



U.S. REGULATIONS

U.S. federal regulations prohibit harassing or feeding any marine mammal.

To report violations, call the NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Hotline:

1-800-853-1964

Information may be given anonymously.

BeWhale Wise



Whale Watching guidelines
for CA, OR, and WA

TIMELY REPORTING MAY SAVE A WHALE'S LIFE

REPORT WHALE HARASSMENT

Phone: 1-800-853-1964

Web: bewhalewise.org/report-violators

REPORT ENTANGLED WHALES

Phone: 1-877-SOS-WHALE, or 1-877-767-9425

U.S. Coast Guard: VHF Ch 16

REPORT DEAD, INJURED, OR STRANDED WHALES

Phone: 1-866-767-6114

App: Dolphin & Whale 911

REPORT WHALE SIGHTINGS

Phone in OR & WA: 1-800-562-8832

App: Whale Alert - West Coast

REPORT DERELICT GEAR

Phone: 1-855-542-3935

LEARN MORE: www.nmfs.noaa.gov
www.bewhalewise.org



- It is illegal to feed or attempt to feed any marine mammal.
- It is illegal to approach killer whales in inland waters of Washington State within 200 yards, or to position a vessel in the path of any killer whale within 400 yards.
- It is illegal to harass marine mammals, which means to disrupt their natural behaviors including feeding, nursing, resting, and migration.

Photos, NOAA: front panel, gray whale adult and juvenile; back panel, humpback whale breaching; flap panel, humpback whale fluke

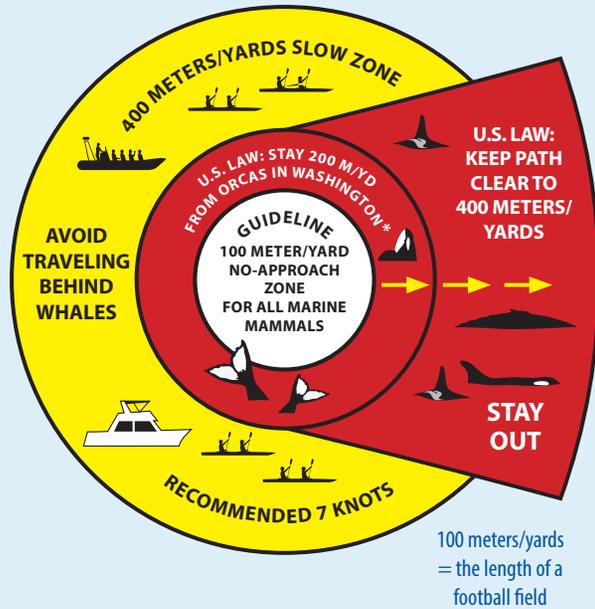
BOATERS & PADDLERS

Whale watching can be a thrilling experience. However, we should remember our presence has an effect on whales and their habitat.

Whales need space to find food, choose mates, raise young, socialize, and rest.

Learn how to BeWhaleWise. Following these guidelines will help you enjoy your whale watching experience, and reduce the risk of disturbing marine wildlife.

BeWhale Wise



WHY DO WE NEED THESE GUIDELINES?

Pollution, climate change, and other impacts are taking their toll at all levels of the marine food web. Many species of marine wildlife are showing signs of vulnerability.

Meanwhile, as vessel traffic increases along the West Coast, whales become more susceptible to ship strikes, vessel noise, and entanglements in fishing gear.

These guidelines are designed to help you enjoy your wildlife encounter, and reduce the risk of disturbing marine wildlife.

GUIDELINES FOR BOATERS & PADDLERS

These guidelines are designed to ensure your whale watching experience is safe for you and wildlife.



LOOK IN ALL DIRECTIONS

When viewing wildlife, look around before you approach or depart in case there are animals you might disturb.



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Stay at least 100 yards away from any marine mammal. Stay at least 200 yards from killer whales in Washington.*



STAY ON THE OFFSHORE SIDE

If whales are traveling close to shore, do not move between the whales and the shoreline.



SLOW DOWN

Reduce speed to less than 7 knots while in the presence of marine mammals.



BE CAUTIOUS & QUIET

Watch wildlife carefully and quietly. Move away, slowly and cautiously, at the first sign of disturbance or agitation.



PLACE YOUR ENGINE IN NEUTRAL

If a whale approaches you, put the engine in neutral and allow the whale to pass.



MINIMIZE YOUR IMPACT

View whales for no more than 30 minutes. This will reduce the cumulative impact of all vessels and give consideration to other viewers.



MOVE PARALLEL

Move parallel to the animal's direction of travel and keep their path clear. Do not approach from the front or from behind, and avoid abrupt course changes.



PILOTING DRONES

Hovering, landing, and taking off nearby may harass marine mammals. Fly in the daylight and keep your drone in sight. Stop your vessel before flying your drone.



AVOID DRIVING THROUGH GROUPS

Avoid going through groups of marine mammals. Hold course and reduce speed gradually to discourage bow-riding dolphins and porpoises.

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