



TWO BAYS WHALE PROJECT BRIEF

The Two Bays Whale Project is a new citizen science initiative designed to formalise what has previously been the informal but mostly robust recording of sightings of large cetacean species' within Port Phillip, Westernport and adjacent waters (Barwon Heads to Inverloch). The current dataset dates back to 2000 with some supplementary sightings from previous years back to 1984.

This project will provide a repository for fin, fluke (humpback), lateral jaw line and callosities (southern right) photographic identification imagery. The image repository will be a resource for existing identification catalogues eg: Victorian southern right whale catalogue and the Victorian humpback whale fluke catalogue.

The key species for this citizen science project will be humpback and southern right whales but may also include other species such as killer, minke and blue whales (also occasionally seen in nearby waters).

The objectives of this project are to;

- create a strong sightings network through engagement of key stakeholders and the general public,
- record movements of large cetacean species' within Port Phillip, Westernport and nearby waters (Barwon Coast to Inverloch),
- provide a repository for identification images (primarily for humpback and southern right whales),
- add value to the Victorian Wildlife Atlas and
- use these data to support current and future large cetacean management plans.

The primary contact numbers for reporting sightings are:

Westernport, Phillip Island and the Bass Coast - 0487 745 066

Barwon Coast to Flinders, including Port Phillip - 0438 399 676

There is also a Facebook page where sightings may be lodged via a message. The page will also provide weekly updates on whale sightings and other related news.

<https://www.facebook.com/twobayswhales>

We look forward to your involvement and support.

Kind regards,

The Two Bays Team