

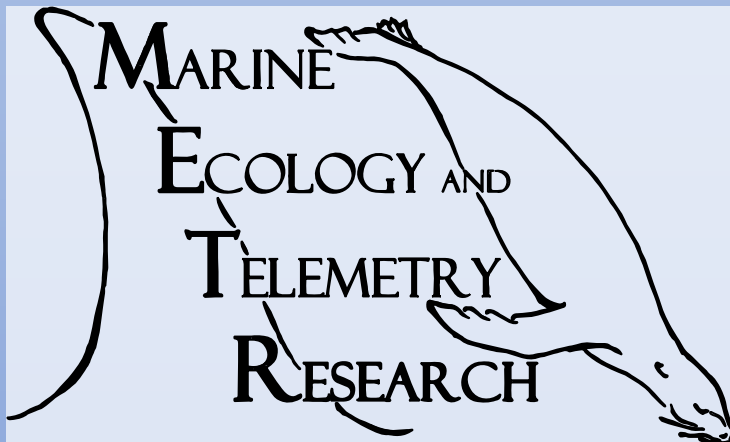


Scratching at the Surfacing:

Exploring Extended Surface Intervals in Cuvier's Beaked Whales

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- 1) Marine Ecology and Telemetry Research
- 2) Calvin University
- 3) Naval Undersea Warfare Center



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 - Dave Moretti
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Supporting Organizations/Individuals

- **Southern California Offshore Range**
- **Wildlife Computers**
- **Frank and Jane Falcone**
- **Peg and Rob Roy**

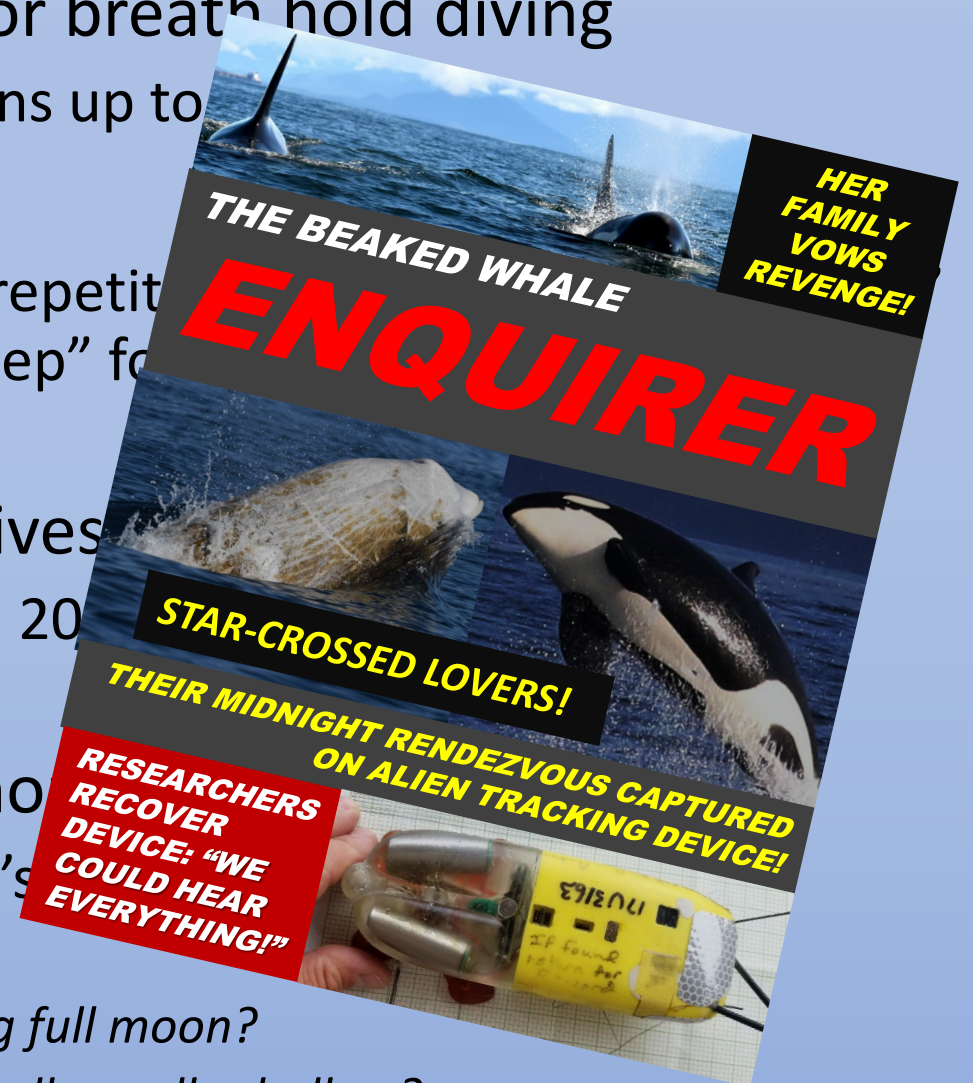
Leveraged Projects

- **Pacific Fleet:**
 - Beaked whale demographics through photo-ID and biopsy.
- **ONR:**
 - SMRT tag development
- **Calvin University:**
 - Open source tag calibration and analysis tools



Cuvier's Beaked Whale: The Consummate Diver

- Cuvier's hold the depth and duration records for breath hold diving
 - Maximum recorded depths of 3,000 m and durations up to 100 minutes
- Stereotypic diving
 - 90% of their lives are spent below the surface in a repetitive series of dives (20-30 min, 400+ m) separated by a "long, deep" foraging dive (1-2 hours, 1000+ m)
- Very little time at the surface between these dives
 - Whales satellite tagged in Southern California from 2005-2010 spent only 10 minutes between dives (n = 13,710)
- ... but very occasionally, they will go hours without surfacing
 - This happened almost exclusively at night, but that's not all
 - *Were they sleeping?*
 - *Were they feeding on surface swarming squid under a big full moon?*
 - *Were they at the surface the whole time, or just diving really, really shallow?*



Tags (or, how we know anything at all about beaked whales)

- High-resolution, longer-term tags with GPS location data provide insights into uncommon behaviors, like those extended surfacings

Telemetry Devices for Cuvier's Beaked Whales in Southern California



Suction-cup Archival

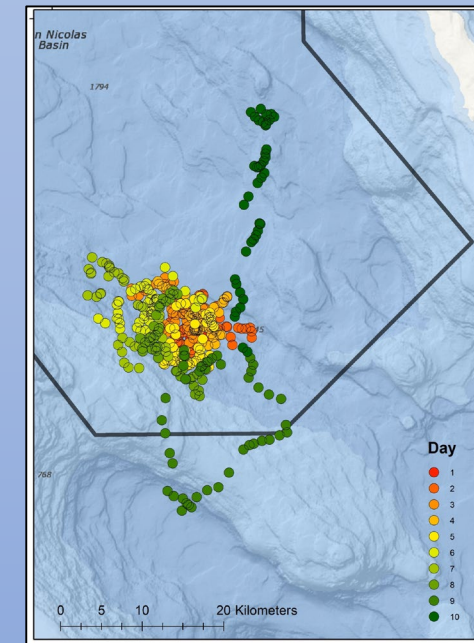
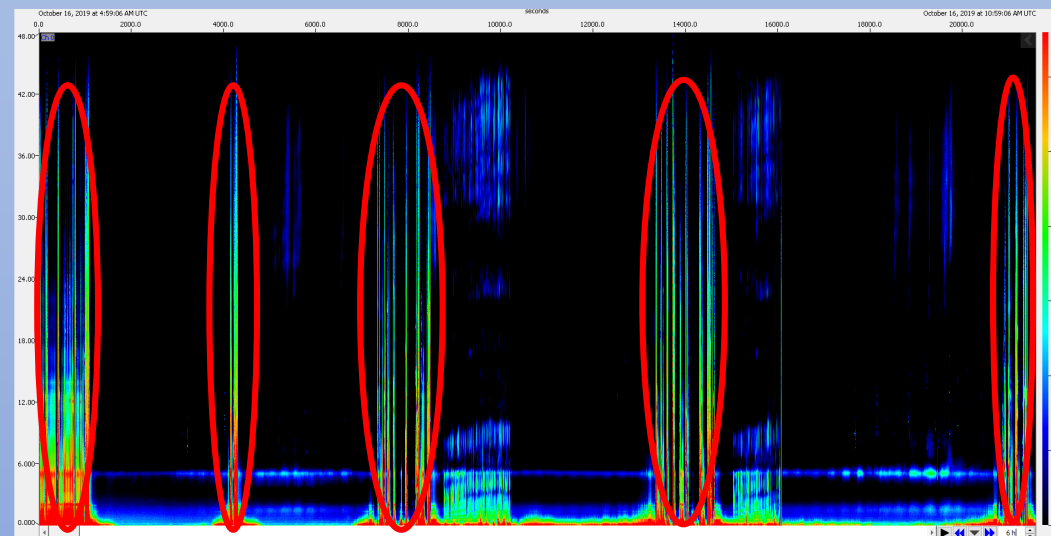
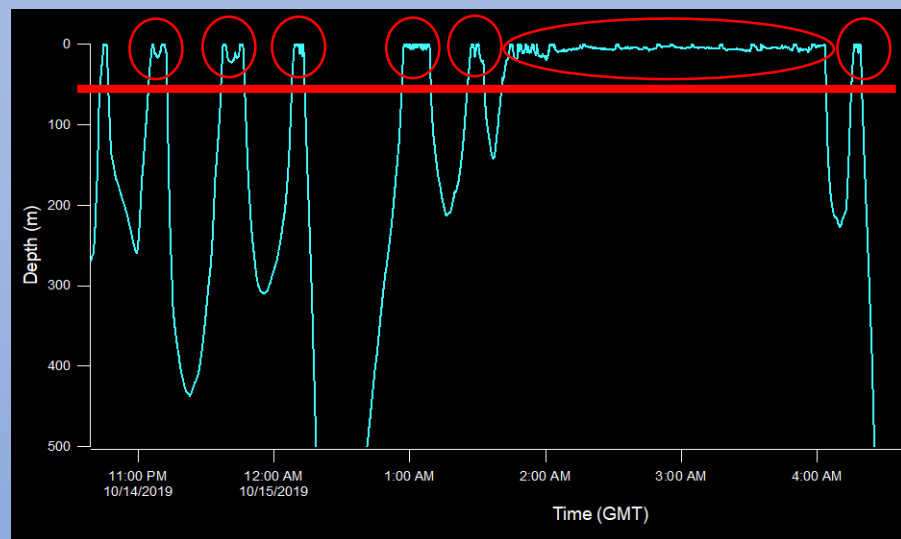
Dart-attached Satellite

Dart-attached Satellite-
Archival

Commercial name	<i>DTAG</i>	Wildlife Computers <i>LIMPET</i>	Wildlife Computers <i>SMRT</i>
Primary Years	2010-2012	2010-2017	2018-present
Location Data	None	(Mostly) Low resolution (Argos)	High resolution (GPS)
Diving Data	High resolution	Low Resolution	High Resolution
Kinematic Data	High resolution	-	High Resolution
Acoustics	Stereo	-	Mono
Duration	Hours	Weeks to Months	Days to Weeks
Application	Fine scale diving and foraging over short periods	Coarse scale diving and movements over long periods	Fine scale diving, foraging, and movements over long periods

Summarizing high-resolution surfacing data

- Depth data from SMRT tags was classified into “dives” and the “surface intervals” using the same definitions as LIMPET tags from the region
 - Dives were any submergence to deeper than 50 m for longer than 30 sec
- The acoustic record from each tag was audited for the following:
 - **Respiratory bouts:** the timing and total number of breaths within each surface interval
 - Military sonar use: these whales change their behavior in response to sonar use so we excluded intervals when sonar was detected
- GPS data were used to assess horizontal displacement rates between, and sometimes within, surface intervals when available



Surface Intervals from five SMRT Tags in 2019



TagID	Total Tag Duration (hours)	Surface Intervals	Median Duration (minutes)	Max Duration (minutes)	Mean Resp. Rate (Resps per minute, RPM)	Mean Depth (meters)	Mean Disp. Rate (km/hr)	Max Disp. Rate (km/hr)
Zica-20190113-151361	9.2	18	1.9	21.6	6.8	1.9	1.4	2.8
Zica-20191012-144029	126.1	249	1.4	101.4	7.9	1.4	2.7	9.9
Zica-20191012-145101	121.4	287	1.7	139.1	7.3	2.0	2.2	9.1
Zica-20191111-94810	287.4*	512	1.9	114.6	6.9	1.2	2.1	10.0
Zica-20191117-195993	5.8	11	2.1	2.6	8.3	0.6	3.2	5.0

* Only 134.4 hours of acoustic data due to duty cycling

- The vast majority of trips to the surface were efficient gas exchange missions
 - Take 10-15 breaths, and get back to diving
 - Remain within 2 m of the surface from first to last breath
- However, all whales but one conducted at least one unusually long surface bout during the deployment

The top 5% of durations consisted of 34 surface intervals lasting 18 - 139 minutes

- All but two occurred at night
- Respirations were usually clustered into discrete bouts
- There was considerable variation in all metrics considered

Likely more than one underlying behavior state is occurring

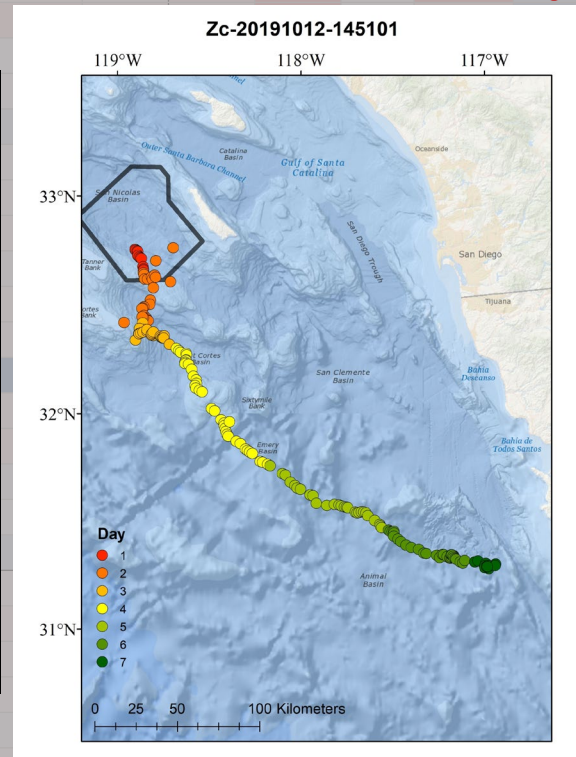
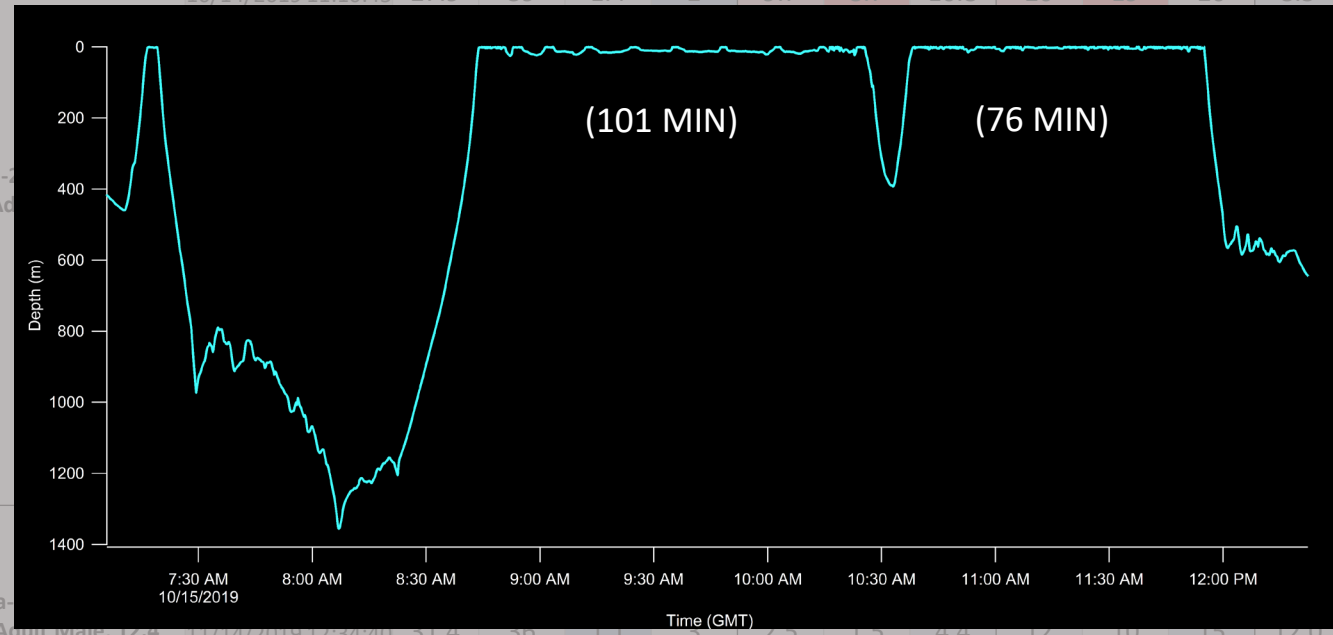
TagID	Start Time	Dur	Resps	RPM	Bouts	Resp Bout Dur			Resps per Bout			Resp Bout Interval			RPM Bout			Mean Depth	Mean Disp
						Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max		
Zica-20190113-151361	1/14/2019 4:03:03	21.6	30	1.4	2	6.1	3.7	8.5	15	14	16	9.4	9.4	9.4	3.8	3.8	3.8	4.3	2.8
Zica-20191012-144029 (Subadult of unknown sex, no prior sighting history, 5.9 days)	10/13/2019 10:52:08	22.4	39	1.7	3	3.9	0.6	10.3	13	6	26	5.4	5.4	5.4	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.9	2.8
	10/14/2019 11:46:48	20.4	33	1.6	9	0.5	0.0	1.3	4	1	9	2.0	0.8	4.3	15.2	7.1	60.0	3.9	2.7
	10/15/2019 8:44:00	101.4	108	1.1	9	2.4	1.0	10.4	12	8	28	9.9	7.1	12.8	6.8	2.7	8.2	9.7	3.7
	10/15/2019 10:38:24	76.6	80	1.0	3	20.6	0.9	51.9	27	7	58	7.4	7.0	7.8	4.6	1.7	7.5	2.5	5.6
	10/16/2019 4:59:22	18.1	26	1.4	5	0.6	0.1	1.6	5	2	12	3.7	2.0	5.9	9.6	7.7	13.3	1.8	9.9
	10/16/2019 7:01:30	19.4	35	1.8	6	0.8	0.4	1.4	6	4	9	2.9	1.6	4.0	7.3	5.6	9.6	5.2	3.4
	10/17/2019 1:36:02	22.8	38	1.7	3	2.8	0.8	6.4	13	7	21	7.1	6.2	7.9	8.0	7.8	8.3	16.4	4.0
	10/17/2019 8:29:14	29.2	48	1.6	7	0.8	0.3	1.3	7	3	11	4.0	1.8	7.0	9.0	7.5	10.0	3.9	5.8
Zica-20191012-145101 (Adult Female with 2-year-old calf in attendance, 5-year sighting history, 6.3 days)	10/17/2019 11:05:54	21.0	51	2.4	7	1.2	0.2	4.3	7	2	19	2.1	0.7	3.5	8.7	7.6	12.0	3.6	4.0
	10/14/2019 4:25:53	30.2	30	1.0	3	1.0	0.9	1.2	10	9	11	13.6	12.7	14.4	10.0	9.5	10.5	19.0	2.4
	10/14/2019 7:26:57	28.8	46	1.6	2	5.5	1.9	9.0	23	18	28	17.9	17.9	17.9	9.4	9.4	9.4	12.1	1.9
	10/14/2019 11:10:45	27.9	39	1.4	2	9.7	8.7	10.8	20	19	20	8.5	8.5	8.5	1.8	1.8	1.8	10.8	
	10/14/2019 12:26:37	25.3	39	1.5	3	1.7	1.1	2.8	13	11	16	10.1	9.0	11.1	9.6	9.3	9.8	9.9	1.2
	10/15/2019 1:44:13	139.1	116	0.8	11	2.2	0.2	6.7	11	3	17	11.5	6.8	17.1	8.5	2.5	13.5	4.9	4.6
	10/15/2019 6:58:15	18.0	37	2.1	2	4.5	0.9	8.0	19	9	28	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.7	9.7	9.7	11.9	1.8
	10/15/2019 8:26:07	86.4	38	1.0	6	3.7	1.0	16.3	15	10	30	12.8	10.7	16.2	8.0	1.8	10.1	8.3	4.0
Zica-20191111-94810 (Adult Male, 17-year sighting history, 5.6 days)	10/15/2019 10:11:57	30.8	46	1.5	3	2.1	1.5	3.0	15	13	17	12.2	12.0	12.5	9.0	9.0	9.0	7.4	2.7
	10/15/2019 12:03:55	54.9	69	1.3	5	1.7	1.2	3.2	14	11	20	11.6	8.2	15.8	9.3	9.0	9.5	8.1	3.4
	10/15/2019 18:59:41	31.8	39	1.2	3	1.4	1.2	1.5	13	11	15	13.8	11.6	16.0	9.4	9.0	9.8	19.0	1.6
	10/15/2019 21:34:57	21.2	37	1.7	2	5.1	1.4	8.7	19	11	26	11.1	11.1	11.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	8.7	
	10/16/2019 1:56:31	20.3	39	1.9	6	0.7	0.1	1.5	7	2	13	3.2	1.2	6.7	10.6	8.6	15.0	2.2	7.1
	10/16/2019 3:13:47	20.7	22	1.1	2	4.2	1.3	7.2	11	10	12	12.3	12.3	12.3	1.7	1.7	1.7	5.5	3.6
	10/16/2019 8:13:33	24.8	36	1.4	2	4.5	1.1	7.9	18	11	25	15.8	15.8	15.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	16.5	4.1
	10/17/2019 2:21:45	32.2	53	1.6	3	4.2	1.5	9.6	18	12	28	9.8	7.9	11.7	8.3	8.2	8.3	5.0	3.5
Zica-20191111-94810 (Adult Male, 17-year sighting history, 5.6 days)	10/17/2019 8:35:09	20.4	36	1.8	2	5.9	5.4	6.5	18	16	20	8.5	8.5	8.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	8.0	0.0
	10/17/2019 10:45:35	101.3	122	1.2	5	13.1	2.4	29.6	24	12	54	9.0	6.3	12.1	2.9	1.1	5.1	3.6	8.4
	11/13/2019 11:27:20	20.2	24	1.2	2	4.5	1.7	7.2	12	11	13	11.2	11.2	11.2	6.5	6.5	6.5	17.0	
	11/14/2019 6:17:02	19.1	29	1.5	2	2.8	1.5	4.1	15	12	17	13.6	13.6	13.6	8.1	8.1	8.1	21.1	0.7
	11/14/2019 9:11:25	32.7	31	0.9	3	2.0	1.1	3.6	10	9	11	13.4	10.7	16.0	8.1	8.0	8.2	21.4	
	11/14/2019 12:34:40	31.4	36	1.1	3	2.5	1.5	4.4	12	10	15	12.0	11.2	12.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	17.7	0.7
	11/15/2019 1:14:36	23.0	32	1.4	3	2.1	0.9	3.8	11	8	14	8.4	8.1	8.8	7.6	6.5	8.7	9.6	1.8
11/15/2019 10:17:04	29.8	29	1.0	3	2.0	1.3	3.5	10	9	10	11.8	10.6	13.1	7.2	6.7	7.8	19.2		
11/16/2019 7:30:28	19.1	28	1.5	2	2.7	1.8	3.7	14	14	14	13.7	13.7	13.7	8.0	8.0	8.0	16.8	2.0	
Mean of upper 5% of Duration		36.5	47	1.4	4	3.8	1.5	7.7	13	9	20	9.7	8.6	11.0	7.6	6.4	9.9	10.2	3.5
Mean of lower 95% of Duration		2.4	14	7.7	1	2.4	2.4	2.4	14	14	14	44.9	44.7	45.0	7.7	7.7	7.7	1.3	2.3

Individual variation in long surface intervals

- This whale tended to conduct frequent, brief respiratory bouts
- Its respiratory rate during these bouts was often elevated
- Typically remained within 10 m of the surface
- Displaced at higher than average rates

THE TRAVELER (LA VIAJERA)

TagID	Start Time	Dur	Resps	RPM	Resp Bout Dur			Resps per Bout			Resp Bout Interval			RPM Bout			Mean Depth	Mean Disp	
					Bouts	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min			Max
Zica-20190113-151361	1/14/2019 4:03:03	21.6	30	1.4	2	6.1	3.7	8.5	15	14	16	9.4	9.4	9.4	3.8	3.8	3.8	4.3	2.8
Zica-20191012-144029 (Subadult of unknown sex, no prior sighting history, 5.9 days)	10/13/2019 10:52:08	22.4	39	1.7	3	3.9	0.6	10.3	13	6	26	5.4	5.4	5.4	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.9	2.8
	10/14/2019 11:46:48	20.4	33	1.6	9	0.5	0.0	1.3	4	1	9	2.0	0.8	4.3	15.2	7.1	60.0	3.9	2.7
	10/15/2019 8:44:00	101.4	108	1.1	9	2.4	1.0	10.4	12	8	28	9.9	7.1	12.8	6.8	2.7	8.2	9.7	3.7
	10/15/2019 10:38:24	76.6	80	1.0	3	20.6	0.9	51.9	27	7	58	7.4	7.0	7.8	4.6	1.7	7.5	2.5	5.6
	10/16/2019 4:59:22	18.1	26	1.4	5	0.6	0.1	1.6	5	2	12	3.7	2.0	5.9	9.6	7.7	13.3	1.8	9.9
	10/16/2019 7:01:30	19.4	35	1.8	6	0.8	0.4	1.4	6	4	9	2.9	1.6	4.0	7.3	5.6	9.6	5.2	3.4
	10/17/2019 1:36:02	22.8	38	1.7	3	2.8	0.8	6.4	13	7	21	7.1	6.2	7.9	8.0	7.8	8.3	16.4	4.0
	10/17/2019 8:29:24	29.2	48	1.6	7	0.8	0.3	1.3	7	3	11	4.0	1.8	7.0	9.0	7.5	10.0	3.9	5.8
	10/17/2019 11:05:54	21.0	51	2.4	7	1.2	0.2	4.3	7	2	19	2.1	0.7	3.5	8.7	7.6	12.0	3.6	4.0

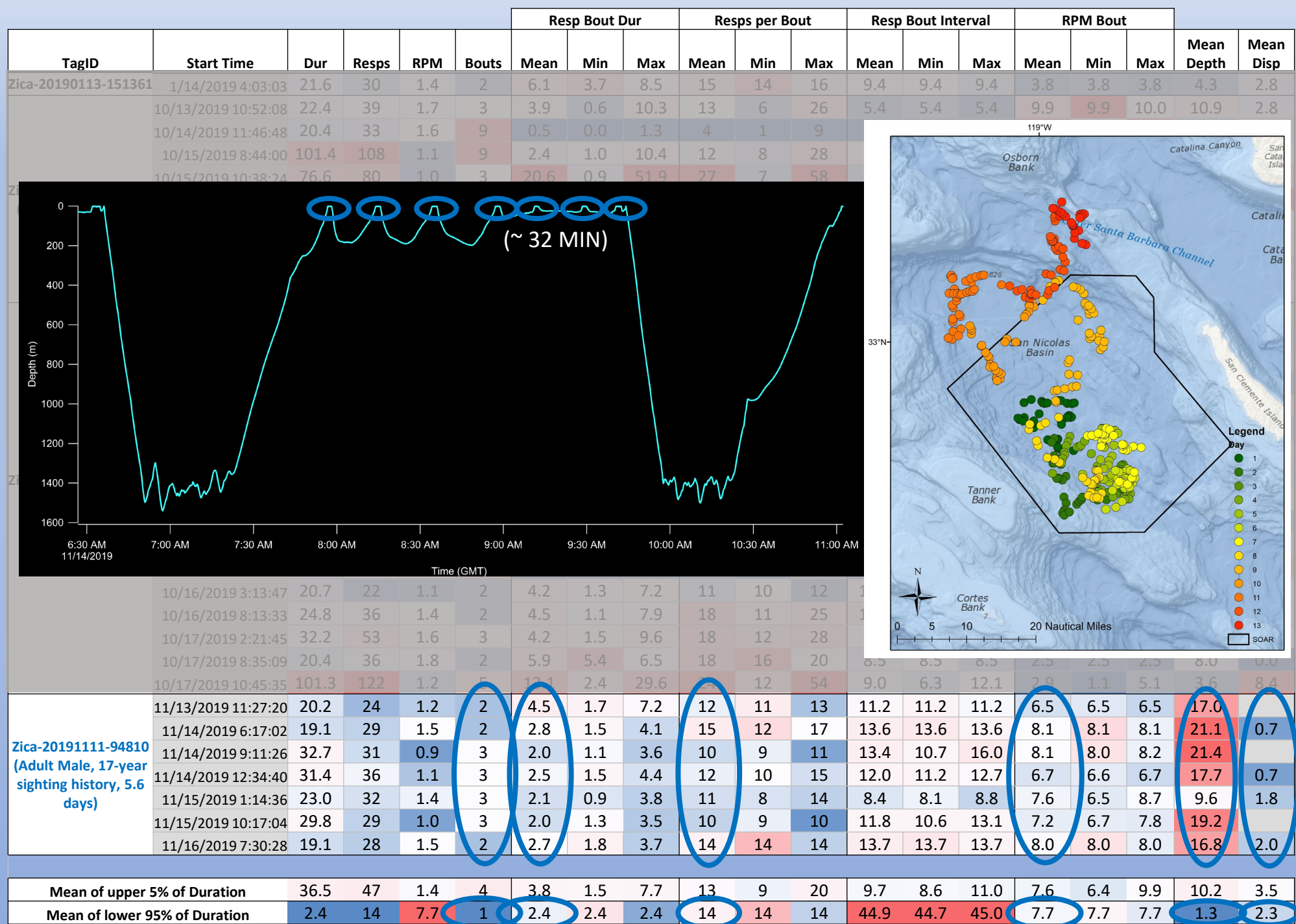


Zica-20191012-144029	10/14/2019 4:25:53	30.2	30	1.0	3	1.0	0.9	1.2	10	9	11	15.6	12.7	14.4	10.0	9.5	10.5	10.0	2.9
Zica-20191012-144029	10/14/2019 7:26:57	28.8	46	1.6	2	5.5	1.9	9.0	23	18	28	17.9	17.9	17.9	17.9	17.9	17.9	17.9	17.9
Zica-20191012-144029	10/14/2019 11:10:45	27.9	39	1.4	2	9.7	8.7	10.8	20	19	20	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
Zica-20191012-145101	11/14/2019 12:34:40	31.4	36	1.1	3	2.5	1.5	4.4	12	10	15	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Zica-20191012-145101	11/15/2019 1:14:36	23.0	32	1.4	3	2.1	0.9	3.8	11	8	14	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4
Zica-20191012-145101	11/15/2019 10:17:04	29.8	29	1.0	3	2.0	1.3	3.5	10	9	10	11.8	10.6	13.1	7.2	6.7	7.8	19.2	2.0
Zica-20191012-145101	11/16/2019 7:30:28	19.1	28	1.5	2	2.7	1.8	3.7	14	14	14	13.7	13.7	13.7	8.0	8.0	8.0	16.8	2.0

Mean of upper 5% of Duration	36.5	47	1.4	4	3.8	1.5	7.7	13	9	20	9.7	8.6	11.0	7.6	6.4	9.9	10.2	3.5
Mean of lower 95% of Duration	2.4	14	7.7	1	2.4	2.4	2.4	14	14	14	44.9	44.7	45.0	7.7	7.7	7.7	1.3	2.3

Individual variation in long surface intervals

- Fewer long intervals and fewer respiratory bouts per interval
 - These bouts were similar to typical surface intervals
- Deeper depths between respiratory bouts and slower displacement than other long intervals



THE SLACKER?

Why dive to 200 m when you can just dive to 20?

OR, PERHAPS,

THE SOCIAL BUTTERFLY?

All these intervals coincide with a period of changing social affiliations

Individual variation in long surface intervals

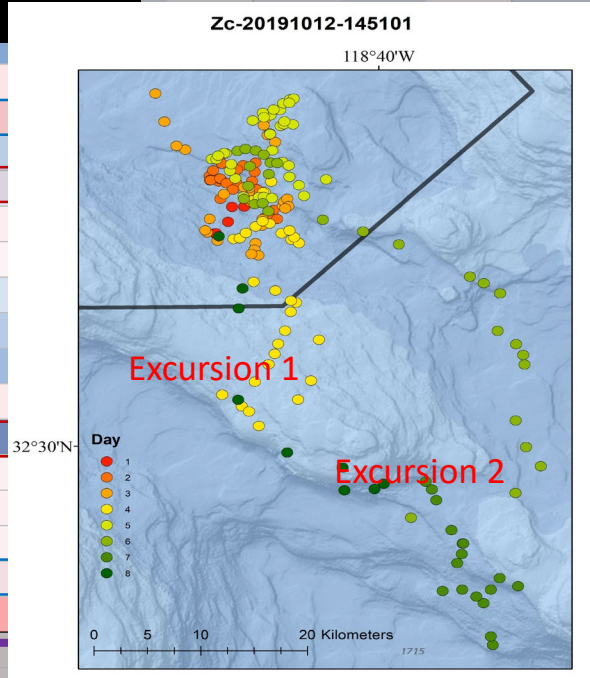
- Frequent long intervals, up to seven in 24 hrs, including two during daylight hours
- Respiratory behavior was highly variable among intervals

THE SUPERFICIAL TYPE?

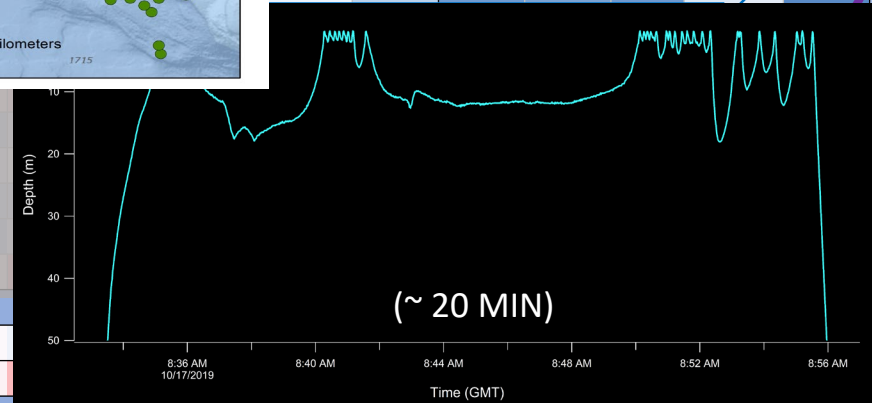
But of course, this behavior may be more common in mothers with calves



Time (GMT)	Duration (min)	Max Depth (m)	Mean Depth (m)	Min Depth (m)	Max Resp (per 10 min)	Mean Resp (per 10 min)	Min Resp (per 10 min)
10/14/2019 4:25:53	30.2	30	1.0	3			
10/14/2019 7:26:57	28.8	46	1.6	2			
10/14/2019 11:10:45	27.9	39	1.4	2			
10/14/2019 12:26:37	25.3	39	1.5	3			
10/15/2019 1:44:13	139.1	116	0.8	11			
10/15/2019 6:58:15	18.0	37	2.1	2			
10/15/2019 8:26:07	86.4	88	1.0	6			
10/15/2019 10:11:57	30.8	46	1.5	3			
10/15/2019 12:03:55	54.9	69	1.3	5			
10/15/2019 18:59:41	31.8	39	1.2	3			
10/15/2019 21:34:57	21.2	37	1.7	2			
10/16/2019 1:56:31	20.3	39	1.9	6			
10/16/2019 3:13:47	20.7	22	1.1	2			
10/16/2019 8:13:33	24.8	36	1.4	2			
10/17/2019 2:21:45	32.2	53	1.6	3			
10/17/2019 8:35:09	20.4	36	1.8	2			
10/17/2019 10:45:35	101.3	122	1.2	5			



	Resp Bout Dur			Resps per Bout			Resp Bout Interval			RPM Bout			Mean Depth	Mean Disp
	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min		
	8.5	15	14	16	9.4	9.4	9.4	3.8	3.8	3.8	4.3	2.8		
	10.3	13	6	26	5.4	5.4	5.4	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.9	2.8		
	1.3	4	1	9	2.0	0.8	4.3	15.2	7.1	60.0	3.9	2.7		
	10.4	12	8	28	9.9	7.1	12.8	6.8	2.7	8.2	9.7	3.7		
	51.9	27	7	58	7.4	7.0	7.8	4.6	1.7	7.5	2.5	5.6		
	1.6	5	2	12	3.7	2.0	5.9	9.6	7.7	13.3	1.8	9.9		
	1.4	6	4	9	2.9	1.6	4.0	7.3	5.6	9.6	5.2	3.4		
	6.4	13	7	21	7.1	6.2	7.9	8.0	7.8	8.3	16.4	4.0		
	1.3	7	3	11	4.0	1.8	7.0	9.0	7.5	10.0	3.9	5.8		
	0.7	3.5	0.7	3.5	8.7	7.6	12.0	3.6	4.0					
	12.7	14.4	10.0	9.5	10.5	19.0	2.4							
	17.9	17.9	9.4	9.4	9.4	12.1	1.9							
	8.5	8.5	1.8	1.8	1.8	10.8								
	9.0	11.1	9.6	9.3	9.8	9.9	1.2							
	6.8	17.1	8.5	2.5	13.5	4.9	4.6							
	9.1	9.1	9.7	9.7	9.7	11.9	1.8							
	10.7	16.2	8.0	1.8	10.1	8.3	4.0							
	12.0	12.5	9.0	9.0	9.0	7.4	2.7							
	8.2	15.8	9.3	9.0	9.5	8.1	3.4							
	11.6	16.0	9.4	9.0	9.8	19.0	1.6							
	11.1	11.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	8.7								
	1.2	6.7	10.6	8.6	15.0	2.2	7.1							
	12.3	12.3	1.7	1.7	1.7	5.5	3.6							
	15.8	15.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	16.5	4.1							
	7.9	11.7	8.3	8.2	8.3	5.0	3.5							
	8.5	8.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	8.0	0.0							



Mean of upper 5% of Duration	36.5	47	1.4	4	3.8	1.5	7.7	13
Mean of lower 95% of Duration	2.4	14	7.7	1	2.4	2.4	2.4	14

The longest intervals were associated with shallow depths and elevated displacement rates

- Respiratory bouts were often highly variable, even within an interval, but included some of the lowest overall respiratory rates
- These rates occurred during long respiratory bouts where whales remained above 10 m depth, breathing every 20-40 sec.

Efficient, near-surface traveling



In conclusion

- Occasional prolonged surface intervals occur almost exclusively at night, and appear to support a variety of underlying behavior states
 - There was no evidence of foraging (or killer whales) at or near the surface
- The longest surface intervals appear to be associated with near-surface traveling
 - Whales may use these intervals to efficiently relocate without investing time and energy in vertical displacement at times when risk from visual predators is lower
- Nine more SMRT tags have been deployed in 2021-2022
 - Larger sample size will support quantitative analyses of surface behaviors
 - These fine-scale movement, diving, and respiratory records will be used to better understand physiology in this difficult to study species



Related Presentations

- **Coates et al. “Insights into Foraging Behavior from Multi-day Sound Recording Tag Deployments on Cuvier’s Beaked Whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*) in the Southern California Bight”**
Conference Speed Talk –
Behavior I (F3), Wednesday, 13:30 – 15:30
- **Keene et al. “Re-sighting Histories of Dart- Attached Tags in Cuvier’s Beaked Whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*) and Fin Whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*) in the Eastern Pacific Ocean”**
Conference Speed Talk –
Ecology - Abundance, Distribution, Occurrence- oh my! (B1), Monday, 13:30 – 15:30
- **Schorr et al. “Context Matters: Multi-day to Multi-week Sound and Movement Tag Recordings Reveal Individual Variation in Responses of Cuvier’s Beaked Whales to Navy Sonar”**
Conference Presentation – Room 2ABC
Behavior – Human Impacts II (D3), Tuesday, 17:00 – 17:15
- **Sweeney et al. “Cuvier’s Beaked Whale Behavioral Responses Persist After Conclusion of Some Navy Sonar Exposures”**
Conference Poster – Exhibit Hall
Behavior Group A, Tuesday, 10:30 - 12:00
- **Watwood et al. “Probability of detection of beaked whale clicks on a distributed bottom-mounted hydrophone array based on data from acoustic recording animal-borne tags”**