



Day 2: Saving Our Wildlife

Organization feature: Cascadia Research Collective

All about Cascadia Research Collective

[Cascadia Research Collective](#) is a non-profit based in Washington state studying over 20+ species of dolphins and whales. They conduct scientific work in Hawai'i to learn more about the dolphins and whales, or *cetaceans*, that are found in Hawaiian waters. Using tools and technology like tagging, photography, and drones, Cascadia Research goes into the field to collect data on important and endangered species - particularly false killer whales and beaked whales. What does this type of work look like?

False killer whales

Learning more about false killer whales in Hawai'i can help inform species management and conservation, especially because they are endangered. Researchers at Cascadia can identify individual whales using unique features on the animal, a process called photo identification, also known as "Photo-ID." If they know what individuals are in a group, they can ask further questions and draw conclusions on how certain whales are related to one another. Genetic samples of those individuals can then help verify the relationships.



Figure 1: False killer whales in Hawaiian waters

Beaked whales:

The scientific community has many questions about beaked whales because there is so little information available about them. We aren't entirely sure how many species of beaked whales are even in Hawaiian waters! That's why when the opportunity comes during Hawai'i field projects, Cascadia Research also captures footage of other species. They've been able to observe beaked whale behavior that hasn't been seen before in Hawai'i. When Cascadia Research Collective is able to collect data on a species of beaked whale, it's helping to push the frontier of our knowledge.

Learn about their work:

Cascadia Research Collective works on many projects throughout the year with so many different species – including [gray whales](#) and [beaked whales](#). Beaked whales are some of the least understood groups of whales, so the questions Cascadia is helping to answer are pushing the frontier of science!

If you want to learn more about Cascadia's projects see their [project webpage](#), including [the ones they are conducting in Hawai'i](#).

Optional videos to watch:

- [Video 1](#): Route of tagged endangered false killer whales (1 minute)
- [Video 2](#): Collecting a breath sample – drone view (1 minute)
- [Video 3](#): False Killer Whales hunting mahi mahi (4 minutes)