



CARIB Tails: Citizen Science Improves Quality of Humpback Whale Research

The Saba Conservation Foundation contributed the season's first humpback tail fluke on 20 February 2016 for CARIB Tails. And it's a match! This tail fluke (NA#2599), compared with the 8,000+ known individuals in the North Atlantic Humpback Whale Catalog, has been seen on three occasions in the West Indies breeding grounds. First seen on Silver Bank by Hal Whitehead (Dominican Republic) in March 1980, it was resighted on Silver Bank in 2004 (MONAH Project), and again 8 days ago in Yarari, Saba's Marine Mammal and Shark Sanctuary. The individual is at least 36 years old. *Thanks to the crew of the Lady Rebecca for submitting this image and thanks to researchers from Allied Whale at the College of the Atlantic for the match!*

Progress through partnerships: Tail fluke photos gathered and analyzed from CARIB Tails and sister sanctuary research partners offer new perspectives to the timing and movement patterns of humpback whales from the southeastern Caribbean. Yarari MMS is one of five nations in UNEP's Marine Mammal Protected Areas Network's (MaMPAN) Sister Sanctuary Program.



This humpback fluke (NA# 2599) was photographed aboard the vessel "Lady Rebecca" on 20 February 2016 in Yarari, Saba's and the Caribbean Netherland's Marine Mammal and Shark Sanctuary.

Photo Credit: Candice Volney, Saba Conservation Foundation



March 1980 sighting of humpback whale (NA# 2599) on Silver Bank, Santuario de Mamíferos Marinos de la República Dominicana, Dominican Republic.

Photo Credit: Hal Whitehead, 1980

CARIB Tails: www.caribtails.org

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