Guidelines

Whale Watching:

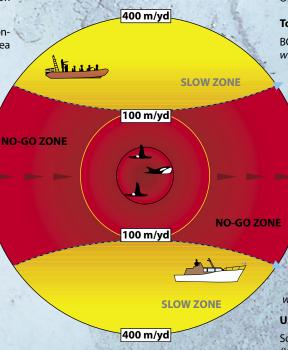
- 1. BE CAUTIOUS and COURTEOUS: approach areas of known or suspected marine mammal activity with extreme caution. Look in all directions before planning your approach or departure.
- 2. SLOW DOWN: reduce speed to less than 7 knots when within 400 metres/yards of the nearest whale. Avoid abrupt course changes.
- 3. AVOID approaching closer than 100 metres/ yards to any whale.
- 4. If your vessel is unexpectedly within 100 metres/yards of a whale, STOP IMMEDIATELY and allow the whales to pass.
- 5. AVOID approaching whales from the front or from behind. Always approach and depart whales from the side, moving in a direction parallel to the direction of the whales.
- 6. KEEP CLEAR of the whales' path. Avoid positioning your vessel within the 400 metre/yard area in the path of the whales.
- 7. STAY on the OFFSHORE side of the whales when they are traveling close to shore. Remain at least 200 metres/yards offshore at all times.
- 8. LIMIT your viewing time to a recommended maximum of 30 minutes. This will minimize the cumulative impact of many vessels and give consideration to other viewers.
- 9. DO NOT swim with or feed whales.

Porpoises and dolphins:

- 1. OBSERVE all guidelines for watching whales.
- 2. DO NOT drive through groups of porpoises or dolphins for the purpose of bow-riding.
- 3. Should dolphins or porpoises choose to ride the bow wave of your vessel, REDUCE SPEED gradually and avoid sudden course changes.

Seals, sea lions and birds on land:

- 1. AVOID approaching closer than 100 metres/ yards to any marine mammals or birds.
- 2. SLOW DOWN and reduce your wake/wash and noise levels.
- 3. PAY ATTENTION and back away at the first sign of disturbance or agitation.
- 4. BE CAUTIOUS AND QUIET when around haul-outs and bird colonies, especially during breeding, nesting and pupping seasons (generally May to September).
- 5. DO NOT swim with or feed any marine mammals or birds.









Protected Areas, Wildlife Refuges, Ecological Reserves and Parks:

Viewing wildlife within Marine

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

To report a marine mammal disturbance or harassment:

Canada:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada: 1-800-465-4336

US:

National Marine Fisheries Service Office for Law Enforcement: 1-800-853-1964

To report marine mammal sightings:

BC Cetacean Sightings Network www.wildwhales.org or (604) 659-3429

The Whale Museum Hotline (WA state): 1-800-562-8832 or hotline@whalemuseum.org

> OrcaNetwork info@orcanetwork.ora

Need more information?

Canada:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Marine Mammal Monitoring Project (M3) (Victoria and Southern Gulf Islands): (250) 480-2656 or www.salishsea.ca

Straitwatch

(Johnstone Strait and Northern Vancouver Island) www.straitwatch.org

US:

Soundwatch Boater Education Program (Washington State, Haro Strait Region) (360) 378-4710 or www.whalemuseum.org

NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Region www.nwr.noaa.gov

NOAA Fisheries, Office of Protected Resources www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/MMWatch/ MMViewing.html













