



Tahafa on 02 Sep

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14. TAHAFa ♂

This calf was the undisputed star of the season. We had a total of nine encounters with this mom and calf over 33 days.

Despite suffering multiple injuries, possibly due to false killer whales, Tahafa matured into a healthy, playful young whale over this period.

This is the first mother/ calf that we've documented travelling the 40km between Vava'u and Toku. (We also documented two more instances this season.)

In addition, we documented a fascinating long-term escort relationship with this mother/ calf pair, spanning at least 14 days.

First encounter with Tahafa, 23 Aug



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Tahafa's mom



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Mom's and calf's dorsal fins



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Tahafa, mom and long-term escort (visible in background) on 14 Sep



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14. TAHAFA ♂ (CONT'D)

Given the calf's injuries, the frequency with which we encountered this baby, and the number of interesting behavioural observations associated with this calf, its mother, and the long-term escort, I wrote a lot about Tahafa on my blog. Please refer to these posts to read the full story:

- [Initial encounter](#)
- [Second update](#)
- [Third update](#)
- [Fourth update \(discussion of long-term escort\)](#)
- [Fifth update \(discussion of false killer whale theory to explain wounds\)](#)

When & Where: [23 Aug](#) (0), [01 Sep](#) (1), [02 Sep](#) (1), [03 Sep](#) (1), [07 Sep](#) (1), [09 Sep](#) (1), [14 Sep](#) (1), [16 Sep](#) (0), [24 Sep](#) (0)

First encounter with Tahafa, 23 Aug



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Last encounter with Tahafa, 24 Sep



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