

New baby orca spotted in Washington waters

September 8 2014

Whale researchers are celebrating a newborn orca in the waters off San Juan Island in Washington state.

The newest member of a population of endangered [killer whales](#) that frequent Puget Sound was observed over the weekend swimming between two [adult females](#), most likely the orca's mom and aunt.

Ken Balcomb with the Center for Whale Research says the orca probably is less than 1 week old. Researchers don't know yet whether it's a boy or a girl.

Balcomb says the new baby is reason to celebrate after two whale deaths this year. But he cautions that [orcas](#) are still struggling because of pollution, lack of food and other reasons.

Balcomb says the newborn orca, designated L-120, brings the number of killer whales in the Puget Sound population to 79.

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