

Rare photo captures sea lion falling into mouth of whale

July 31 2019



A sea lion accidentally caught in the mouth of a humpback whale in Monterey Bay, California

In a stunning photo, a wildlife photographer has captured a sea lion falling into the mouth of a humpback whale in what he calls a "once-in-a-

lifetime" moment.

Chase Dekker, who is also a [marine biologist](#), took the spectacular shot during a whale-watching boat trip off the coast of Monterey Bay, in California, last week.

"I get to see a lot of crazy stuff but never this," said the 27-year-old who has been taking pictures of wildlife for nearly a decade.

He said he was on a whale-watching boat trip on July 22 when he noticed a group of humpback [whales](#) on a feeding frenzy.

As the animals were munching on anchovies, an unlucky [sea lion](#) failed to get out of the way in time and ended up inside the whale's mouth, Dekker recounted in interviews and an Instagram post.

He said he quickly grabbed his camera and began snapping pictures of the incredible moment.

"I was ecstatic because I captured a moment I may never see again," he said.

But rest assured, Dekker said, the whale never closed its jaws on the sea lion which was probably very shaken by the experience but managed to swim away.

"That sea [lion](#) had the true 'Jonah Experience'," he said on [Instagram](#).

[View this post on Instagram](#)

Just the other day I witnessed something out on Monterey Bay I had never seen

before. While the humpbacks were lunge feeding on a school of anchovies, a sea lion apparently didn't jump out of the way fast enough and got trapped inside the whales mouth! At some point the sea lion escaped and the whale seemed fine too as it continued to feed, but it must have been a strange experience for both parties! That sea lion had the true "Jonah Experience"!

A post shared by [Chase Dekker Wild-Life Images \(@chasedekkerphotography\)](#) on Jul 24, 2019 at 10:13am PDT

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