



DON'T LET THEM BE HARASSED

To protect whales and other marine mammals from harassment (which is required under the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972) the U.S. and Canadian governments have developed guidelines for marine mammal watching in Pacific Northwest waters.

WHALE WATCHING GUIDELINES

VESSELS: Should not approach marine mammals closer than 100 yards

Should not separate mothers and offspring.

Should approach whales slowly from the side, travel parallel to them and at the same speed as the slowest animals.

AIRCRAFT: Should not fly under 1000 feet over marine mammals.

OPERATORS: Should not perform any action that substantially disrupts normal behavior patterns.

To report incidents of marine mammal harassment record, the violator's vessel name and vessel ID Number and report it to authorities:

In Washington State:

Enforcement Division National Marine Fisheries Service
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Week Days (206) 526-6133

In British Columbia:

Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Radio Dispatch:
7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Every Day (604) 666-3500

or Call the Whale Hotline (24 Hours)

STRANDINGS

Any dead marine mammal on a beach or floating is considered to be stranded. Additionally, any marine mammal out of its element is considered stranded. However a seal or sea lion hauled out on a beach may require an observation period before being considered stranded, allowing an animal time to rest and return to the sea on its own.

In the U. S., the Northwest Marine Mammal Stranding Network is a cooperative volunteer effort of many agencies, institutions, and individuals who are under federal permit to respond to strandings. Stranding network members are authorized to rescue live marine mammals and collect scientific data from both live and dead strandings. It is illegal to remove or disturb any stranded marine mammal without a federal stranding permit. Report strandings to the Washington State Patrol or local police, or call the Whale Hotline

In British Columbia strandings should be reported to the Department of Fisheries and Ocean. Radio Dispatch (604) 666-3500 or call the Whale Hotline.

Report cetacean sightings and marine mammal strandings to:

THE WHALE HOTLINE

1-800-562-8832 (in Washington State)

1-800-334-8832 (in British Columbia)

(In order to protect the whales, Whale Hotline sighting information is not released to the public or to cruise vessel operators until 24 hours has elapsed after the sighting. Current sightings will only be released to federally permitted researchers involved in non-invasive studies.)



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