

WhaleFace



WhaleFace 2025 Summary

Thank you to everyone who contributed their sightings in 2025 and continues to support this vital citizen science program.

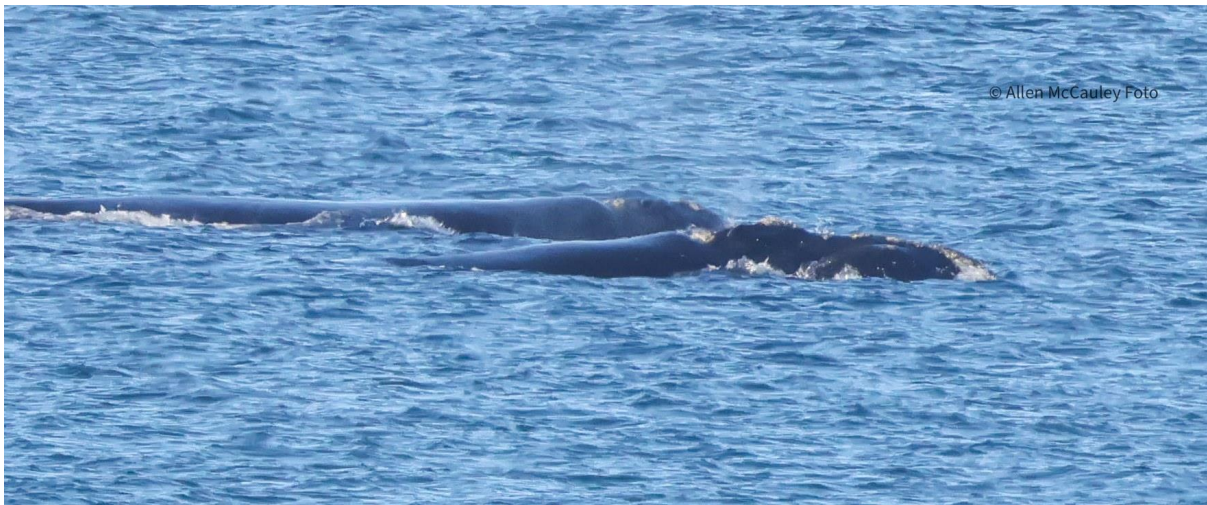
The whale-watching community and Victorian public continue to provide invaluable contributions to Southern Right Whale research. All records contribute to Victoria's photo-id catalogue and the Victorian government's whale sighting database.

Incidental sightings of Southern Right Whales are particularly helpful in understanding population movements and recovery. They complement other survey techniques by allowing for a more complete picture of whale movements over large areas and throughout time.

Unfortunately, due to resourcing constraints in 2025, we were unable to provide our regular WhaleNews updates during the season. We thank you for your understanding and patience as we navigate this challenging period for the program.

Cover photo by Coralee Thorsen

First Southern Right Whale sighting of 2025



21/05/2025 by Allan McCauley - Portland - photo above

Last Southern Right Whale sighting of 2025



29/09/2025 by Nita Tonkin - Cape Bridgewater - photo above

Number of sightings



Total approx. 120 reported cetacean sightings were entered into Whale Face in 2025.

Southern Right Whale Sightings: 95

Other species Sightings: 25 (Humpback, dolphins)

Dolphin photo above by Coralee Thorsen

Southern Right Whale sighting locations



Portland

Portland Bay, Cape Nelson/Lighthouse, Sparks Gully, Cape Bridgewater, Bridgewater Bay, Grant Bay, Scenic Drive, Petrified forest

Warrnambool

Logans Beach Viewing Platform/Whale nursery, Gauls Cave, Breakwater, Warrnambool South, Thunderpoint, Lake Gilliar

Port Fairy

East Beach

Surf coast/Great Ocean Road

*Torquay, Ocean Grove, Fairhaven Beach/Spilt Point Lighthouse, Fairhaven SLSC, Cape Patton
Lookout, Bay of Islands, Peterborough, Nirranda South, Port Campbell.*

Wilson Promontory

Wilson Promontory Light station

Gippsland

Sandy Point, Walkerville North.

Mornington Peninsula

St Andrews Beach, Portsea, Cape Schanck.

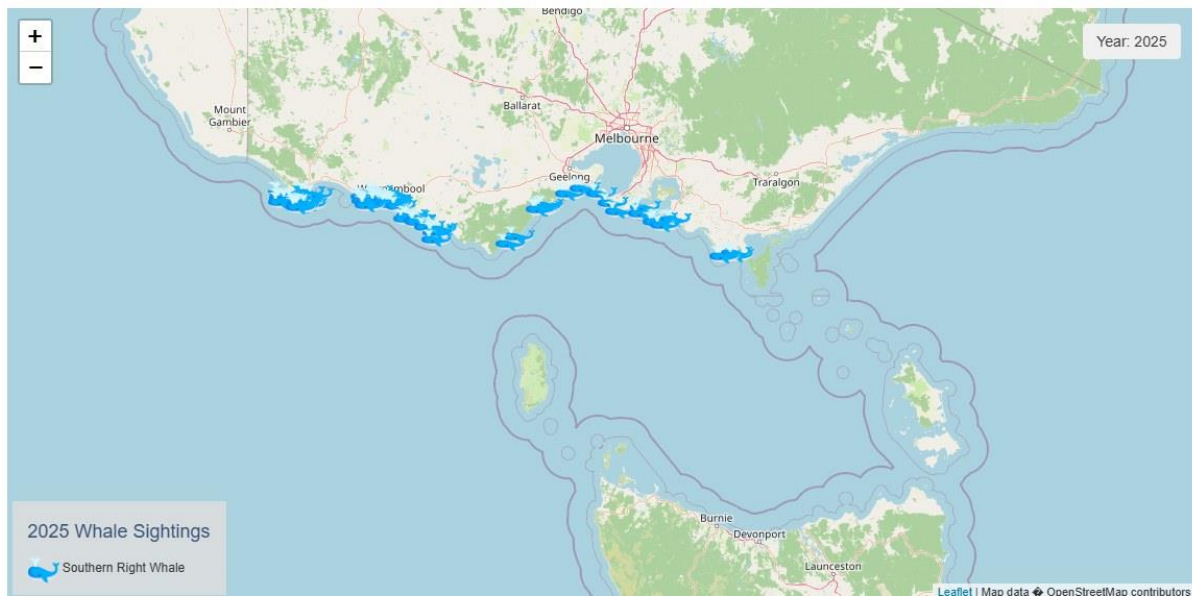
Phillip Island Region

Woolamai Beach, Cape Woolamai, Grossard Point, Cat Bay, Kilcunda.

Photo above by Tammy Renwick Patterson - Thunderpoint

Sighting Map

Main Menu



Cow calf pair sightings

First Cow calf pair sighted 4/7/25 by Maureen MacDonald at Port Campbell

Last Cow calf pair sighted 29/9/25 by Nita Tonkin at Cape Bridgewater

Number of cow calf pairs sighted 5

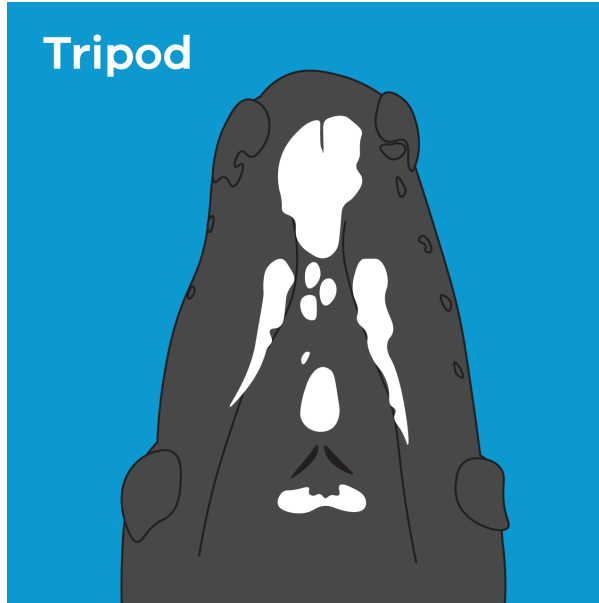
Sighting locations

Cape Bridgewater, Bridgewater Bay, Logans Beach, Sandpit towards Prom, Main Beach at Sandy Point, Walkerville north, Portland, Cape Nelson, Grant Bay/Portland, Lake Gilleear, Sparks gully, Port Campbell.

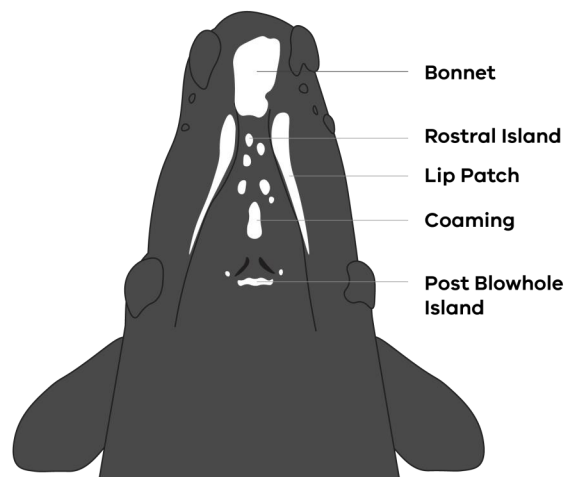
Overview

There were few sightings of Southern Right Whale mother-calf pairs over the 2025 period, with only one resident cow-calf pair in south-west Victoria, a known female (Tripod, SE0201) who has previously calved in SW Victoria eight times since 1995. She was sighted a number of times with a calf in the Warrnambool area during the 2025 season (between 16 June and 7 August 2025). The 2025 Southern Right Whale photo-identification data will be processed over the coming months.

Tripod



Individual Southern Right Whales can be identified by the callosities (white markings) on their heads. Identifying whales from a photo requires a clear image of the relevant markings that make up each whale's unique pattern, enabling it to be recorded and matched to future photos of the same individual. All photos of whales can be of use for research.



2025 WhaleFace contributors

Coralee Thorsen, Tammy Renwick-Patterson, Allan McCauley, Isabelle Escott, Stephanie Gould, Nita Tonkin, Robert Anderson, Maureen MacDonald, Shane Smith, Peter Webb, Andrew Young, Brett Lacco, Ben Eriksson, Ian Ryan, Ellie Gregory, Sharon Christopher, Alana Chantry, Sam Harrison, Pete James, John Morriseey, Ken Crawley, John Stapleton, David

Abbey, Mara Metcalfe, Rodney Harris, Kate Pahlow, Sarah Freeman, Christy Fejer, Wendy Hays, Caoimhe Tweedy, Helen Robertson, Georgia Bisset, Sophia Quach, Adele Usci, David Dwyer.



1 - Photo by Allen McCauley - Cape Nelson Lighthouse



2 - Photo by Allen McCauley - Cape Nelson Portland



3 - Photo by Andrew Young - 198 Nautical miles off Cape Woolamai



4 - Photo by David Abbey - Fairhaven beach rock shelf



© Tammy Patterson, Thunderpoint, 12 July 2025

5 - Photo by Tammy Renwick Patterson - Thunderpoint



© John Morrissey

6 - Photo by John Morrissey - Cape Bridgewater



© John Morrissey

7 - Photo by John Morrissey - Cape Nelson



Southern Right Whale CC
16-7-2025, Logans
Maureen Macdonald Photography

8 - Photo by Maureen Macdonald - Logans Beach



9 - Photo by Katie Pahlow - Fairhaven SLSC



10 - Photo by Katie Pahlow - Moggs Creek



Photo. By Nita..

11 - Photo by Nita Tonkin - Bridgewater Bay



Photo by Nita..

12 - Photo by Nita Tonkin - Cape Bridgewater



13 - Photo by Coralee Thorsen - Logans Beach



14 - Photo by Shane Smith - Cape Bridgewater

Photo credits included in captions

