

Speed limit and boat wake control zones exist throughout our boating region. Few if any are depicted on our nautical charts. Often, but not always, the speed zones are marked by on-water buoys or signage along the shore. Signage for No Wake zones is often private to protect nearby docks or marinas. Speed limits and no wake rules are imposed by a variety of different jurisdictions, including federal government, state/provincial government, port authorities, county government, and local/city government. Some are suggested or requested speed and wake control areas. Various controlling authorities, including police, enforce speed limit and no wake zones for the safety of people, boats, marinas, and shorelines. Boaters are expected to operate their vessels in compliance with these regulations.

NOTE: This is not a complete list but does include many of the commonly visited locations.

In general:

- Speed should be reduced and wake minimized when within 100 yards/meters of shore.
- Reduce speed and minimize wake when near beaches, swimmers, kayaks, canoes, and divers.
- A “No Wake 5-knot speed zone” requires a speed that produces a minimized wake which may be less than the 5-knot maximum.
- Kill your transom wake by briefly halting outside a marina entrance.
- Big fast boats should be especially careful with their powerful large wakes.
- Speed limit laws in BC are often legislated in km/hour and have been converted and rounded.

Puget Sound	Budd Inlet, Olympia	7-knot speed limit from Olympia Shoal to an East/West line at the North tip of Port of Olympia peninsula, where a 5-knot limit begins and extends south in both the east and west channels. No Wake speed limit in all City of Olympia waters.
Puget Sound	Amsterdam Bay, Anderson Island	5-mph No Wake speed is requested to protect shoreline.
Puget Sound	Foss Waterway, Tacoma	A No Wake speed limit exists throughout the Thea Foss Waterway.
Puget Sound	Commencement Bay Waterways	5-mph speed limit in the Hylebos, Blair, St. Paul, Milwaukee, Sitcum, and Middle waterways off of Commencement Bay.
Puget Sound	Gig Harbor	5-mph No-Wake speed limit is enforced in Gig Harbor and 200 feet outside the entrance.
Puget Sound	Salmon Bay, Ship Canal, and LakeUnion	7-knot No Wake speed limit is enforced from Hiram M. Chittenden Locks to Webster Point.
Puget Sound	Washington Narrows between Sinclair Inlet and Dyes Inlet	A Minimum Wake speed is requested to protect shoreline and boats moored at the marina.
Puget Sound	Liberty Bay, Poulsbo	5-knot speed limit on the north half of the bay; a marked buoy signals the south end of the speed limit zone.
Puget Sound	Keyport	An on-shore sign at the Keyport Naval Research facility marks a No Wake speed limit zone in front of the Naval facility docks.
Puget Sound	Eagle Harbor	5-knot speed limit begins at buoy.
Puget Sound	Port Ludlow	5-mph No Wake speed limit is in effect throughout Port Ludlow and applies to all vessels, including dinghies.
Swinomish Channel	La Conner	A No-Wake Zone extends from Hole-In-The-Wall on the south end to the railroad swing bridge on the north end.
Puget Sound & San Juan Islands	Orca Whales	A 7-knot No Wake speed limit is required and enforced within one-half nautical mile of Southern Resident Orca Whales within inland Washington waters.
San Juan Islands	Pole Pass	7-mph speed and low-wake zone marked by white cylindrical buoys extends 1/3 mile northwest of Pole Pass then eastward and southward to Bell Island; enforced by the County Sheriff.
San Juan Islands	Mosquito Pass	7-mph speed and low-wake zone extends throughout Mosquito Pass; enforced by County Sheriff.
San Juan Islands	Fisher Bay Channel	5-mph speed limit zone extends through the entrance channel.
Gulf Islands, Strait of Juan de Fuca, Fraser River Outlets	Killer (Orca) Whales	7-knot or slower speed is requested of all vessels when within 1 km (1/2 mile) of Killer (Orca) Whales.
Gulf Islands	Victoria Harbour	7-knot speed limit begins at Ogden Point and extends to Shoal Point, where a 5-knot speed limit begins and extends throughout the inner harbour.
Gulf Islands	Oak Bay, near Victoria	4-knot speed limit is in effect throughout the harbour area north of the breakwater and west of Mary Tod Island.
Gulf Islands	Brentwood Bay Tod Inlet	4-knot speed limit exists from a line between the Brentwood Ferry Terminal to the northeast boundary of Gowlland Tod Provincial Park (approximately the unnamed point on the peninsula west of Daphne Islet.)

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SPEED LIMIT AND NO WAKE ZONES



Gulf Islands	Pender Canal, between North Pender and South Pender Islands	5-knot speed limit exists from Ainslie Point to Mortimer Spit.
Gulf Islands	Ganges Harbour	5-knot speed limit zone throughout the harbour begins at a mid-channel buoy near Rock Point.
Gulf Islands	Tsehum Harbour, Sidney	A No Wake, speed limit of 4-knots is in force in Tsehum Harbour.
Gulf Islands	Birds Eye Cove/Maple Bay	A white buoy entering Birds Eye Cove from Maple Bay marks a 5-knot No Wake speed limit zone.
Gulf Islands	Nanaimo , Newcastle Channel	5-knot speed limit zone protects marinas along Newcastle Channel from Bate Pt. to Shaft Pt.
Gulf Islands	Nanaimo Harbour	5-knot speed limit is in effect within 150 meters of shore and when near or around anchored vessels, floatplanes, and beach areas.
Vancouver	False Creek	5-knot No Wake speed limit extends throughout False Creek Inlet and begins off Sunset Beach.
Vancouver	Vancouver Harbour, First Narrows	A 15-knot speed limit in the waters around First Narrows, Lions Gate Bridge.
Vancouver	Coal Harbour	5-knot speed limit is enforced in Coal Harbour.
Vancouver	Indian Arm North	5-knot speed limit begins at Croker Island and extends to the north end of Indian Arm
Vancouver	Indian Arm South	5-knot speed limit begins at Boulder Island and extends north to Jug Island.
Vancouver	Indian Arm, Bedwell Bay	5-knot speed limit is enforced in Bedwell Bay.
Sunshine Coast	Princess Louisa Inlet	A no-wake speed limit is in effect throughout the inlet.
Desolation Sound	Pendrell Sound, East Redonda Island	3-knot speed limit is in effect throughout the north half of Pendrell Sound to protect seed oyster growing operations.
Desolation Sound	Gorge Harbour	A No Wake speed limit is in effect throughout the harbour.
Johnstone Strait	Cordero Channel, Cordero Lodge	A No Wake speed is requested when passing Cordero Lodge.
North Vancouver Island	Port Hardy	3-knot speed limit exists in the Inner Harbour.
West Coast Vancouver Island	Bull Harbour	3-knot speed limit is requested inside the harbour.
Northern B.C. Coast	Prince Rupert	5-knot speed zone is enforced within 600 yards of the harbour's south shore from Fairview Container Terminal to Ritchie Point. No buoys mark the zone.
Northern B.C. Coast	Porpoise Harbour, Prince Rupert	5-knot speed limit exists throughout the harbour.
Northern B.C. Coast	Venn Passage, Prince Rupert area	Two 5-knot speed limit zones in Venn Passage: off the airport dock on Digby Island, and off the village of Metlakatla.
Southeast Alaska	Tongass Narrows, Ketchikan	7-knot speed limit for vessels over 23 feet extends from Buoy 9 in the north to the East West Channel regulatory markers to the south.
Southeast Alaska	Gastineau Channel, Juneau Harbor	5-knot speed limit within Juneau Harbor; 7-knot speed limit in Gastineau Channel from Juneau Island and Douglas Harbor north to Juneau Harbor.
Southeast Alaska	Auke Bay, Juneau	5-knot speed limit within 1,000 feet of the harbor breakwater and entrance 4-knot speed limit within the breakwater.
Southeast Alaska	Sitka Harbor	5-mph speed limit throughout the harbor; and No Wake within the marinas.