

**Subject:** Petitions Regarding The Proposed Regulations. Petitions 1-40

**From:** Prince of Whales <info@princeofwhales.com>

**Date:** Thu, 14 Jan 2010 12:39:17 -0800

**To:** Orca.Plan@noaa.gov

Greetings,

We at Prince of Whales have collected 156 petitions regarding the proposed regulations over the last little while, and would like to forward them to you. Due to the size of the files, I will be sending several e-mails containing them.

Cheers,

Leshell M  
Prince of Whales Whale Watching  
Victoria/Vancouver, BC'  
1-888-383-4884

**Petition1-20.pdf**

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**Petition21-40.pdf**

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## Petition

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is proposing to make the following changes to Vessel Regulations for Killer Whales (Orcas) in Washington State:

1. Minimum Viewing Distance from Orcas: from 100 yards increased to 200 yards.
2. No go zone off San Juan Island shoreline: from ¼ mile to ½ mile.

This change in legislation will decrease the chances for successful sighting of Orcas.

This will negatively impact the opportunity for boat based whale watching to be popular, visually inspiring, educational, and informative to the general public.

At Prince of Whales we believe that responsible whale watching is being undertaken within the existing vessel regulations, and that our passengers are experiencing the Pacific Ocean and its ecosystem in the most natural way possible while being on the water. We also believe that there is no substantial scientific evidence of the Orcas being disturbed by present whale watching regulations.

Now that you have experienced whale watching from a vessel, we encourage you to provide feedback to NOAA to contribute to the comment period for these proposed regulation changes.

Most of our viewing time is 200 yards from the Orcas, but the ½ mile rule could put whale watching vessels up to 800 yards away. This is unacceptable, and would lessen the overall experience of any future guests.

If your experience concurs with us, please sign below with your full name, address with country, e-mail address, and comments to this regulation change. We encourage you to also research the NOAA website for further information.

Name Ruby Sangha

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Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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