

Guidelines for watching cetaceans

(whales, dolphins, and porpoises)

1. **BE CAUTIOUS and COURTEOUS:** approach areas of known or suspected marine mammal activity with extreme caution. Look in all directions before planning your approach or departure.
2. **SLOW DOWN:** reduce speed to less than 5 knots when within 400 metres/yards of the nearest animal. Avoid making any abrupt changes in speed or course.
3. **MAINTAIN** at least 100 metres/yards from the nearest animal.
4. **ALWAYS** approach and depart animals from the side, moving in a direction parallel to the direction of the animals. Avoid approaching from the front or behind.

Limit your time engaged in viewing to a maximum of 30 minutes, being sensitive to the presence of other vessels and to minimize the cumulative impact of many vessels.

5. **STAY** on the **OFFSHORE** side of the animals when they are travelling close to shore. Remain at least 200 metres/yards offshore at all times.
6. **NEVER** position your vessel within the 400 metre/yard area in the path of the animals. Keep the path of the animals clear.
7. If your vessel is unexpectedly within 100 metres/yards, **STOP IMMEDIATELY** and allow the animals to pass.

Guidelines for watching seals, sea lions and birds, when animals are on land:

1. **MAINTAIN** at least 100 metres/yards distance from any marine animals or birds.
2. **SLOW DOWN** and reduce your wake/wash and noise levels.
3. **PAY ATTENTION** and back away at the first sign of disturbance or agitation.
4. **BE CAUTIOUS and QUIET** when around haulouts and bird colonies, especially during breeding, nesting and pupping seasons (generally May to Sept).
5. **DO NOT FEED** any marine mammals or birds.

Guidelines for viewing wildlife within Marine Protected Areas, Wildlife Refuges and Parks

1. Check your nautical charts for the location of various protected areas.
2. Abide by posted restrictions, or contact a local authority for further information.



Give us the space we need and the respect we deserve.

What is disturbance?

Regulations in Canada and the U.S. prohibit harassment and disturbance of marine wildlife.

Disturbance is when we interfere with an animal's ability to hunt, feed, communicate, socialize, rest, breed and care for its young.

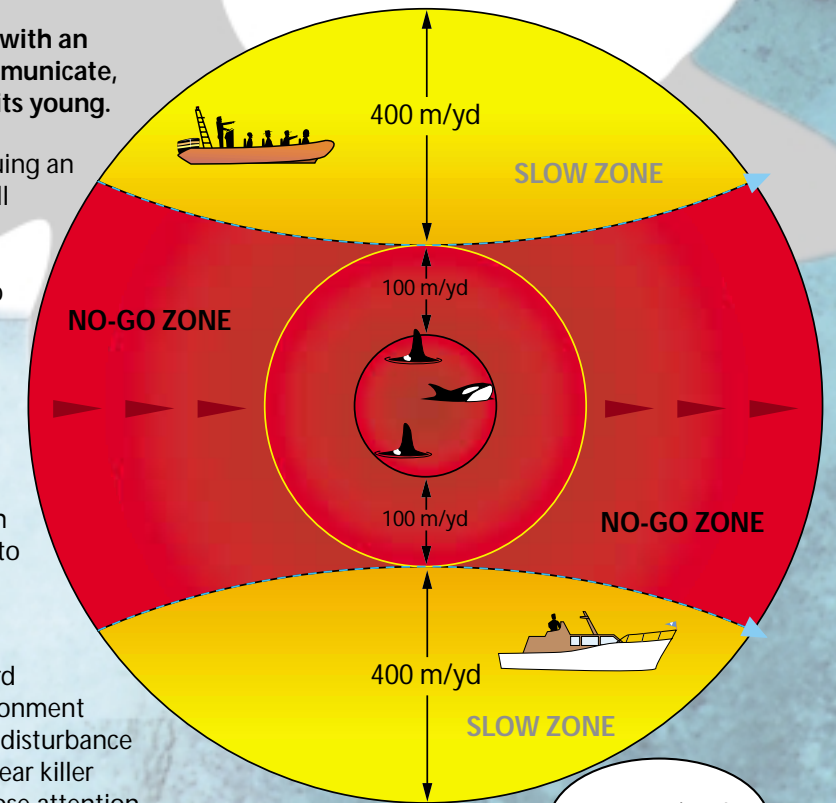
Approaching too close or fast, pursuing an animal, or obstructing its path are all considered disturbance. Too many boats, excessive engine noise and exhaust fumes are also disruptive to nearby animals.

What can you do?

Follow these guidelines. And be observant. If you're near a sea lion haul-out and the animals stampede into the water, you're too close. Such incidents can cause injury or death to the animals or make them more vulnerable to predation.

Similarly, close approaches to seabird colonies can result in nest abandonment and predation. Other signs of disturbance can be more subtle. When near killer whales, for example, pay close attention to their behaviour patterns. Sudden changes in direction, longer dives, and tail-lobbing may all suggest disturbance. Please respect the animals and their needs.

Remember, this is their home.



100 metres/yards = football field

