BOATING AROUND KILLER WHALES – 2023
Map of South Coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia

Stay 400 m away and do not position a vessel in the path of killer whales in all southern B.C. coastal waters between Campbell River and just north of Ucluelet. In effect until May 31, 2024.

Vessels with a purple authorized vessel (AV) flag are allowed to be closer to non-Southern Resident killer whales. DO NOT FOLLOW THEM.

Two Speed Restricted Zones (SRZ) from June 1 to November 30.
Vessels must not go more than 10 knots (kn) in these areas, with some exceptions. For a list of exceptions, please visit the 2023 Management Measures webpage via the QR code below.

Do not enter Interim Sanctuary Zones (ISZ) from June 1 to November 30. No boating. No fishing.
Human-powered vessels (kayaks, canoes, stand up paddle boards etc.) may use a 20 m transit corridor along the shoreline. For a list of exceptions, please visit the 2023 Management Measures webpage via the QR code below.

No recreational and commercial salmon fishing in area-based fishery closures.

• Swiftsure Bank: in effect following expiry of the Chinook non-retention measures to October 31.
• Juan de Fuca Strait: in effect following expiry of the Chinook non-retention measures to October 31.
• Gulf Islands: in effect following the first confirmed presence of Southern Resident killer whales until November 30. Monitoring for confirmed presence of Southern Resident killer whales begins May 1.
• Mouth of the Fraser River: in effect from August 1 to September 30.

Be Whale Wise
• Stop fishing (do not haul gear) when within 1,000 m of killer whales.
• Reduce speed to less than 7 kn when within 1,000 m of the nearest whale.
• When safe to do so, turn off fish finders and echo sounders.
• If you are too close, place engine in neutral idle and allow animals to pass.

Shipping lanes

Marine Mammal Regulations apply year-round in Canadian Pacific waters. KEEP YOUR DISTANCE IT'S THE LAW
Stay 400 m away and do not position a vessel in the path of killer whales in all southern B.C. coastal waters. 200 m away from all killer whales in B.C., outside designated 400 m areas. 200 m away from all whales, dolphins and porpoises when in resting position or with a calf. 100 m away from all other whales, dolphins and porpoises.

Report any violations or incidents involving marine mammals (that you observed or were involved in) to Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s 24/7 Observe, Record, Report line:

1-800-465-4336
DFO.ORR-ONS.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

For more information on the 2023 measures, visit: