Data

Survey Results

**1) Do you believe that communication between humpback whales is philosophical (sounds as letters use to form words), essential (sound signifies behavior or reaction), or a combination of both?**

Philosophical - 0

Essential - 6

Both -0

**2) Why do you believe this?**

-current research shows no scientific evidence that whales form "words"

-not enough vocal "words" to be philosophical

-display to attract females

**3) What do you think is the function of simple sounds? Why?**

-attention getting

-to convey location, identity, intentions, warning, contact, or activity

-mechanical (e.g. noise of baleen rattling while feeding)

-to signal a behavior

**4) What do you think is the function of complex sounds? Why?**

--mate attraction

-competition between neighbors

-allow for assessment

-to better convey location, identity, intentions, warning, contact, or activity over longer distances

-to judge fitness

**5) What do you think is the function of humpback whale songs? Why?**

-to attract females during breeding season

-convey location and quality of males

-acoustic territory between males

-group cohesion

**6) What do you think is the function of non-vocal communication? Why?**

-to convey location, identity, intentions, or activity

-aspect of play -territorality agression -touching may be sexual or for play

**7) Why do you think patterns in humpback whale songs are repeated?**

-to enforce message over distance or sub-optimal acoustic conditions

-to guarantee reception of message

-selective measurement by females towards males (want longest, most repetitive, songs)

-to attract a female if not chosen the first time through the song

-as a characteristic of animal communication

**8) How does human songs relate/compare/contrast to that of the humpback whales?**

-humans at a "higher" level

-no comparison

-both are learned and are unique to the speices

**9) How does human language relate/compare/contrast to that of the humpback whales?**

-humans use words, whales don't

-both forms of communication are used to send a message to the receiver

-human language has more functions and relays more information

-humpbacks don't have the same flexibility within their language and do not express past, present, and future

**10) What is the biggest question left to be solved about humpback whale communication?**

-how effective it is in attracting females

-exact role of song in the mating system

-if females judge male "quality" by song

-how mating success of males varies with song characteristics

**11) How did you form your opinions; experimentation, literature, or other?**

Opinions - 2

Experimentation - 3

Other - 4 literature

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