

## THE BE WHALE WISE GUIDELINES

The Be Whale Wise guidelines were developed in 2001 as a direct response to the increasing intensity of whale-watching and recreational boating in the whales' habitat. The primary distribution method for the guidelines was, as it is now, via brochures distributed on the water and at docks to boaters. For more information about the Be Whale Wise Guidelines visit [www.cetussociety.org](http://www.cetussociety.org).

1. **DO NOT APPROACH** or position your vessel closer than 200 metres/yards to any killer whale in the U.S. **DO NOT APPROACH** or get closer than 100 metres/yards to any other marine mammals or birds, whether on the water or on land.
2. **BE CAUTIOUS, COURTEOUS** and **QUIET** when around areas of known or suspected marine wildlife activity, in the water or at haul-outs and bird colonies on land. Especially from May to September during breeding, nesting and seal pupping seasons.
3. **LOOK** in all directions before planning your approach or departure from viewing wildlife.
4. **SLOW DOWN:** reduce speed to less than 7 knots when within 400 metres/yards of the nearest marine mammal and reduce your engine's noise and vessel's wake.
5. **ALWAYS** approach and depart from the side, moving parallel to their direction of the animal's travel. If the 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.
6. **IF your** vessel is not in compliance with the 100 metres/yards approach guideline (#1), place engine in neutral and allow animals to pass.
7. **PAY ATTENTION** and move away, slowly and cautiously at the first sign of disturbance or agitation from any animal.
8. **STAY** on the **OFFSHORE** side of the whales when traveling close to shore.
9. **ALWAYS** avoid going through groups of porpoises or dolphins and hold course and reduce speed gradually to discourage bow or stern-riding.
10. **LIMIT** your viewing time to 30 minutes or less. This will reduce the cumulative impact of all vessels and give consideration to other viewers.
11. **DO NOT** disturb, swim with, move, feed or touch any marine wildlife. If you are concerned about a potentially sick, stranded animal, or entangled animal, contact your local stranding network.