

## Report Marine Mammal Sightings

- ▶ **The Whale Museum:**  
[hotline@whalemuseum.org](mailto:hotline@whalemuseum.org)  
1-800-562-8832
- ▶ **Ocean Wise Sightings Network:**  
[sightings@ocean.org](mailto:sightings@ocean.org)  
1-866-472-9663  
WhaleReport App
- ▶ **Orca Network:**  
[Info@orcانetwork.org](mailto:Info@orcانetwork.org)  
1-866-ORCANET

or visit  
[bewhalewise.org/marine-mammal-sightings/](http://bewhalewise.org/marine-mammal-sightings/)

## Report Violations and Marine Mammal Incidents

### In the U.S.

- ▶ **WDFW Enforcement:**  
1-877-933-9847
- ▶ **NOAA West Coast Stranding Hotline:**  
1-866-767-6114
- ▶ **NOAA Entanglement Hotline:**  
1-877-767-9425

### In Both

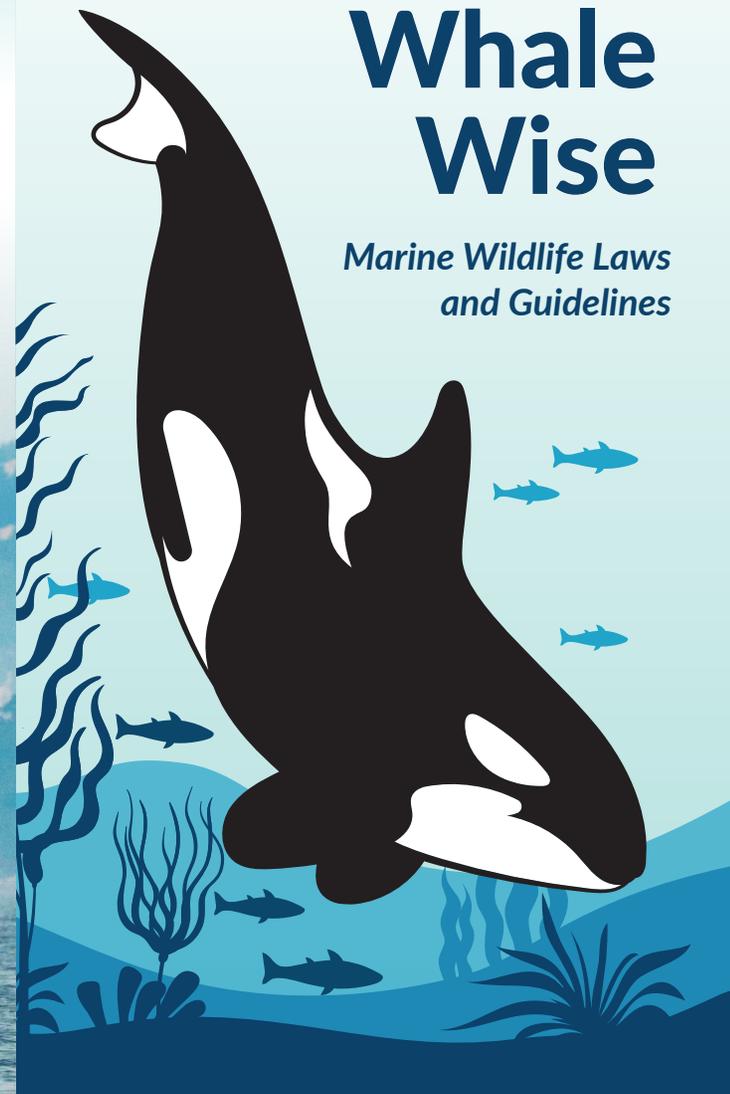
- ▶ **Coast Guard:**  
Coast Guard VHF Channel 16

### In Canada

- ▶ **Fisheries and Oceans Canada:**  
[DFO.ORR-ONS.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.ORR-ONS.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)  
1-800-465-4336

# Be Whale Wise

Marine Wildlife Laws and Guidelines



Request this information in an alternative format or language at [wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation](http://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation), 833-855-1012, TTY (711), or [CivilRightsTeam@dfo.wa.gov](mailto:CivilRightsTeam@dfo.wa.gov).



BeWhaleWise.org

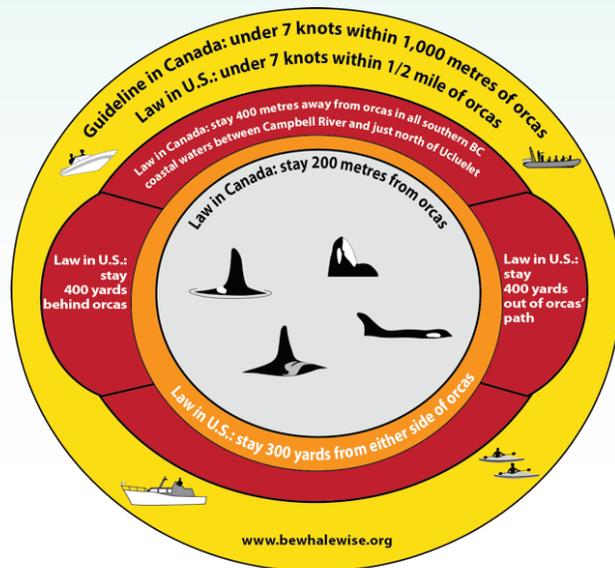


Canada



The marine waters of Washington state and British Columbia are home to 37 species of marine mammals, including the iconic orca. Different types of orcas can be found in these waters. Some eat seals and sea lions. Our critically endangered fish-eating orcas, known as Southern Resident killer whales, need your help. Boating safely in our waters is critical to the survival of the Southern Residents, and the wellbeing of all marine mammals in our region.

**REGULATIONS CHANGE**  
Stay up to date by visiting [BeWhaleWise.org](http://BeWhaleWise.org)



For whales, dolphins, or porpoises other than orcas, keep 200 metres/yards away if they are resting or with their calf. Keep 100 metres/yards away from all other marine mammals including seals and sea lions.



## Know before you go

- ▶ Learn about the different types of marine mammals, how to identify orcas, and how to tell distance on the water.
- ▶ **Know the laws** by checking the Be Whale Wise website:
  - » If you plan to cross the border, make sure that you know the regulations of both the U.S. and Canada, and follow the rules of the country you've entered.
  - » Be aware of any zones where boat speed is limited or where boats are not permitted at all.
- ▶ Learn about the whale warning flag and how to recognize and use it on the water.



The whale warning flag lets you know that whales are in the area. It is a reminder to slow down and be prepared to adjust course.

[bewhalewise.org/get-a-whale-warning-flag](http://bewhalewise.org/get-a-whale-warning-flag)

## While you're out boating

Keep an eye out for signs that whales may be nearby:

- ▶ Boats flying the Whale Warning Flag
- ▶ Whale watching tour boats
- ▶ A line of boats traveling slowly together
- ▶ A government enforcement vessel
- ▶ The obvious signs:



tail fin blow



**Rules and Regulations**  
[bewhalewise.org/regulations-guidelines/](http://bewhalewise.org/regulations-guidelines/)

## Trans-Boundary Marine Wildlife Guidelines

- ▶ **BE CAUTIOUS, COURTEOUS and QUIET** when around areas of known or suspected marine wildlife activity, especially during breeding, nesting and seal pupping seasons.
- ▶ **LOOK** in all directions before planning your approach or departure from viewing wildlife.
- ▶ **SLOW DOWN:** reduce speed to less than 7 knots when within a ½ nm or 1 kilometer of the nearest marine mammal and reduce your engine noise and vessel wake.
- ▶ **IF** animal(s) are approaching you, cautiously move out of the way and avoid abrupt course changes. **DO NOT** approach from the front or from behind.
- ▶ **IF** your vessel is not in compliance with distance regulations, place engine in neutral and allow animals to pass.
- ▶ **PAY ATTENTION** and move away slowly and cautiously at the first sign of disturbance or agitation from any animal.
- ▶ **STAY** on the **OFFSHORE** side of the whales when traveling close to shore.
- ▶ **ALWAYS** avoid going through groups of porpoises or dolphins and hold course and reduce speed gradually to discourage bow- or stern-riding.
- ▶ **LIMIT** your viewing time to 30 minutes or less. This will reduce the cumulative impact of all vessels.
- ▶ **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 marine mammal response network.