

A warmer water plus? Whales, aboy!

Humpback whales spotted in the Columbia River cause a stir

By JOSHUA BESSEX The Daily Astorian

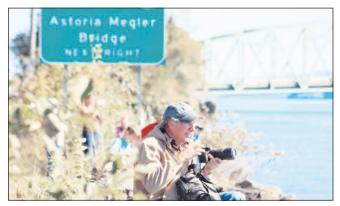
umpback whales have been visiting the Columbia River, much farther from the ocean than ex-_pected.

Over the past week, several whales have been spotted near the Washington side of the Astoria Bridge. The spectacle drew dozens of people to the shores of the river over the weekend with binoculars and cameras in hand.

Many experts agree that the whales are being drawn upriver by food, which has also lured many pelicans and sea lions to the area. Professor Bruce Mate of Oregon State University says this year's El Niño conditions are causing the humpbacks to travel so far upriver.

See more photos online at www.dailyastorian.com.

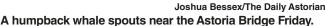
A humpback whale breaches near the Astoria Bridge Friday. Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian



Crindalyn Lyster/EO Media Group Crowds gather on the Washington side of the river to take pictures of the humpback whales gracing our Columbia River stage.









Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian A humpback whale breaches near the Astoria Bridge Friday.

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THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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