

Skin deep: An assessment of New Zealand blue whale skin condition

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Supplementary Materials

Table S1. Definitions for photo quality scoring.

Photo quality score	Definition
Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minute details easily distinguishable• Morphological differences are apparent• Photo is in-focus, with good clarity• Photo is not too dark or bright
Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Missing one element from receiving a score of “excellent” (<i>e.g.</i> focus, clarity, brightness)• Markings are still easily discernable
Fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photo does not qualify as “good”, but most markings are discernable• Cookie cutter shark bite phase may not be identifiable
Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minute details are not distinguishable• Photo is out-of-focus, too dark, or too far away• May be possible to determine marking presence, but lesion severity and cookie cutter shark bite phase cannot be determined and receives a score of CBD

Table S2. The number and proportion of blue whale adults with each phase of cookie cutter shark bite healing morphology present. Note that whales could have more than phase present at one time, therefore the percentages for each phase category will add to >100%.

Season	N	No bites	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Spring	7	1 (14%)	1 (14%)	3 (42%)	5 (71%)	7 (100%)
Summer	100	1 (1%)	18 (18%)	27 (27%)	70 (70%)	71 (71%)
Fall	12	0 (0%)	3 (25%)	4 (33%)	8 (66%)	7 (58%)
Winter	18	1 (5%)	6 (33%)	8 (44%)	14 (77%)	17 (94%)

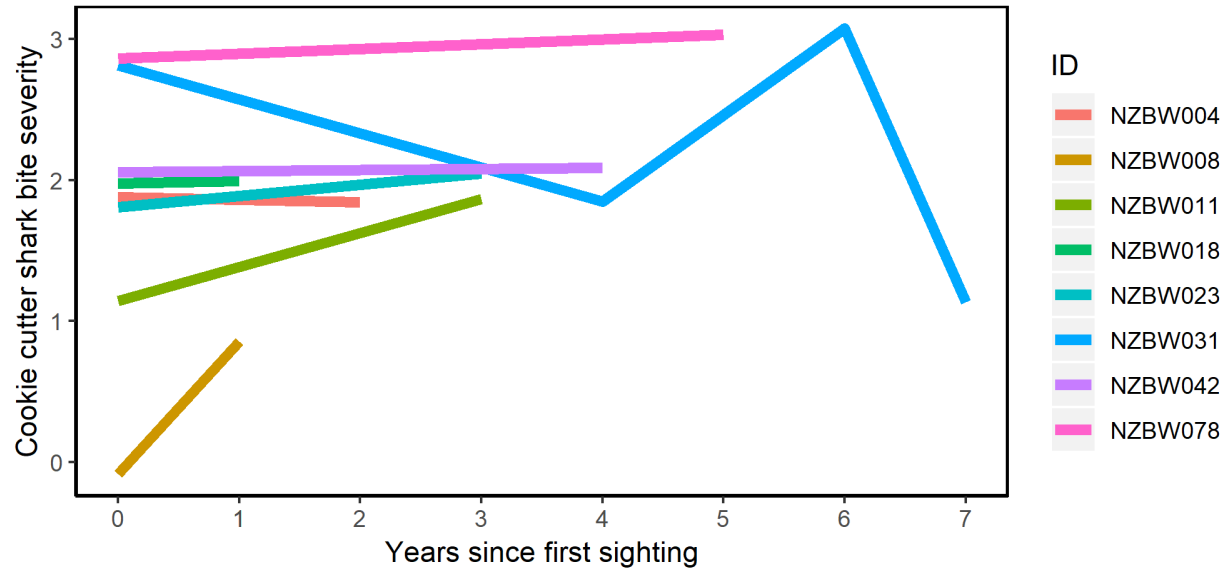


Figure S1. Cookie cutter shark bite severity scores over time for blue whales photographed in multiple years. Each line represents one individual whale.

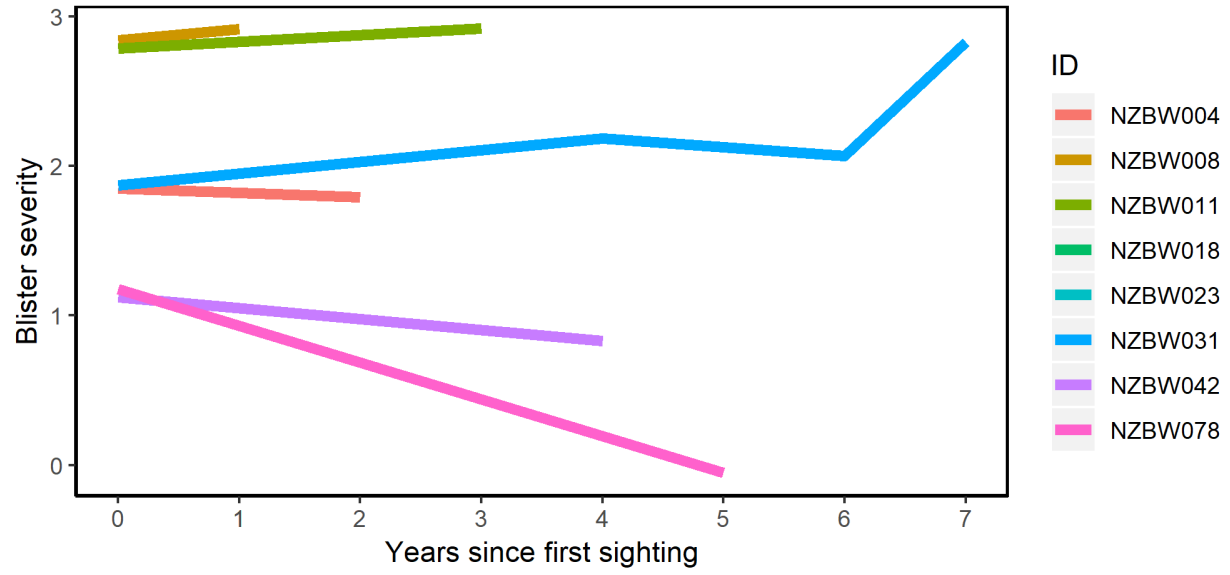


Figure S2. Blister severity scores over time for blue whales photographed in multiple years. Each line represents one individual whale.