

# Right Whale Detection Challenge

SluiceBox - 0.98384 (70 entries)  
alfnie - 0.98379 (27 entries)



## Leaderboard

Received the docs and source codes from both winners. Now building the new automated right whale detection-classification system (run for 44 month)



Both winning teams used tight-boxing a spectrogram

Set of features for each tight box  
Temporal ordering of labeling  
=> consecutive positives

## Winning Algorithms

multiple template matching approach

Viterbi algorithm

### Other Approaches

Deep learning (a convolutional neural network) of the image of spectrogram and treat it as an image handwriting recognition.

Python - libraries Sci-Kit-learn, Sci-py, Num-py for data analysis  
Classifiers - gradient boosting and random forest and SVMs

Labeled **positive** even spectrogram looks negative due to

- low signal-noise ratio
- from non-biological source

labeled **negative** even though spectrogram looks positive

- portion of humpback whales up-call
- from diff species

## Future



Apply top two winning methods, along with other methods developed in the Bioacoustic Research and also deep learning and computer-vision-based techniques

Use Bark scale (psychoacoustic) instead of Mel scale (perceptual scale of pitches - octaves)

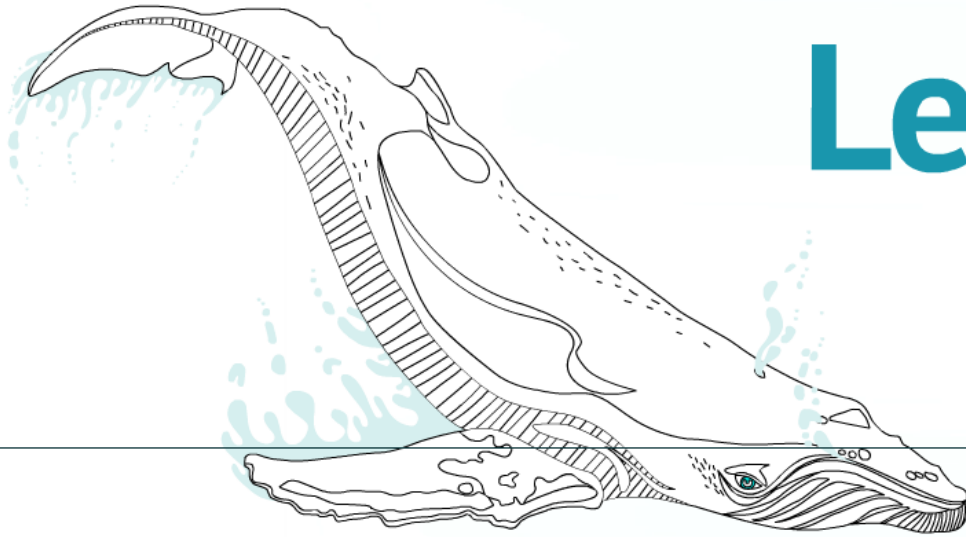
- Flatten the matrix and random forest gave 0.917
- By using an ensemble of random forests built on small local submatrixes got 0.93-0.94
- With template matching (best 400 templates based on individual performance on a small validation set) selected one subpic (mean\_amplitude -> max) per right whale call I reached 0.970
- At the end I used the ordering information and finished with: 0.973

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