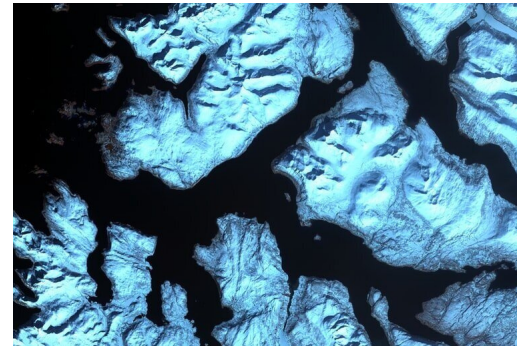Whale Seeker is a Montreal-based startup that leverages AI to simplify whale monitoring. Founded in 2018 by Emily Charry Tissier, Antoine Gagné-Turcotte and Bertrand Charry, Whale Seeker is bridging the divide between profitability and sustainability by making whale detection fast, accurate, and accessible

OUR STORY

Whale Seeker took root in 2017, as founders Bertrand and Emily Charry – working on multiple marine research mandates – spent thousands of painstaking hours manually analyzing 6 000+ aerial images on a quest to find narwhals and whales. During this tedious exercise, it hit them; there was no technology out there to facilitate their mammal detection tasks.

There was no doubt that such a technology would benefit countless industries in need of accessible whale detection: ships needing to avoid whale-strike related penalties; oil companies facing whale-related delays while conducting seismic studies; governments looking to adequately manage their marine populations. So how could they all achieve their objectives? Through quick, affordable whale detection. So their mission began.

In 2018, Whale Seeker was founded with one mission in mind: to deliver better, simpler, and faster whale detection data by leveraging AI.

In 2019, Emily serendipitously met software developer Antoine at a local dog park and told him about Whale Seeker's mission. It immediately resonated for Antoine; he joined the team as CTO.

Today, Whale Seeker is a Montreal-based startup with a growing team of biologists, ecologists, data scientists, software developers, and AI specialists. They're currently undergoing B Corp certification.

OUR VISION

We believe that technology has the power to help whales and humans not only coexist, but thrive – so we're building the tools to make that possible.

OUR MISSION

We aim to make whale detection as fast, easy, accurate and affordable as possible.

WHAT WE DO

We build fast, automated, accurate and user-friendly whale detection tools that empower all decision-makers to develop more sustainable business practices.

Our data help strengthen environmental impact assessments, support the industry in complying with marine regulations, improve companies' bottom lines, ultimately helping to protect marine mammals.

OUR SOLUTIONS

We use human expertise and proprietary AI technology to deliver quick, high-quality data reports that facilitate marine mammal detection. Our tools can analyze various types of image sources:
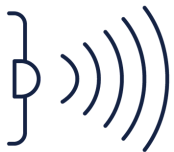
AERIAL

Möbius is our signature human-in-the-loop aerial images analysis tool. Like its namesake, the one-sided Möbius strip that appears to have two sides, our Möbius integrates human and machine judgements in one tool, allowing for huge gains in efficiency without sacrificing reliability.

SATELLITE

A truly non-invasive whale detection method that has the added benefit of capturing a very large area all at once. We have expertise detecting multiple species of mid-sized whales from satellite imagery as well as large species.

INFRARED

Whales are difficult to detect when visibility is poor. Infrared imagery allows detection at night and in a wider range of environmental conditions. We are developing rapid detections tools.

OUR FOUNDERS

EMILY CHARRY TISSIER

CO-FOUNDER & CEO

Emily is a biologist with 20 years of experience working in coastal and arctic ecosystems and a deep passion for working with multidisciplinary teams towards sustainable growth. She spearheads Whale Seeker with a clear vision, knows what can be improved and won't settle for anything less. Her field expertise and people skills make her a fierce leader who rallies those around her to reach their full potential and achieve their goals.
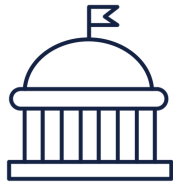
ANTOINE GAGNÉ-TURCOTTE

CO-FOUNDER & CTO

Antoine is a biomedical engineer with over 10 years of experience in software development, signal processing, data science, backend and micro services development and deployment, database management, and QA testing. At Whale Seeker, he's responsible for developing the tools, technology, and AI solutions we need to better view, process, analyze and annotate imagery. Amongst others, he has developed sophisticated software and AI models that automatically process and detect whales remotely using sensing imagery.

BERTRAND CHARRY

CO-FOUNDER & LEAD BIOLOGIST

Bertrand is a seasoned field biologist with extensive experience detecting whales from boats, shore, and aircraft. He has an MSc in natural resources from McGill University, has unique expertise in marine mammal detection from aerial and satellite images, and has created several protocols on this novel work. He is in charge of developing, populating and training Whale Seeker's AI solutions and also leads our scientific studies into whale conservation, management and monitoring.

OUR CLIENTS

GOVERNMENT

Whale data for monitoring protected zones and managing populations over vast and remote areas.

CONSULTANCY

Fast, reliable results for environmental impact assessments, monitoring, and development plans.

PORTS AND TRAFFIC

Whale detection in key areas with rapid data to decision-makers.

OUR PARTNERS

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Pêches et Océans Canada

STATION DE RECHERCHE DES ÎLES MINGAN
MINGAN ISLAND CETACEAN STUDY

CANADA'S OCEAN SUPERCLUSTER

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Canada
NRC Industrial Research Assistance Program

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SOA
SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ALLIANCE