

Panel 26

LUNA / TSU'XIIT (L98)

Luna was an orca with many identities.

In 2006, the six-year-old became separated from his pod and adopted a new family—the people of Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island.

To researchers, Luna was L98, a young Southern Resident who needed help getting home. The Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation said the whale was already home. Chief Ambrose Maquinna had vowed that after death he'd return to his people and his hahoulthee (traditional territory) as an orca. The orca who arrived in the harbour just after Maquinna died was named Tsu'xiit in his honour. Depending on your point of view, Luna was a returning friend, a welcome visitor or a hazard.

Humans were still arguing over what was best for Luna when he died.

While playing near a tugboat, Luna was struck by its propeller and killed.