

The Whale Museum's Soundwatch Boater Education Program

Kayak Education and Leadership Program
(K.E.L.P.)



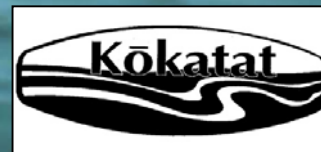
K.E.L.P.



San Juan Islands

Kayaker Marine
Stewardship
Training

PADDLE BY THE CODE & HELP PROTECT MARINE WILDLIFE!



The Whale Museum

EDUCATION • RESEARCH

**Promoting stewardship of whales and
the Salish Sea ecosystem through
education and research.**



www.whalemuseum.org

Friday Harbor • San Juan Island • Washington

Small Museum. Big Mission.

Science-based education and stewardship programs...

Community Events

Exhibit Center

Group Tours and Activities

Marine Naturalists Training

Outreach School Programs

Research Projects/Fellowships

SeaSound Acoustics Project

24-hour Whale Sighting Harassment Hotline

Educational Programs

Gray Whale Project

Museum Website

Orca Adoption Program

Park Interpretive Program

Scholastic Internships

Marine Mammal Stranding Network

Soundwatch Boater Education Program

The Whale Museum's

Soundwatch Boater Education Program

Promoting responsible stewardship of the Salish Sea through the development, distribution, and implementation of best practice guidelines for marine wildlife viewing by residents, visitors and commercial users.



The Whale Museum's Soundwatch Boater Education Program

Goal:

Reduce disturbances to marine wildlife by
irresponsible boater behavior.



The Whale Museum's Soundwatch Boater Education Program Objectives:

Educate boaters on the best practices for viewing wildlife before they leave the shore.



The Whale Museum's Soundwatch Boater Education Program

Objectives:

Reinforce the learning experience in the actual context
where disturbances take place.



The Whale Museum's Soundwatch Boater Education Program

**Objectives:
Develop and evaluate community-based voluntary
guidelines.**



The Whale Museum's Soundwatch Boater Education Program

Objectives:

Provide a scientific platform to monitor vessel activities around marine wildlife.



K.E.L.P. (Kayak Education and Leadership Program) is a kayak-specific component of The Soundwatch Boater Education Program. K.E.L.P. educators teach commercial and private kayakers about marine stewardship and promote the Responsible Kayaker Code to help reduce disturbances to marine wildlife by irresponsible boating practices.



PADDLE BY THE CODE & HELP PROTECT MARINE WILDLIFE!





RESONSIBLE KAYAKER CODE



PADDLE BY THE CODE & HELP PROTECT MARINE WILDLIFE!



👍 HAVE A TRIP PLAN

Learn the laws, accessible public landing areas, safety issues and environmental conditions before leaving the shore.

RESPECT THE PEOPLE, ANIMALS AND PLANTS THAT MAKE THIS AREA THEIR HOME.



👍 **RESONSIBLE KAYAKER CODE**



👍 DO NOT INTENTIONALLY POSITION YOURSELF IN THE PATH OF WHALES, PADDLE INTO GROUPS OF WHALES OR CHASE WHALES.

Move out of the whales route and position yourself and your group at least 100 yards/meters from whales, preferably towards the shore or in kelp beds. Raft up together and stop paddling. Wait for the whales to pass before paddling again.



👍 RESPONSIBLE KAYAKER CODE



👍 PADDLE IN A WIDE ARC, 100 YARDS OR MORE, AROUND SEAL OR SEA LION HAULOUTS AND NESTING BIRD AREAS.

Avoid making loud noises and/or pointing at wildlife. Resting seals and nesting birds are especially sensitive to paddle or oar movements. Watch for warning signs such as a heads-up posture or alarm calls. Take extreme caution to avoid stampeding seals into the water or flushing birds away from their nests or fledglings.



👍 RESPONSIBLE KAYAKER CODE



**👉 DO NOT APPROACH DESIGNATED WILDLIFE REFUGE AREAS
CLOSER THAN 200 YARDS.**

To protect wildlife, refuge islands are closed to the public. No landings are permitted except at designated areas on Turn and Matia Islands. February-October is a highly sensitive time for nesting seabirds. Extra caution should be exercised during this period. Note where refuge areas are before paddling.



👉 RESPONSIBLE KAYAKER CODE



👍 ALERT: JULY-AUGUST IS PUPPING SEASON FOR HARBOR SEALS. Avoid approaching close enough to scare seals into the water. This can separate pups from their mothers.

SEAL PUPS WILL NOT SURVIVE ALONE.

Do not attempt to rescue or feed any marine wildlife.

Report alone seal pups and all stranded or dead marine mammals to the Stranding Network Hotline:

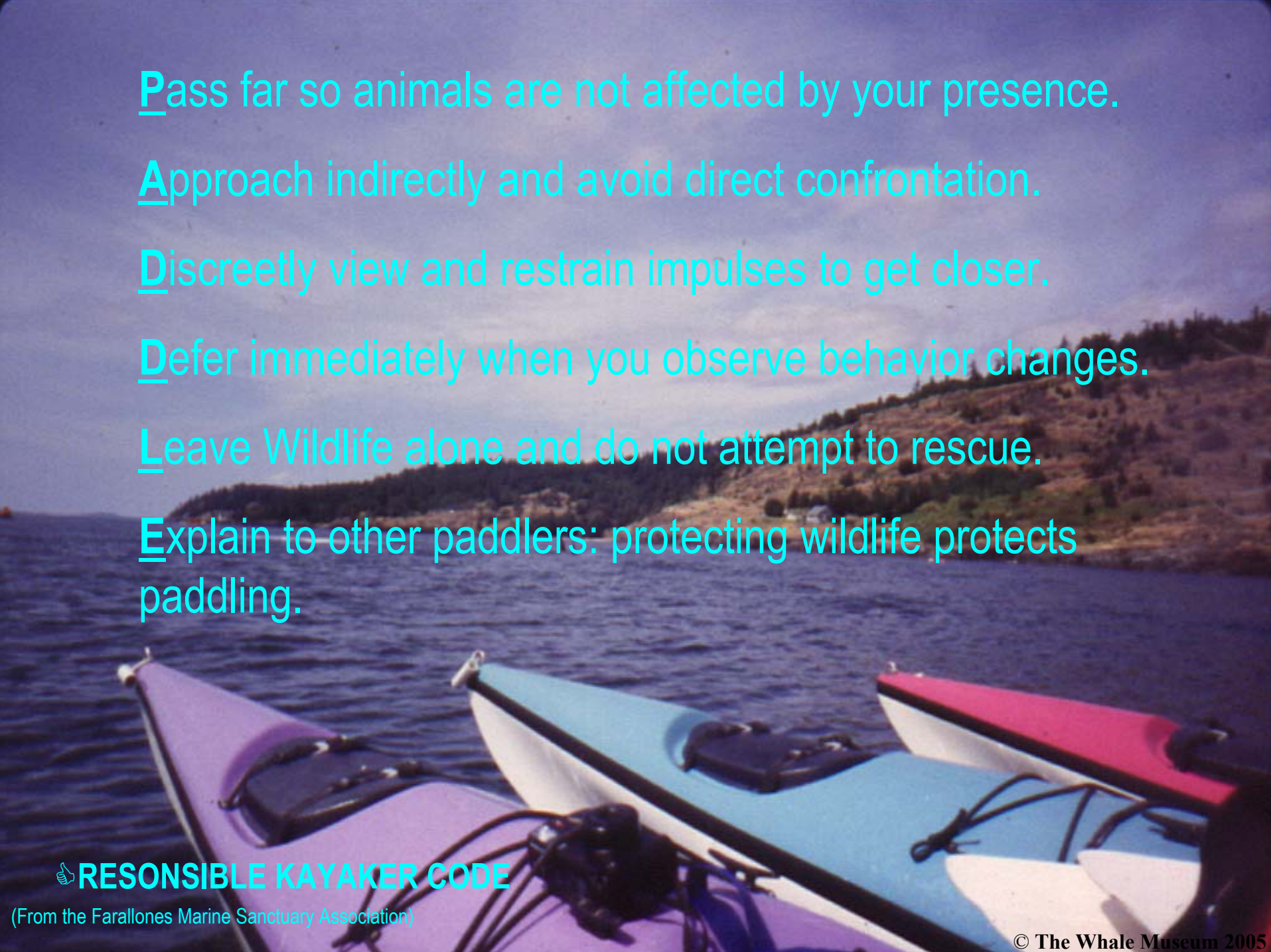
1-800-562-8832

hotline@whalemuseum.org



👍 RESPONSIBLE KAYAKER CODE





Pass far so animals are not affected by your presence.

Approach indirectly and avoid direct confrontation.

Discreetly view and restrain impulses to get closer.

Defer immediately when you observe behavior changes.

Leave Wildlife alone and do not attempt to rescue.

Explain to other paddlers: protecting wildlife protects paddling.

 **RESONSIBLE KAYAKER CODE**

(From the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association)

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The San Juan County Marine Stewardship Area

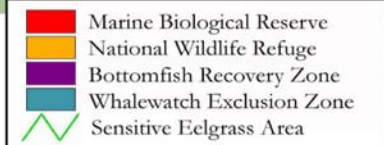
The Marine Stewardship Area is designed to protect the unique and valuable marine resources of the islands while allowing sustainable use of marine resources to continue forever.

Without establishing any new regulations, the Marine Stewardship Area highlights the numerous protections, both voluntary and regulatory, that exist to protect and restore the San Juan County marine ecosystem.

Further development of the Stewardship Area is happening through a public process; please look for opportunities to participate. Your opinions on stewardship matter.

Marine Biological Reserves Regulation: closed to all shellfish and bottomfish activities (except crabbing in Parks Bay). See marine area 7 rules for exact locations.

National Wildlife Refuges Regulation: 83 locations are closed to the public. Boaters are advised to stay 200 yards away to avoid disturbing marine mammals and birds.



Bottomfish Recovery Zones Guideline: no bottom fishing within 1/4 mile offshore to protect and restore regional fishing; 8 locations.

Whalewatch Exclusion Zones Guideline: remain 1/4 mile offshore (1/2 mile in Lime Kiln area) when whales are present. **Regulation:** Be Whale Wise! Do not disturb any marine mammals anywhere.

Sensitive Eelgrass Areas Eelgrass provides critical habitat for juvenile fish. Please avoid disturbing sediments and vegetation in less than 30' of water.

For more information about the Stewardship Area, including more detailed maps of sensitive areas throughout county waters, visit the MRC's website:

www.sjcmrc.org

Produced by the San Juan County Marine Resources Committee; funded by a grant from the Northwest Straits Commission.

Maps/ Jim Slocomb

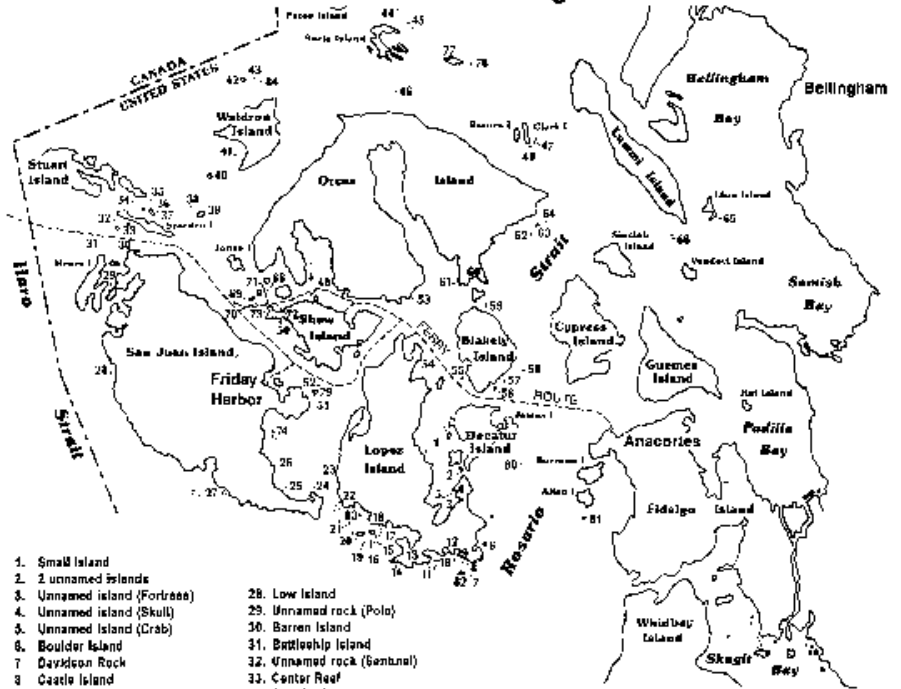
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83 NWR Refuge Sites

449 Acres

NWR signage is posted on several of the sites. Most nautical charts have **NWR** sites marked in green.

San Juan Islands National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness Areas



- 1. Small Island
- 2. 2 unnamed islands
- 3. Unnamed island (Fortress)
- 4. Unnamed island (Skull)
- 5. Unnamed island (Crab)
- 6. Boulder Island
- 7. Davidson Rock
- 8. Castle Island
- 9. 3 unnamed islands
- 10. Aleck Rocks
- 11. Unnamed island (Swirl)
- 12. Unnamed rock
- 13. 4 unnamed islands
- 14. 3 unnamed islands
- 15. Hall Island
- 16. Unnamed island
- 17. Secor Rock
- 18. Unnamed rock (Round Rock)
- 19. 3 unnamed islets
- 20. 13 unnamed islets
- 21. Mummy Rocks
- 22. Islets and rocks
- 23. Shark Reef
- 24. Harbor Rock
- 25. Unnamed rock (N. Pacific Rock)
- 26. 26 half Tide Rocks
- 27. 7 unnamed islands
- 28. Low Island
- 29. Unnamed rock (Polo)
- 30. Barren Island
- 31. Battleship Island
- 32. Unnamed rock (Sentinel)
- 33. Center Reef
- 34. Gull Reef
- 35. Ripple Island
- 36. Unnamed island (L. Cactus)
- 37. Unnamed reef (Shag)
- 38. Gull Rock
- 39. Flattop Island
- 40. White Rocks
- 41. Moullet Reef
- 42. Skipjack Island
- 43. Unnamed island
- 44. Clematis Reef
- 45. Unnamed island
- 46. Parker Reef
- 47. The Sisters
- 48. Unnamed island (L. sister)
- 49. Unnamed islet
- 50. Tift Rocks
- 51. Unnamed rock
- 52. Turn Rock
- 53. Shag Rock
- 54. Flower island
- 55. Willow Island
- 56. Lawson Rock
- 57. Pointer Island
- 58. Black Rock
- 59. 3 unnamed rocks
- 60. Brown Rocks
- 61. Unnamed rock
- 62. S. Peapod Rock
- 63. Peapod Rocks
- 64. N. Peapod Rock
- 65. Eliza Rock
- 66. Viti Rocks
- 67. Unknown rock
- 68. Unnamed rock (Bud)
- 69. Unnamed island
- 70. Low Island
- 71. Unknown
- 72. Unnamed island
- 73. Unnamed island
- 74. Unnamed rocks
- 75. Smith Island (Non-wilderness Status)
- 76. Minor Island (Non-wilderness Status)
- 77. Matia Island
- 78. Puffin Island
- 79. Tum Island (Non-wilderness Status)
- 80. Four Bird Rocks
- 81. Three Williamson Rocks
- 82. Cottrille Island
- 83. Buck Island
- 84. Bare Island



No public access or boat landings.

RESONSIBLE KAYAKER CODE

SAN JUAN ISLAND SPECIAL ORCA VIEWING AREAS

HARO STRAIT VOLUNTARY NO MOTOR BOAT ZONE FOR WHALES is a voluntary whale protection zone for Orcas when they are present along the western shoreline of San Juan Island, Washington.

The main zone extends from Mitchell Point until Eagle Point from the shore out to $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (440 yards). In Addition, the 2mile area around Lime Kiln Washington State Park / Whale Watch Park from the shore out to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile (880 yards) provides a motor-boat free area for park visitors.

This zone offers a special opportunity for kayakers to paddle without interference from other vessel traffic. However, kayakers need to follow all of the same marine wildlife guidelines. Kayakers should group up and stay close to shore, out of the path of boats and whales.

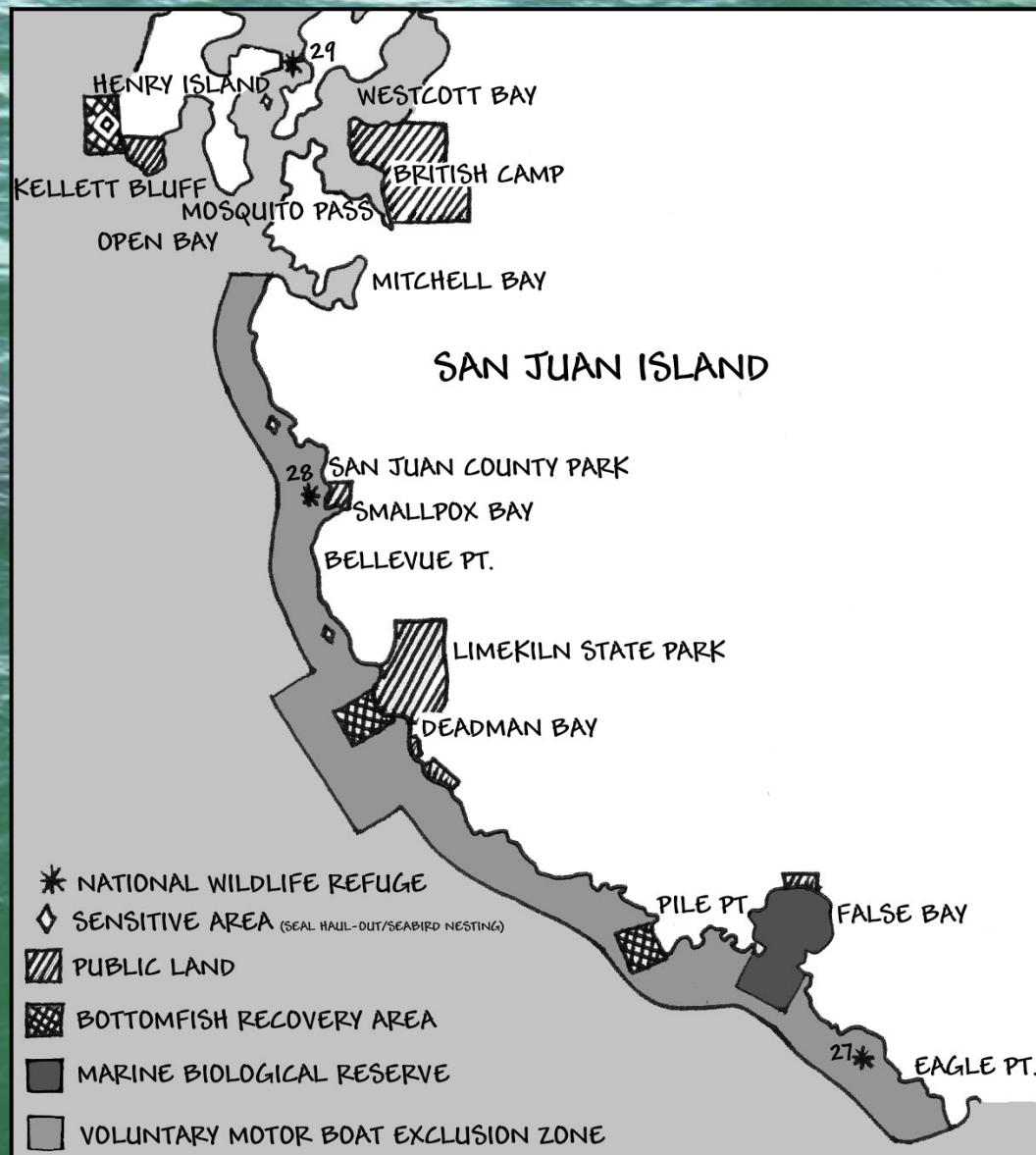


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Westside of San Juan Island Sensitive Areas.

The West side of San Juan Island is a popular kayaking destination. Please be sensitive to private property, refuge areas, marine reserves, sea birds, seals, whales, and other boaters. This area can have high currents and dense recreational and commercial boat traffic. Stay close to shore to avoid conflict situations.



👍 RESONSIBLE KAYAKER CODE

Be Whale Wise Guidelines for Viewing Marine Wildlife



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.

**DO YOUR PART TO
PROTECT MARINE MAMMALS –
FOLLOW THE VIEWING GUIDELINES**

Viewing wildlife within Marine Protected Areas, Wildlife Refuges, Ecological Reserves and Parks:

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.

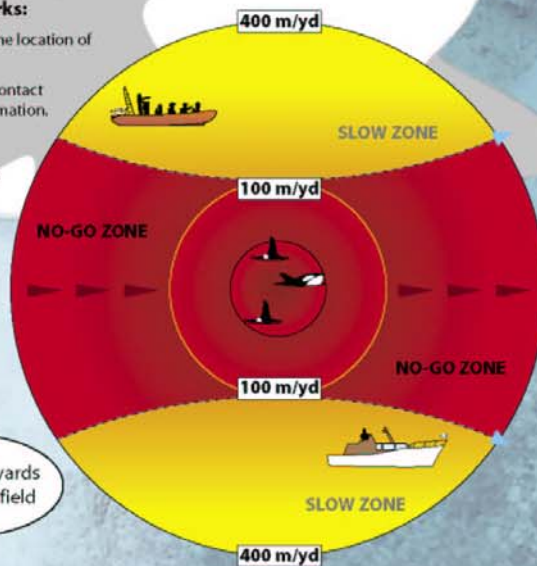
The Laws:

Regulations in Canada and the U.S. prohibit the harassment and disturbance of marine mammals.

What is a disturbance?

Disturbance is when we interfere with an animal's ability to hunt, feed, communicate, socialize, rest, breed and care for its young.

These are critical life processes necessary for healthy marine mammal populations.



 **RESPONSIBLE KAYAKER CODE**

Thank you to the many responsible kayakers out there who are helping others become good marine stewards.

A big thanks especially to Diane Gardetto, Amanda Zee and Jesse Berube-K.E.L.P. Educators!

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Discovery Kayaks

Crystal Seas Kayaks



Photos: © Use With Permission Only

Jeff Hogan, Eric Kessler,

Chris Comeau, The Whale Museum Staff



PADDLE BY THE CODE & HELP PROTECT MARINE WILDLIFE!



👍 Happy Paddling! K.E.L.P.

