**Whale Watching:**

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 7 knots when within 400 metres/yards of the nearest whale. Avoid abrupt course changes.
3. **AVOID approaching closer than 100 metres/yards to any whale.**
4. If your vessel is unexpectedly within 100 metres/yards of a whale, **STOP IMMEDIATELY** and allow the whales to pass.
5. **AVOID approaching whales from the front or from behind.** Always approach and depart whales from the side, moving in a direction parallel to the direction of the whales.
6. **KEEP CLEAR of the whales’ path.** Avoid positioning your vessel within the 400 metre/yard area in the path of the whales.
7. **STAY on the OFFSHORE side** of the whales when they are traveling close to shore. Remain at least 200 metres/ yards offshore at all times.
8. **LIMIT your viewing time to a recommended maximum of 30 minutes.** This will minimize the cumulative impact of many vessels and give consideration to other viewers.
9. **DO NOT swim with or feed whales.**

**Seals, sea lions & birds on land:**

1. **AVOID approaching closer than 100 metres/yards to any marine mammals 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 haul-outs and bird colonies, especially during breeding, nesting and pupping seasons (generally May to September).**
5. **DO NOT swim with or feed any marine mammals or birds.**

**Viewing wildlife within Marine Protected Areas, Wildlife Refuges, Ecological Reserves 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.**

**To report a marine mammal disturbance or harassment:**

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

**US:**
National Marine Fisheries Service Office for Law Enforcement: 1-800-853-1964

**To report marine mammal sightings:**
BC Cetacean Sightings Network www.wildwhales.org or (604) 659-3429

The Whale Museum Hotline (WA state): 1-800-562-8832 or hotline@whalemuseum.org

OrcaNetwork info@orcanetwork.org

**Need more information?**

**Canada:**
Fisheries and Oceans Canada www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Marine Mammal Monitoring Project (M3) (Victoria and Southern Gulf Islands): (250) 480-2656 or www.salishsea.ca

Straitwatch (Johnstone Strait and Northern Vancouver Island) www.straitwatch.org

**US:**
Soundwatch Boater Education Program (Washington State, Haro Strait Region) (360) 378-4710 or www.whalemuseum.org
NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Region www.nwr.noaa.gov
NOAA Fisheries, Office of Protected Resources www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/MMWatch/MMViewing.html

**Porpoises and dolphins:**

1. **OBSERVE all guidelines for watching whales.**
2. **DO NOT drive through groups of porpoises or dolphins for the purpose of bow-riding.**
3. Should dolphins or porpoises choose to ride the bow wave of your vessel, **REDUCE SPEED gradually and avoid sudden course changes.**