

Be Whale Wise

MARINE WILDLIFE GUIDELINES FOR BOATERS, PADDLERS AND VIEWERS



TRANS-BOUNDARY GUIDELINES FOR THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA APPLIES TO ALL MARINE MAMMALS AND BIRDS.

- DO NOT APPROACH** or position your vessel closer than 200 metres/yards to any killer whale in the U.S. **DO NOT APPROACH** or get closer than 100 metres/yards to any other marine mammals or birds, whether on the water or on land.
- BE CAUTIOUS, COURTEOUS AND QUIET** when around areas of known or suspected marine wildlife activity, in the water or at haul-outs and bird colonies on land. Especially from May to September during breeding, nesting and seal pupping seasons.
- LOOK** in all directions before planning your approach or departure from viewing wildlife.
- SLOW DOWN** reduce speed to less than 7 knots when within 400 metres/yards of the nearest marine mammal to reduce your engine's noise and vessel's wake.
- ALWAYS** approach and depart from the side, moving parallel to the animal's direction of travel. If the animal(s) are approaching you, cautiously move out of the way and avoid abrupt course changes. **DO NOT** approach from the front or from behind.
- IF** your vessel is not in compliance with the 100 metres/yards approach guideline (#1), place engine in neutral and allow animals to pass.
- PAY ATTENTION** and move away, slowly and cautiously, at the first sign of disturbance or agitation.
- STAY** on the **OFFSHORE** side of the whales when they are traveling close to shore.
- ALWAYS** avoid going through groups of porpoises or dolphins and hold course and reduce speed gradually to discourage bow or stern-riding.
- LIMIT** your viewing time to 30 minutes or less. This will reduce the cumulative impact of all vessels and give consideration to other viewers.
- DO NOT** disturb, swim with, move, feed or touch any marine wildlife. If you are concerned about a potentially sick, stranded animal, or entangled animal, contact your local stranding network.

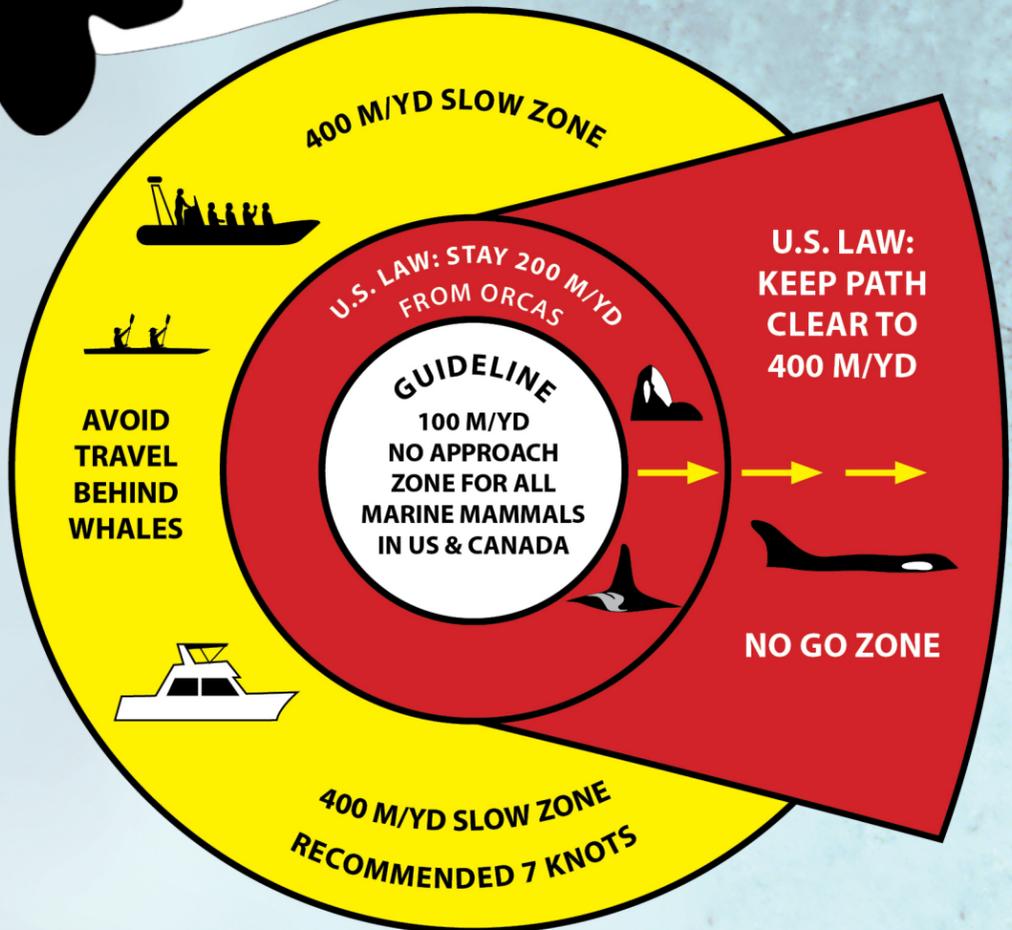
DRONES/UNMANNED AIRCRAFT VEHICLE OR SYSTEM (UAV/UAS) GUIDANCE

It is illegal to harm or disturb wildlife. To prevent disturbances from an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV/drone) over the marine environment operators must use extreme caution. UAV/drones may cause a disturbance to the animal. Fly during daylight hours, keep your drone in sight and limit your viewing time to reduce the cumulative impact. This is rapidly evolving technology...Know and follow all local regulations.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS, WILDLIFE REFUGES, ECOLOGICAL RESERVES AND PARKS

- CHECK** your nautical charts for the location of various protected areas.
- ABIDE** by posted restrictions or contact a local authority for further information.

www.bewhalewise.org



IN INLAND WATERS OF WASHINGTON IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON TO:

- Cause a vessel to approach, in any manner, within 200 yards/metres of any killer whale.
- Position a vessel to be in the path of any killer whale at any point located within 400 yards/metres of the whale.

The regulation applies to all motorized and non-motorized vessels (including kayaks and paddleboards) with exemptions for government vessels conducting official duties, ships in the shipping lanes, permitted research vessels, and vessels lawfully engaged in commercial or treaty Indian fishing that are actively setting, retrieving, or tending fishing gear.

LAWS: Regulations in Canada and the U.S. prohibit the harassment and disturbance of marine mammals. Many species are threatened or endangered and subject to additional protections under the Endangered Species Act (U.S.) and the Species at Risk Act (CANADA).

TO REPORT A MARINE MAMMAL DISTURBANCE OR HARASSMENT

CANADA/B.C. GULF ISLANDS: To report injured, distressed, dead, stranded or entangled marine mammals or sea turtles:

Fisheries & Oceans Canada/B.C. Marine Mammal Incident
24/7 Hotline: 1-800-465-4336

US/INLAND WA WATERS: To report a marine mammal harassment, entanglement or stranding:

NOAA Fisheries, Office for Law Enforcement: 1-800-853-1964
Entanglements: 1-877-707-9425 / Strandings: 1-866-767-6114
Download the dolphin and whale 911 app

DID YOU SEE A WHALE?

TO REPORT A MARINE MAMMAL & SEA TURTLE SIGHTING:

CANADA/B.C. GULF ISLANDS: B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network
1-866-472-9663 or sightings@vanaqua.org/www.wildwhales.org.
WhaleReport app available on iTunes and Google Play

US/INLAND WA WATERS: The Whale Museum Hotline (WA):
hotline@whalemuseum.org or 1-800-562-8832

Orca Network (WA): info@orcانetwork.org or 1-866-672-2638