

Ways you can help protect marine wildlife

Be Whale Wise! <https://www.bewhalewise.org>

- Follow regulations in WA and BC ([print for your boat!](#))
- Guidelines for best practices
- Get familiar with sanctuary no-go zones (mandatory and voluntary)
- [Report violators here](#)
- Spread the word-share the shore



100 metres/yards no approach zone for all other marine mammals in US & Canada; and keep 200 metres away from whales, dolphins or porpoises if they are resting or with their calf.



This flag indicates whales are within 0.65 mile (1km) of the boat flying the flag, proceed with caution.

The Whale Warning Flag

Watch for flags/spread the word to help save our whales. For US and Canadian waters.

San Juan County and SJC Marine Resources Committee SRKW program-[get a flag here](#)

Canada: Marine Education and Research Society <https://mersociety.org/>

- **Raise the flag:** If you encounter whales within 0.65 miles (1km) of you
- Slow down to 7 knots or less
- Maintain compliance with [Be Whale Wise Guidelines](#) and laws
- Turn off fish finders and/or depth sounders
- Acts like a diver down flag



See a blow? GO SLOW!

- You will see more of these signs soon
- SLOW DOWN to protect you & whales
- Help spread the word!

Report marine mammal sightings:

The Whale Museum Hotline (U.S. and Canada):
hotline@whalemuseum.org or 1-800-562-8832

Orca Network (WA state)
info@orcانetwork.org or 1-866-ORCANET

BC Cetacean Sightings Network (Canada)
www.wildwhales.org or 1-866- I SAW ONE

Download WhaleReport App on
[iTunes](#) and [Google Play](#)



Stewards of whales:

See a blue inflatable boat rushing towards you? SLOW DOWN! It's probably Soundwatch letting you know whales are in the area.

Soundwatch:
<https://whalemuseum.org/pages/soundwatch-boater-education-program>

Canada: <https://www.cetussociety.org/straitwatch>

Restoration efforts & volunteer opportunities:

Whale Scout: <https://www.whalescout.org/>

SR3: <https://www.sealifer3.org/>

- Provides 24/7 emergency field response for sick or injured marine animals through partnerships with other non-profit & government agencies.



Anchor Out Zones

Anchor Out Zones are in place in areas such as Port Townsend, Sucia Island and other sites around the San Juans. These protect eelgrass habitats that are at risk of damage from anchoring. These habitats are critically important to forage fish, salmon and marine mammals, including the Southern Resident killer whales.

Friends of the San Juans: Green Boating guide with a downloadable map to help boaters know what depth to safely anchor out of eelgrass

<https://sanjuans.org/greenboating/>

Jefferson MRC Voluntary Anchor Out Zone:

<https://www.jeffersonmrc.org/projects/voluntary-no-anchor-zones/>

Georgia Strait Alliance: Green Boating Guide

<https://georgiastrait.org/work/cleanmarinebc/greenboatingguide/>

Other ways to help whales:

- **Be an Orca Steward:** Your actions make a difference.
<https://whalemuseum.org/pages/how-to-help-the-orcas>
- **Plastic Free Salish Sea:** Good resources/tool kits to find alternatives & reduce single use
www.plasticfreesalishsea.org
- **Join local beach clean-up efforts:** Surfriders Foundation Chapters in Olympia, Tacoma, Seattle, Olympic Peninsula, Bellingham, Victoria, Vancouver
<https://www.surfrider.org/chapters>
- Check out MRCs and local Conservation Districts for beach cleanup efforts, or just go out and be a steward of your favorite beach!

Marine Resources Committees (MRCs):

Find your closest MRC through the Northwest Straits Commission website:

<https://www.nwstraits.org/get-involved/marine-resources-committees/>

- Volunteer on citizen science projects
- Take part in workshops:
 - Learn how to properly equip and deploy crab pots to avoid losing them. ~14,000 crab pots are lost in Puget Sound each year and can keep fishing for an average of 2 years.
 - Learn about Anchor out zones to protect eelgrass habitats that are important rearing habitats for juvenile salmon.
 - Learn about how to report derelict vessels and marine debris with the My Coast app.

West Coast Large Whale Entanglement Response Program

To report entangled marine mammals:

1-877-SOS-WHAL or 1-877-767-9425

The U.S. Coast Guard: VHF Ch. 16

- **Prompt reporting:** Best way to help! Stay with the whale as long as it is safe to do so.
- **Safe Safety First!** Because whales in distress act unpredictably, do not closely approach. Never attempt disentangling or to remove any gear without training and authorization.
- **Video or photos** showing the entangling gear can be helpful for our efforts to reduce these entanglements in the future. Please collect and provide video or photos to NOAA Fisheries, but remember to stay at least 100 yards from the whale and beware that lines in the water could snag your vessel.

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/marine-mammal-protection/west-coast-large-whale-entanglement-response-program>

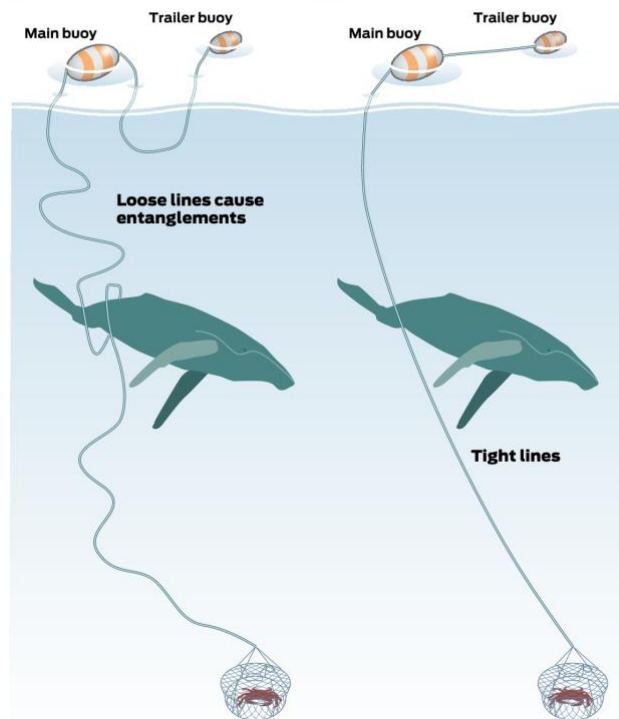
While every effort is made to respond to each entangled whale, sometimes it is not possible, but every report of an entanglement is crucial to our understanding of this problem and our attempts to mitigate it.

3/22/21 Created by Frances Robertson and April Rebollo as a community service.

Preventing whale entanglements



Warming ocean temperatures have caused whales to swim closer to shore for food, leading them to be caught in Dungeness crab fishing gear. Crab fishermen are working on ways to reduce the risk of entanglement, such as making sure that lines that attach their crab pots to buoys are tight.



Source: NOAA, California Department of Fish and Game

John Blanchard / The Chronicle

Don't forget about the Birds!

Birdweb: Seattle Audubon's Guide to Birds of WA:

<http://birdweb.org/birdweb/>

Birds Canada: <https://www.birdscanada.org>

Online Birder's Guide to WA:

<https://wabirdguide.org>

The Washington Ornithological Society:

<https://wos.org>

Report a rare bird: <https://wos.org/observation/>