

Orca Attack

Triple Island, July 24, 2017

Dear Friends,

It is always very special to see any whales in this area. It is a very special event, when the orca come to hunt for seals around these rocks. We can watch them from the roof and follow their actions. This has only happened twice in the 4 years I have worked out here.

The first glimpse I got through the window, was only the tip of a large fin. I hurried for my camera and went up to the roof. It took a while before I saw it again. Further out around the rocks. Then it disappeared again. The second hint that something dangerous is going on, is the behaviour of the seals. They all have their eyes turned in the same direction and try to stay in the shallow water.



At first I thought that there was only one, that's how good they were at hiding themselves behind the rocks and in the deeper water. They also swam sideways to hide their fin. Slowly they advance around the rocks to check out if there are seals. Another time they lift their tails to splash on top of the kelp beds, where seals also tend to hide inside. They are trying to scare them out, so that they can catch them.



Slowly they came closer, so that I could take a better photo of them, too. They really checked it all out. All of a sudden a couple of them went fast and must have caught something. I did not see any blood around at all.



Later in the same day, we saw this seal with a piece ripped out of it.

The orcas must have gotten it. The next day, we saw and heard a baby sea lion calling pitiful and stumbling around one of the rocks.

Maybe the orca got his mother?



A sea lion would definitely be a larger meal than a seal.

There are two kinds of orca on our coast, the ones that hunt and eat the seals – or sea lions, and the ones that only eat the salmon and do not bother the seals.

The scientists identify the orca by the pattern on their backs, behind the fin. Not like the humpbacks, which are identified by the pattern on the underside of their tails.

I hope you enjoyed this little story with pictures, as I enjoyed writing it,

best wishes, hope to see you soon, Renata