

# Be Whale Wise

**DO YOUR PART TO PROTECT MARINE WILDLIFE FROM HARASSMENT AND DISTURBANCE  
IT'S THE LAW!**

## WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

Regulations in Canada and the U.S. strongly prohibit the harassment and disturbance of marine mammals. Many species are threatened or endangered and subject to additional protections under the *Endangered Species Act* (U.S.) and the *Species at Risk Act* (Canada).

**Southern Resident killer whales are listed as **ENDANGERED** in both Canada and the United States. Vessel impacts have been identified as one of the threats.**

## TRANSGRESSIONS ARE PUNISHABLE BY LAW!

### U.S. Mandatory measures

- Maintain a minimum approach distance of:
  - **300 yards** from killer whales on either side
  - **400 yards** from killer whale's path/in front and behind the whales
  - **Reduce speed** to under 7 knots when within ½ nm of whales
  - **Disengage engines** if whales approach your vessel, **within 300 yards**

Canadian Regulations state, any vessel that contravenes this interim order is committing either:

\*A violation of subsection 229 to 243 of the Canada Shipping Act, 2001, as set out in Section 711 of the Budget Implementation Act, 2018, No. 2, S.C. 2018, c.27, and may be issued a monetary penalty ranging from \$250 to \$250,000; - OR -

\*An offence, according to section 40.1 of the Canada Shipping Act, 2001, and may be liable on summary conviction to a fine of not more than \$1,000,000 or imprisonment for a term of not more than 18 months, or both. **SEE [Gulf Island interim sanctuary zones here.](#)**

### Canadian Mandatory distance measures:

- In effect year-round, maintain a minimum approach distance of:
  - **400 meters** from all endangered **Southern Resident killer whales**
  - **200 meters** away from **all other killer whales** in all other Canadian Pacific waters, outside of 400-meter approach areas
  - **100 meters** from all other marine mammals
  - **NO DRONES!** Drones can disturb marine mammals and are discouraged for viewing marine mammals **unless permits are obtained**