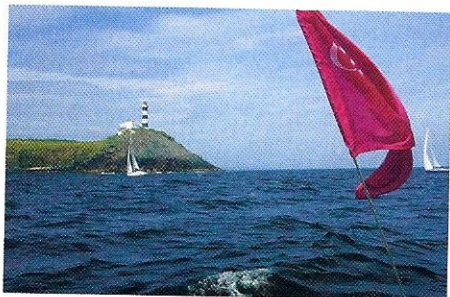




# PASSAGE NOTES

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*A beautiful day sailing during CW's Adventure Charter in southwest Ireland. S.S.*

## THIS MONTH, WE WANT TO KNOW: WHAT IS YOUR DREAM BOAT AND WHY?

When I win the lottery (not if!), I want an Antares 44i. If you're gonna dream, dream big!  
J.V.D.

I would choose the Chuck Paine-designed Kanter Bougainvillea. E.A.I.

I'll never, ever afford one, but my dream boat is the Fountaine-Pajot Victoria 67, and I dream of sailing from France to Tahiti and ending my trip in Maui, Hawaii. Someday ...  
G.D.

I'm dreaming of a Redpath 44 steel-hulled schooner.  
C.D.

My dream boat is a Tayana 37 Cutter,

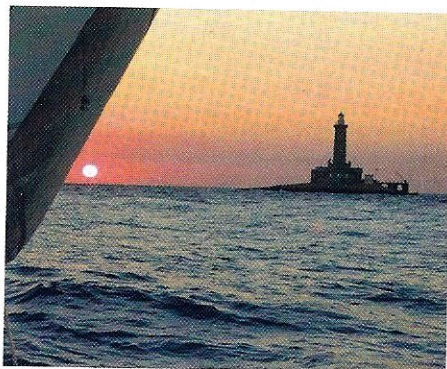
equipped to allow single-handing and with everything needed to do a circumnavigation. This design has more of these travels than any other design.  
F.J.T.

I would like an Island Packet 440 to transit the Erie Canal and go south from the Great Lakes.  
P.O.

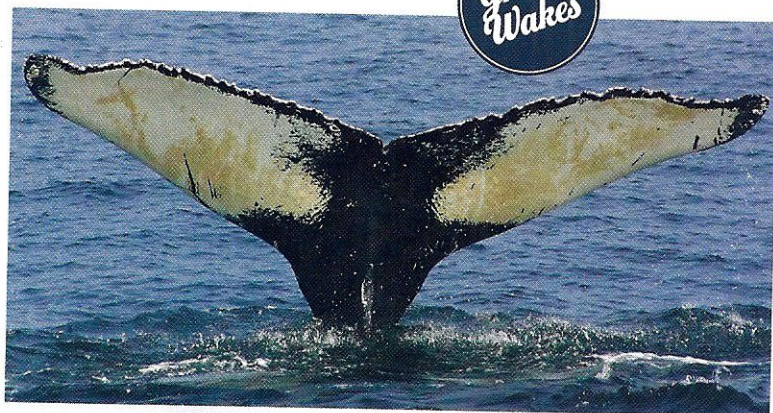
An Oyster or Wally, since we are just dreaming!  
A.D.

A 60-foot all-carbon Gunboat catamaran to quickly sail around the world.  
P.C.

It's a Hylas 63 for me!  
D.B.



*Sailing past the Porer lighthouse off Croatia. A.P.*



## Humpback Tail Photos Wanted

Just like sailors, humpback whales head for the Caribbean Sea when the North Atlantic Ocean gets cold and nasty. In the warm waters off the Dominican Republic and the Lesser Antilles, they breed and loil around until their calves are born. Then they head back to chow down all summer in the well-stocked whale refrigerator stretching from Maine to Norway.

In a new sailor-science program called CARIB Tails, federal researchers want to exploit this convergence of boats and baleen. They're asking cruisers to take photos of humpback flukes — their tails — to help identify, track and conserve this magnificent endangered animal.

Humpback flukes are like fingerprints. The pattern of white on black pigment on the underside of the tail is unique to each individual. It was such a pattern, spotted on a female nicknamed Salt, that established the 3,000-mile round-trip migratory pattern of humpbacks from the Gulf of Maine to the Dominican Republic.

Salt was first spotted on the Stellwagen Bank off Maine, now part of a federal marine sanctuary, in 1976, the first year that commercial whale watching began there. Salt has produced at least a dozen calves, which are now part of a Gulf of Maine summer population estimated at 1,000.

*Like fingerprints on sailors, the markings on each whale's tail are unique.*

There are approximately 14,000 humpbacks in the North Atlantic, thanks to an international moratorium on commercial whaling since 1986. Living off krill and fish sieved through their baleen, the animals mingle every winter in the Caribbean, a process that keeps the Atlantic population genetically diverse.

The largest breeding and calving ground is Silver Bank and Samaná Bay in the Dominican Republic Marine Mammal Sanctuary, where 3,000 whales congregate every winter.

"The whales are seen around the islands, mostly along the 100-fathom contour," said NOAA whale biologist Nathalie Ward from her office in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

Pressures and threats on the animals include collisions with ships, illegal hunting, toxins, motor noise, strandings, disease, military exercises, climate change, offshore renewable energy developments, and loss of habitat and food. "Sailors taking fluke photos can contribute to critical information that will provide safe passage for humpbacks throughout their migratory path," Ward said.

*Jim Carrier*

### PHOTO TIPS

While a breaching humpback makes a spectacular photo, the fluke is the valuable research tool. Use a telephoto lens, fill the viewfinder with the tail, and take several shots. Avoid glare or backlight. The ideal photo is

the underside of the lifted tail as the whale dives heading away from you.

Humpbacks are curious but sailors are advised not to get closer than 100 yards. If a whale approaches, drop sails and shut off your engine. Adults can be 40 feet

long and weigh 45 tons, but aren't usually a threat.

### WEB RESOURCES

CARIB Tails ([www.caribtails.org](http://www.caribtails.org))  
International Whaling Commission ([www.iwc.int](http://www.iwc.int))

J.C.