To report marine mammal disturbance, or injured, distressed, dead, stranded or entangled marine mammals or sea turtles:
Fisheries & Oceans Canada/B.C. Marine Mammal Incident Reporting 24/7 Hot-line: 1-800-465-4336 or DFO.ORR-MPO.CVS@info-mpo.gc.ca
REPORT SIGHTINGS MARINE MAMMAL & SEA TURTLE: B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network www.wildwhales.org 1-866-472-9663
WhaleReport app available on iTunes and Google Play

REPORT MARINE MAMMAL SIGHTINGS:
The Whale Museum Hotline (U.S. and Canada): hotline@whalemuseum.org or 1-800-562-8832
Orca Network (WA State): info@orcanetwork.org or 1-866-672-2638

NEED MORE INFORMATION?
Fisheries & Oceans Canada: www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans.html
Transport Canada: TC.SRKW-ERS.TC@tc.gc.ca
Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve: www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/eco_reserve/robson_b_er.html
Straitwatch: www.straitwatch.org or 1-250-590-7723
North Island Marine Mammal Stewardship Association www.nimmsa.org
MERS www.seeablowgoslow.org

Seeing killer whales and other marine wildlife in their natural environment is a thrilling experience.

In our excitement, we sometimes forget that our presence has an effect on wildlife and their habitat. Just like us, marine mammals need space to find food, choose mates, raise young, socialize, and rest.

When we get too close, approach too fast, or make too much noise, we may disrupt these activities and cause the animals unnecessary stress. In some cases, we may be threatening their lives.

Be Whale Wise! Follow the laws and guidelines, set an example for others, and help protect our spectacular marine wildlife.

Why do we need guidelines?
The diversity and complexity of marine life in the inland and coastal waters of British Columbia and Washington is truly extraordinary.

It is a fragile world. Pollution, global climate change and other impacts are taking their toll at all levels of the coastal food web. Many species of marine wildlife, such as the endangered Southern Resident killer whales or orcas, are impacted by human activities.

Meanwhile, vessel traffic in our waters is steadily increasing, placing added pressures on marine animals and their habitats.

We need to minimize our impact. Guidelines and laws are designed to help you employ best practices, while reducing risks of disturbing marine wildlife.

What are the 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).

Southern Resident killer whales are listed as endangered in both Canada and the United States. Vessel impacts have been identified as one of the threats. Regulations are in place to protect killer whales by reducing noise, disturbance and other impacts from vessels. Canadian and Washington State regulations were updated in 2018.

BE WHALE WISE!
DO YOUR PART TO PROTECT MARINE WILDLIFE FROM HARASSMENT AND DISTURBANCE.
FOLLOW GUIDELINES AND ALL LAWS.

BE WHALE WISE!

CANADA
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REPORT SIGHTINGS MARINE MAMMAL & SEA TURTLE: B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network www.wildwhales.org 1-866-472-9663
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Transport Canada: TC.SRKW-ERS.TC@tc.gc.ca
Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve: www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/eco_reserve/robson_b_er.html
Straitwatch: www.straitwatch.org or 1-250-590-7723
North Island Marine Mammal Stewardship Association www.nimmsa.org
MERS www.seeablowgoslow.org

UNITED STATES
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
REPORT MARINE MAMMAL SIGHTINGS:
The Whole Museum Hotline (U.S. and Canada): hotline@whalemuseum.org or 1-800-362-8832
Orca Network (WA State): info@orcanetwork.org or 1-866-672-2638

NEED MORE INFORMATION?
Soundwatch Boater Education Program www.whalemuseum.org or 1-360-378-4710 ext. 33
NOAA Fisheries, West Coast Region: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov

Seeing killer whales
and
other marine wildlife in their natural environment is a thrilling experience.
REGULATIONS FOR KILLER WHALES IN US AND CANADIAN WATERS

In the US, it is unlawful to:

• Cause a vessel to approach, in any manner, within 300 yards (274.3 meters) of Southern Resident killer whales (SRKW) and 200 yards from transients. Position a vessel to be in the path of or behind any killer whale at any point located within 400 yards (365.8 metres) of the whale.
• Travel faster than 7 knots within 1/2 mile of any killer whale or fail to disengage engine within 300 yards.

In Canada (British Columbia):

• Vessels are required to maintain a minimum approach distance of 400 metres from all killer whales in all southern BC coastal waters between Campbell River and just north of Ucluelet; 200 metres from all killer whales in B.C. waters year-round.
• Avoid boating or fishing in Interior Sanctuary Zones.

Who do the regulations apply to?

To all motorized and non-motorized vessels (including kayaks and paddleboards), with exceptions to maintain safe navigation and for certain types of vessels.

Additional information, specific details on exceptions and more can be found on the website:

http://bewhalewise.org

TRANS-Boundary LAWS AND GUIDELINES FOR THE US. AND CANADA APPLY TO ALL MARINE MAMMALS AND BIRDS

LAWS:

• DO NOT disturb, swim with, move, feed or touch any marine wildlife. If you are concerned about a potentially sick, stranded or entangled animal, contact your local strandning or response network.
• In Canada, keep 100 metres away from all whales, dolphins and porpoises or 200 metres away if they are resting or with a calf and abide by specific approach distances for killer whales.

GUIDELINES:

1. DO NOT APPROACH or get closer than 100 metres/yards to any other marine mammals or birds.
2. BE CAUTIOUS, COURTEOUS and QUIET around areas of known or suspected marine wildlife activity, in the water or at haul-outs and bird colonies. When safe to do so, turn off fish finders and echo sounders.
3. LOOK in all directions before planning your actions; and (2) avoid vehicle maneuvers around marine mammals; and (2) avoid vehicle maneuvers around marine mammals (on land or in the water), as these actions may alter animal behavior. Know and follow all local regulations.

Marine Protected Areas, Wildlife Reserves, Parks, and Sanctuaries:

1. CHECK your nautical charts for the location of various protected areas.
2. AVOID by posted restrictions or contact a local authority for further information. Avoid voluntary No-Go Zone on the westside of San Juan Island. Be aware of critical habitat areas and Canadian Interim Sanctuary Zones (www.tc.gc.ca).

7. PAY ATTENTION and move away, slowly and cautiously, at the first sign of disturbance or agitation.
8. STAY on the OFFSHORE side of whales when they are traveling close to shore.
9. ALWAYS avoid going through groups of porpoises or dolphins. Hold course and reduce speed gradually to discourage bow or stern-riding.
10. LIMIT your viewing time to 30 minutes or less. Consider number of vessels present to reduce the cumulative impact of all vessels and give consideration to other viewers.

Drones/Unmanned Aircraft Vehicle or System (UAV/UAS) Guidance

The noise and close proximity of drones can disturb wildlife. When viewing marine mammals from the air using a drone: (1) Maintain a 1,000-foot minimum horizontal distance and do not fly directly over marine mammals; and (2) avoid vehicle maneuvers around marine mammals (on land or in the water), as these actions may alter animal behavior. Know and follow all local regulations.

Marine Protected Areas, Wildlife Reserves, Parks, and Sanctuaries:

1. CHECK your nautical charts for the location of various protected areas.
2. AVOID by posted restrictions or contact a local authority for further information. Avoid voluntary No-Go Zone on the westside of San Juan Island. Be aware of critical habitat areas and Canadian Interim Sanctuary Zones (www.tc.gc.ca).