

Summary of 6 Calf Sightings for A Single Female Humpback Whale

This is a summary of sightings for a single female humpback whale that has been documented with six different calves. All sightings are from the Vava'u island group in the Kingdom of Tonga.

If you come across this female in Vava'u, please take photos and [contact me via email](#). It would be great to add to this chronology of baby whales.

Note that there is a slight difference in the patterns on her left and right sides (see photos for 2012 season).

1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Blue	Red	Grey	Grey	Red	Grey	Grey	Red	Grey	Grey	Red	Red	Grey	Grey	Red	Grey

Blue = Sighted, no calf.

Red = Sighted, with calf.

2012 Sightings: Calf 201217



03 September: High winds and rough seas. Only managed a single drop with the female, calf and escort.

A challenger approached, and the escort rebuffed it twice at high speed and with extreme prejudice. ([Location](#)) ([Blog Post](#))



28 September: No escorts present during this encounter. Courtesy Kirsty Bowe. ([Location](#))

2009 Sightings: Calf 200929 ♀



02 October: Near Taunga. Courtesy Nonie Silver.
([Blog Post](#))



03 October: Around White Patch, toward North Bay. Courtesy Karen Stone.

2008 Sighting: Calf 200816



12 September: Starting at White Patch, moved to North Bay.

2005 Sighting: No Calf ID Designation ♂



16 August: Location unrecorded. Photographed before I started my calf ID efforts.

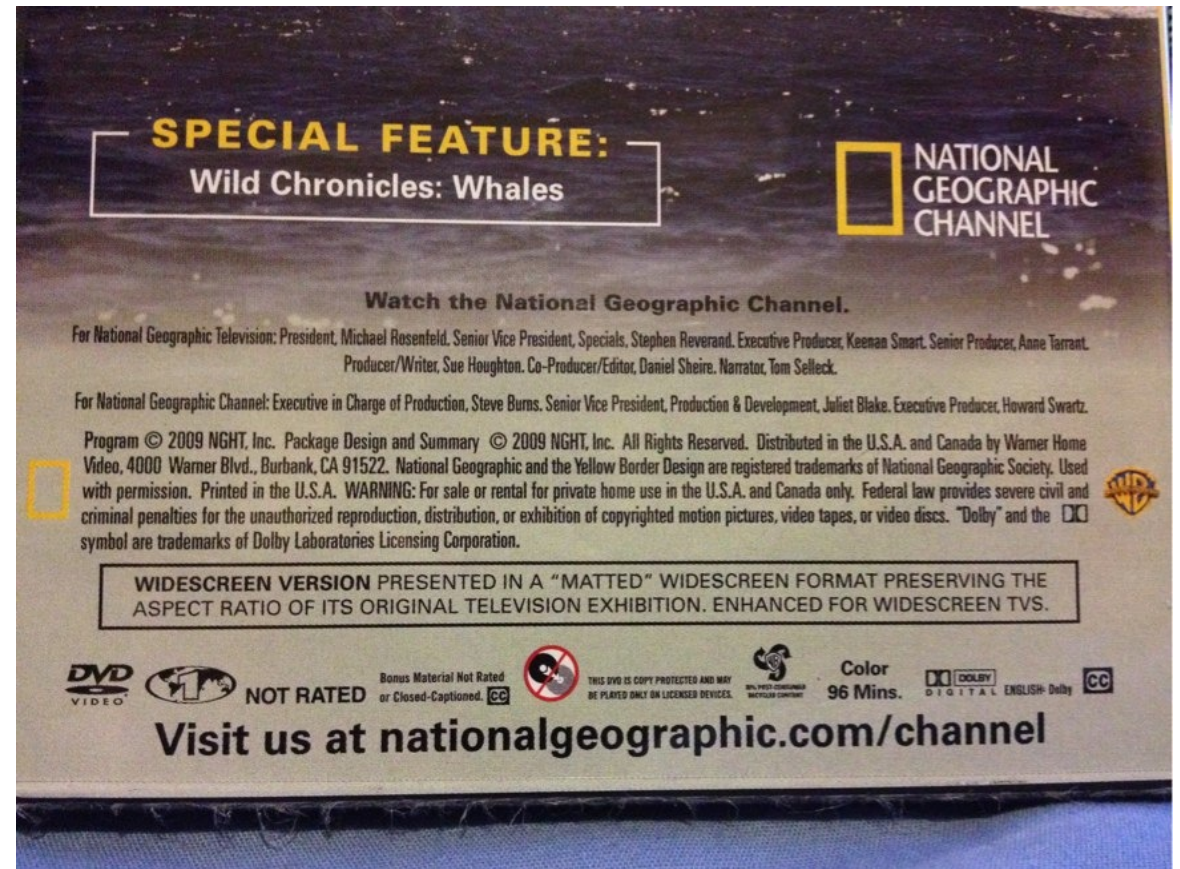
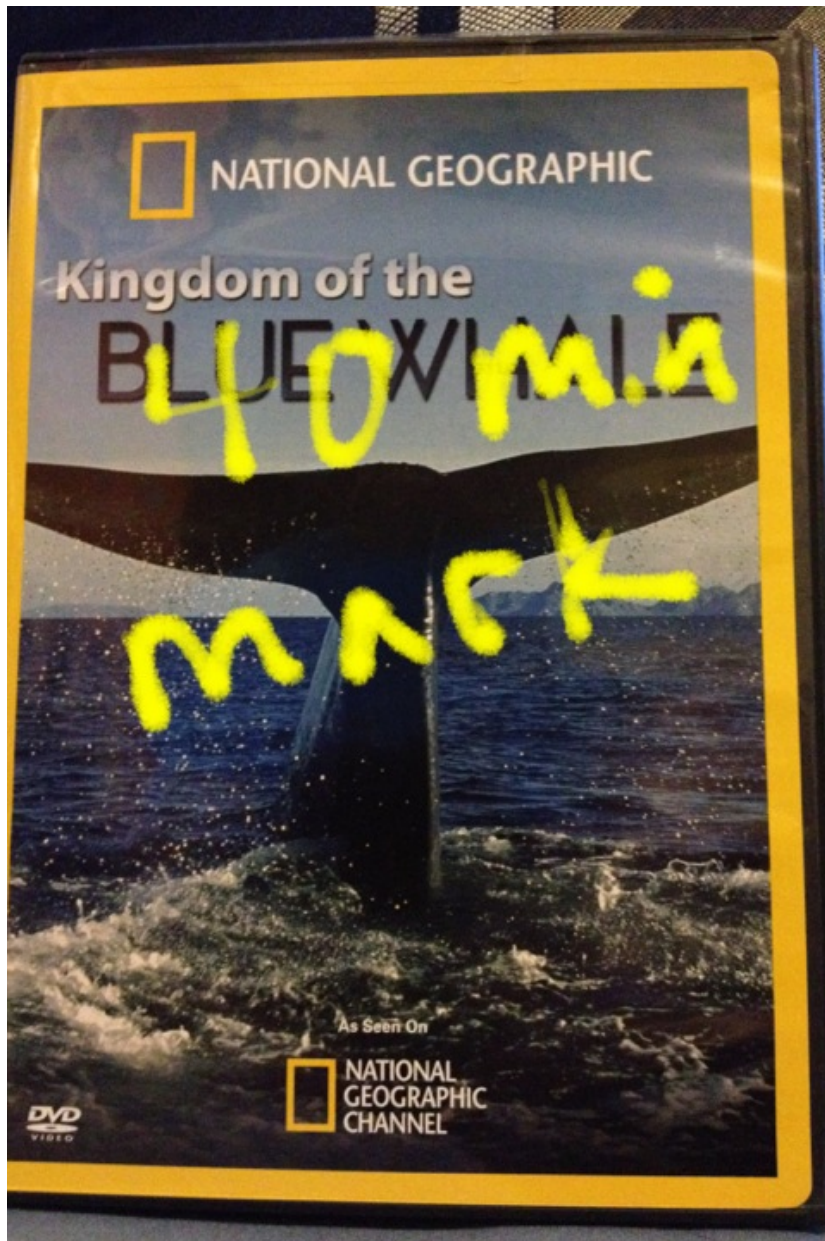
2002 Sighting: No Calf ID Designation



26 September: Location unrecorded. This photo is screen capture from a 2009 documentary titled Kingdom of the Blue Whale (see next page).

Humpback whale clip in the documentary was licensed from BBC Motion Gallery, with 26 September 2002 specified as date of footage, taken in Vava'u, Tonga. ([Blog Post](#))

Thanks to [Howard and Michelle Hall](#) for help tracking down the source footage!



1999 and 1998 Sightings: No Calf ID Designation



The photo on the left with calf was taken in 1999. Late July/early August: Location unrecorded.

The photo on the right with no calf was taken in 1998.

Both photos were taken with film cameras.

