



WHALE TALK

by Volker Barth, Yanick Rose, Michael Allder



SYNOPSIS

Is it possible to untangle the hidden structures of the communication system of killer whales? Along the west coast of Canada an interdisciplinary, international team of researchers sets out to find answers.

To understand the language of animals is an ancient dream of mankind. Do intelligent and highly communicative animals have real "languages" or merely simple communication systems? To find answers, an international team of researchers decides to adapt machine learning pattern recognition technologies for the first time to killer whales. For unknown human languages, similar technologies can be trained to automatically identify hidden language structures. To collect sufficient data for their analysis the team embarks on an expedition along the pristine coastlines of Northern Canada. With specialised software on board they follow different groups of the Northern Resident killer whales. The challenge is to isolate whale calls that reappear often in similar contexts. These might...

CAST AND CREW

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