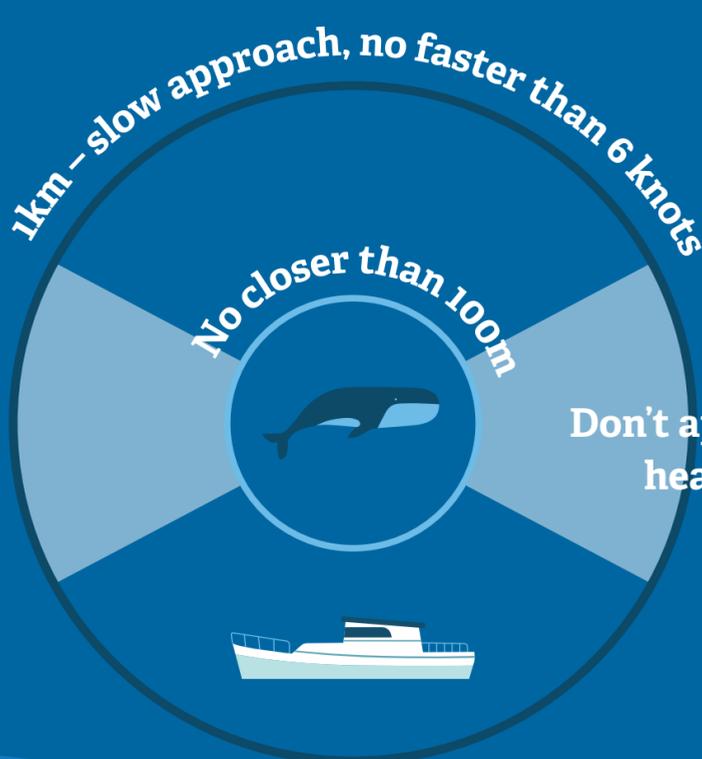




If you see a marine mammal while on the water...



Don't drive directly towards or through groups of animals

Your movement should be constant, steady and predictable

 Maximum watching time **15 minutes**

Travel at '**no wake**' speed

Always allow animals an escape route and let them approach you

Ensure there are no more than **2 vessels** around the animal at any one time



Keep noise to a minimum and remain calm

Don't chase, swim with or feed the animal



Cetaceans and seals are protected by law making it illegal to disturb or harass them. Please report any such incidences to the local police.

Why is complying with the guidelines important?

Disturbance to marine mammals can take different forms, including physical, physiological and noise disturbance. The guidelines above help us to cause the least amount of disturbance to them. For example the guideline 'Keep a minimum of 100 metres distance from the animal/s' reduces the risk of a vessel or watercraft striking an animal.

The guideline 'Don't drive directly towards or through groups of animals' reduces the risk that animals, especially mothers and calves, become separated which can cause stress to the animals.

Finally many marine mammals rely on sound to communicate and locate

prey and each other so loud noise can interfere with these critical functions and have wider impacts.

The above guidelines have been developed to promote responsible and sustainable tourism and recreation as well as commercial operations on the water. All of the above recommendations can limit the impact that human activities have on marine mammals, ensuring that disturbance is kept to a minimum. It is in all our interests to ensure the long term protection of these special animals and the long-lasting enjoyment of them by generations.

