

Be Whale Wise

Guidelines for Watching Marine Wildlife



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

In our excitement, we sometimes forget that our presence has an effect on the animals and their habitat. Just like us, marine animals 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 be disrupting these activities and causing the animals unnecessary stress. In some cases, we may be threatening their lives. Please follow these guidelines for watching marine wildlife.

Set an example for other boaters, and help protect this area's spectacular wildlife resources.

Why do we need guidelines?

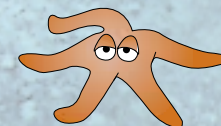
The diversity and complexity of marine life in the coastal waters off southern British Columbia and northern Washington is truly extraordinary.

But it's a fragile world. Habitat loss, overfishing, pollution and global climate change are taking their toll at all levels of the coastal food web. Some species, such as the southern resident population of killer whales, are showing signs of vulnerability and decline.

Meanwhile, the number of boats in the area is steadily increasing, placing added pressures on marine animals and their habitats.

We need to minimize our impact.

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



To report a marine mammal disturbance or stranding:

In Canada:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada: 1-800-465-4336

Marine Mammal Research Group Stranding Hotline:
1-800-665-5939

US:

National Marine Fisheries Service: 1-800-853-1964

To report marine mammal sightings:

Friday Harbor Whale Museum Hotline:
1-800-562-8832 (in WA state only)

Vancouver Aquarium Sightings Network:
www.wildwhales.org

Need more information?

Marine Mammal Monitoring Project: (250) 889-6997

The Whale Museum's Soundwatch Boater Education Program: (360) 378-4710, www.whalemuseum.com

Lifeforce Whale and Dolphin Hotline: (604) 649-5258

San Juan County Marine Protection Areas:
www.co.san-juan.wa.us/mrc

Lime Kiln Whale Watch Park: www.parks.wa.gov
Haro Strait No Motor Boat Zone: www.seasound.org

