

## Bulhuwanguli (cold time) News | 2024

### Nyinggulu seasons - Thanardinyunggujarri

"**Bulhuwanhuli** (cold time) is almost here, the air has a chill. Country has had a down pour of **warnan** (rain), it's green the flies are more friendly, we notice march flies are about and there are many bush foods available.

For now, we still rely on the **thanardi** (ocean), marine life is abundant, fish are fat, shellfish are plump. Marine food is now important to us, we now stock up. In a few months, land animals will become fat. We then turn to the **ngarrari** (land) and stock up on food before **biyardi** (drytime).

For us mob we always know what the different seasons are. We do this by observing the changes in the weather, this is important. We must understand Country it's our guide to life." Hazel Walgar, Baiyungu Traditional Owner sharing knowledge on Country.



**Above:** Marine life is abundant. *Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA*

### Humpback whale aerial studies

Did you know that multiple subpopulations of humpback whales are found in all ocean basins across the world? In Western Australia, the population migrating annually from Antarctic feeding grounds to breeding and calving grounds from Ningaloo to the Kimberley is recognised as International Whaling Convention (IWC) Breeding Stock D (BSD).

During the north and south migration of humpback whales through the Ningaloo Marine Park (NMP), boat-based in-water interactions with humpback whales are offered by 15 licenced tour operators. These tour operations are licenced by the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) to position their vessels closer to the whales than whale watching vessels, to provide, close-up, in-water encounter experience to their customers.

To minimise and manage potential pressures on humpback whales at Ningaloo and the Pilbara, understanding the distribution of humpback whale critical habitats and the impact of potential pressures from tourism is essential. DBCA is undertaking a three-year aerial survey project to investigate humpback whale migration through the NMP and to mitigate the potential impacts, particularly on mothers and calves. The aerial survey project commenced in 2022 from July-September and was repeated in 2023. The final aerial survey will be conducted later in 2024.

Information gathered from these surveys will inform management decisions for future commercial operations.

**Above:** Humpback whale mother, calf and escort.  
*Photo- Julian Tyne/DBCA*

