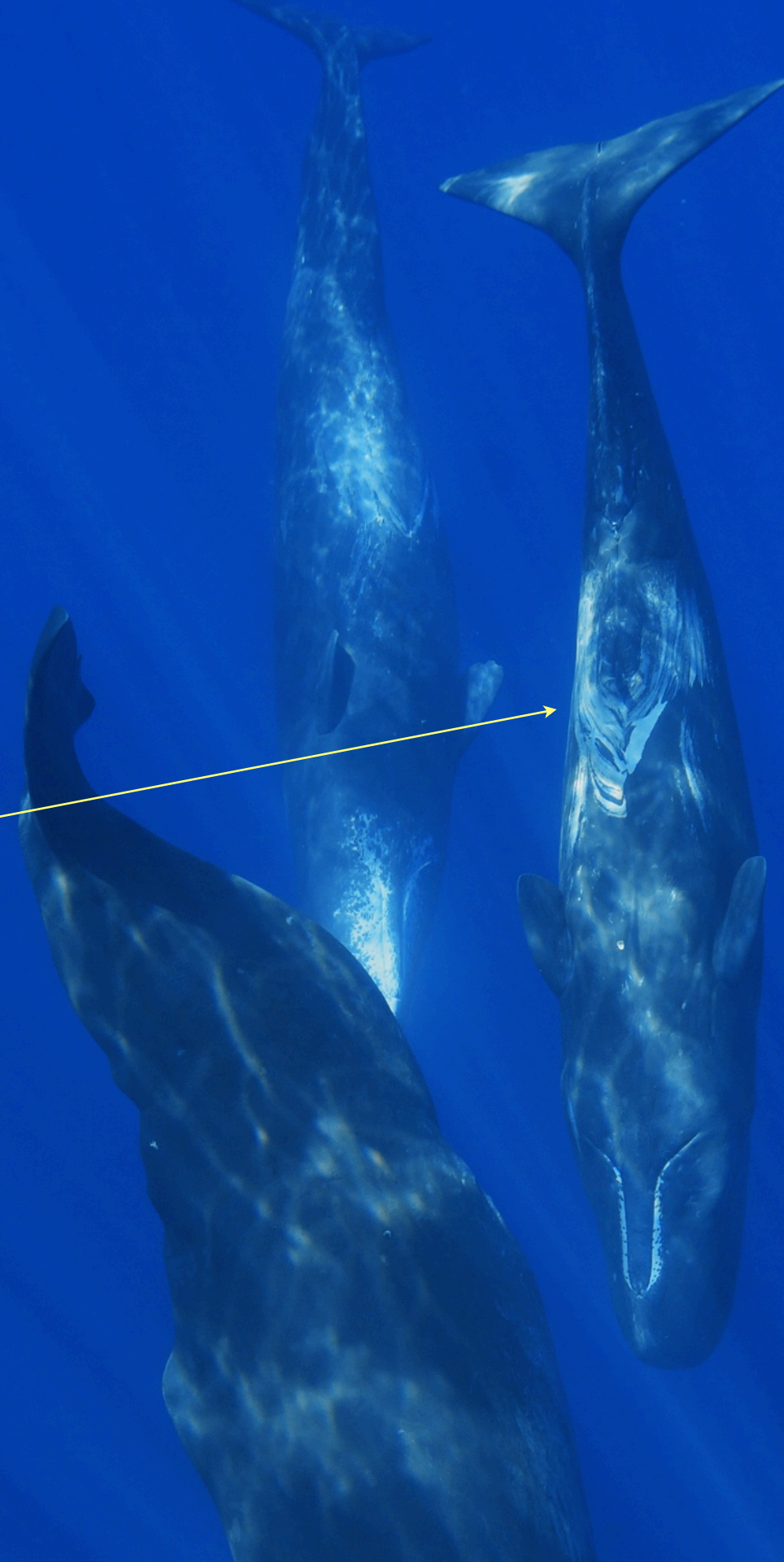
#3/ 2009 ♀

- Encountered alone on 11 Oct; Together with calf and four other adult females on 14 Oct
- Seems to be mother of calf and/ or leader of group
- Seen eating giant squid on 14 Oct
- Easy to ID white pattern ventral area and around mouth



#4/ 2009 ♀ Calf

- One female calf with this group of adult females on 14 Oct
- Curious, but shy
- Swam upside down a lot when we were in the water
- Lots of white on ventral area on torso
- Was unable to dive for long





#4/ 2009 ♀ Calf



#5/ 2009 ♀

- Encountered on 14 Oct
- Difficult to ID
- Two white spots above mouth on left, one white spot higher up
- Generally white lower ventral, but no distinct mark



#6/ 2009 ♀

- Encountered on 14 Oct, six minutes before our first sighting of #3/ 2009 eating giant squid
- Swimming together with #2/ 2009
- #6/ 2009 and #2/ 2009 not part of group of six whales with squid
- Identifiable by white marking ventral area



#7/ 2009 ♀

- Encountered on 14 Oct
- Part of group of six
- Crescent-shaped white mark on lower ventral area
- Seen here with #3/ 2009, swimming in for a close look at us





#8/ 2009 ♀

- Encountered on 14 Oct
- Identifiable by white marking ventral area
- Seen here with #3/ 2009 with squid in mouth and the calf, #4/ 2009

#9/ 2009 ♀

- Encountered on 14 Oct
- Part of group of six eating giant squid
- Seen here adjacent to #7/ 2009, following behind #8/ 2009. Calf at top right. Whale with no visible markings top left (unable to ID this one).



Group of Six Whales

Five adult females
plus one calf,
feeding on giant squid



Music:

Kodi by Dan Tharp

dantharpmusic.com



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