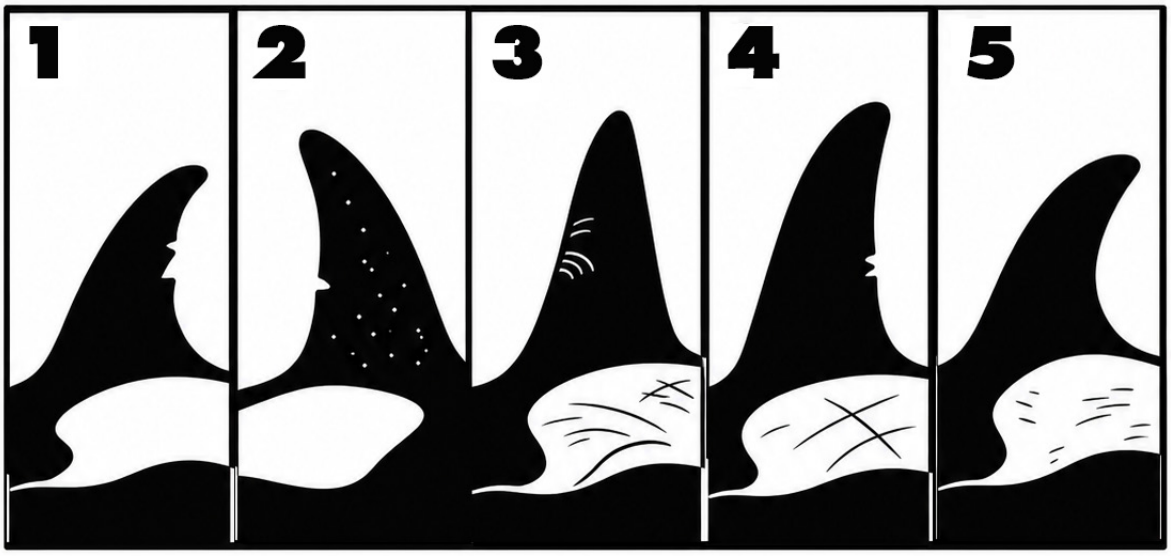
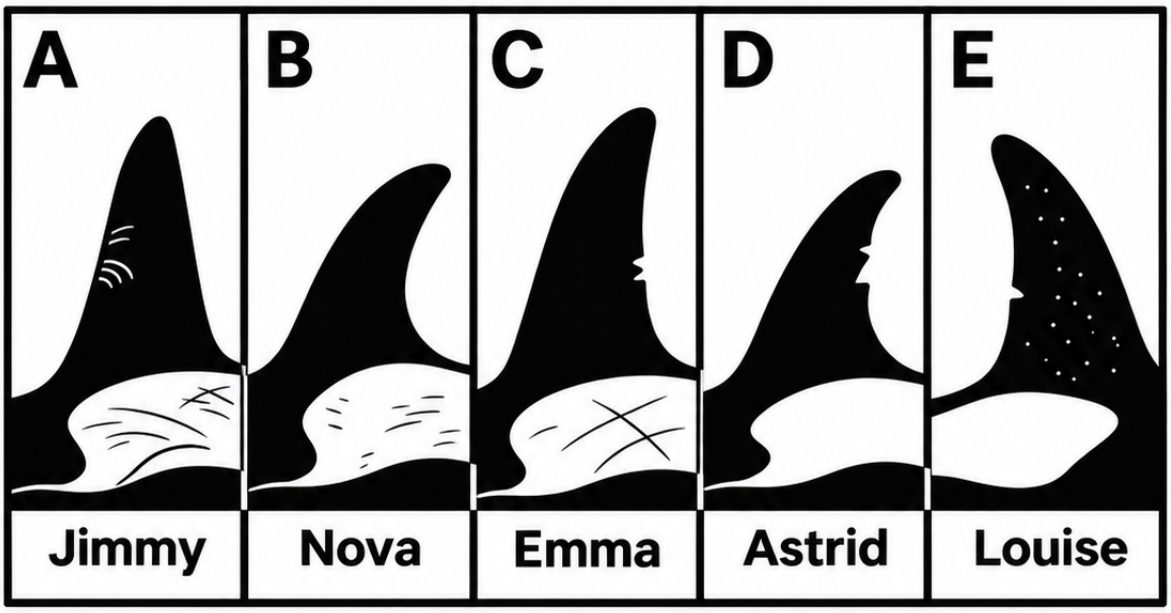
Orca IDs: Dorsal Fins & Saddle Patches

Scientists identify individual orcas by the shape of their dorsal fins, along with notches, scars, and markings on their saddle patches. These illustrations represent orcas seen in Monterey Bay. Match each numbered fin to its lettered match.
You might even see one of these orcas on a whale-watching trip!





OCEAN FACT
Three main North Pacific orca ecotypes are residents, which mostly eat fish; transients, which hunt marine mammals; and offshores, which are known to eat sharks and other fish.