

Podcast Questions – Eavesdropping on killer whales in a Quiet Ocean.

1. Why do you think the host wants a story about the coronavirus that is not incredibly depressing?

Well, it seems like every story we get nowadays is depressing, so this is a pleasant change of pace.

2. Where are the whales now? Where did they come from?

Currently, they are in Alaska and they came from Hawaii.

3. What is a hydrophone? Why do they need it?

A hydrophone is an underwater microphone and they need it to record sounds from underwater.

4. What is the scientist Christine Gabriele studying right now?

Currently, she is studying how whales communicate naturally without the interference of human noises.

5. Is vision important underwater? What is important, and why?

Vision is not important, what's important is sound because animals can use it to locate their prey.

6. Does human noise bother whales? What do they do about it?

Human noise seems to bother whales a lot. They repeat themselves and talk louder to get around it, but it increases their stress levels.

7. What do the killer whales sound like compared to normal whales? What do they use sound for?

Killer whales have a much higher voice. It's more like bats and they use it to catch food.

8. What is special about the J, K and L pods of killer whales?

Those pods are special because, even though they communicate the same way, they have different dialects.

9. What is the Port of Vancouver doing to try to reduce underwater noise?

The Port of Vancouver is offering incentives for boats who lower the sounds of their boats.

10. Are you surprised that whales and killer whales communicate so much underwater? Why?

I am surprised. It almost seems like they are talking the same way people do.