

KELP GUIDELINES:

1. Human-powered vessels should **delay launching** if whales are within ½ nm (~1,000 yds) from the launch site.
2. **Stay on the inshore side of whales.** Paddlers in a group should **stay close together** when near whales.
3. When in the *Voluntary Exclusion Zone* (see map), try to **stay within 100 yds of shore.**
4. **Avoid being in the path of the whales.**
When whales are within sight, start paddling inshore/out of the path of oncoming whales. Regulations require all vessels maintain 1,000 yds from SRKW and 200 yds from Bigg's KWs. If unable to move out of the path, raft up and cease paddling.
5. **Raft up and immediately cease paddling** when within 400 yds of SRKW or 200 yds of Bigg's KWs. Avoid headlands if possible. Resume paddling away from whales once they are 400 yds (SRKW) or 200 yds (Bigg's KWs) away.
6. Avoid disturbing pinniped haul outs and sea bird resting and nesting sites by **staying at least 100 yds away.** Avoid making noise, direct eye contact, and sudden movements.
7. **Stay 200 yds away** from any National Wildlife Refuge. Beaching is not permitted at NWRs except at designated areas.

The Kayak Code of Conduct Additional Guidelines was crafted collaboratively by The Whale Museum & the San Juan Island Kayak Association with input from WDFW & NOAA Fisheries.

ALL MARINE MAMMALS ARE PROTECTED FROM DISTURBANCE AND HARASSMENT UNDER THE U.S. MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act protects all marine mammals in the US. Some species have additional protections. Do not disturb, feed, or touch any marine wildlife. If you are concerned about a sick, stranded, or dead animal contact the local Stranding Network hotline.

In Washington State waters, all killer whales are protected under RCW 77.15.740.
Southern Resident killer whales (SRKW) have additional federal protections under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

REPORT MARINE MAMMAL STRANDINGS/SIGHTINGS IN SAN JUAN COUNTY:

1-800-562-8832 or hotline@whalemuseum.org

REPORT DISTURBANCE OR HARASSMENT OF A MARINE MAMMAL:

NOAA Fisheries, Office for Law Enforcement
1-800-853-1964 or

www.bewhalewise.org/report-violators or
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement
1-360-902-2936



For More Information:

Be Whale Wise

www.bewhalewise.org

NOAA Fisheries, West Coast Region

www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/west-coast

WDFW Vessel Regulations Protecting SRKW

www.wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/orca



The Kayak Education & Leadership Program (**KELP**) informs users of human-powered vessels about the guidelines and regulations for operating around marine wildlife in the inland waters of Washington state. KELP's goal is to reduce disturbance from paddlers to all marine wildlife.

FEDERAL VESSEL REGULATIONS FOR THE INLAND WASHINGTON WATERS*:

- Stay 1,000 yards away from Southern Resident killer whales.
- Stay 200 yards away from Bigg's (Transient) killer whales.
- Do not park or maneuver to be within 400 yards in the path of Bigg's killer whales.

*For details visit www.bewhalewise.org



NOTE: It is difficult to differentiate between types of killer whales, especially at a distance or when underway. When in doubt, err on the side of caution and assume all killer whales are Southern Resident killer whales unless otherwise advised.



HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE

PADDLER:

- Be aware of and strive to follow all local, state, and federal laws and the Be Whale Wise Guidelines.
- Have a trip plan before leaving shore. This includes knowing local boating laws, marine protected areas, accessible public landing areas, safety concerns, and sea conditions.

Map Features & Description

Marine Reserves:

Closed to all shellfish & bottomfish harvest. See WDFW Marine Area 7 rules for exact locations.

National Wildlife Refuges:

All boaters stay 200 yards away to avoid disturbing marine mammals & birds. No shore landing.

Bottomfish Recovery Areas:

No bottom fishing within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile offshore or within designated areas to protect and restore regional fishing.

Salmon Fishing Closure:

No salmon fishing within 300 yards of Yellow and Low Islands to reduce rockfish mortality.

Voluntary Exclusion Zone:

Year-round, extends $\frac{1}{4}$ mile offshore from Mitchell Bay to Cattle Point. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius around Lime Kiln Point State Park area at all times.

Sensitive Areas:

Marked for pinniped haulouts & bird nesting sites. Additional Sensitive Areas not marked on the map include **eelgrass habitat**; eelgrass provides critical habitat for juvenile fish. Avoid disturbing sediments and vegetation.



When flown, the **Whale Warning Flag** indicates that whales are in the area. Paddlers should increase their awareness and prepare to adjust course or cease paddling. Learn more at www.bewhalewise.org