

Appendix I 8 Guidelines for Observing Cetaceans

Have you seen a whale?

What species is it?

(include species I.D chart here)

Is it more than 500m away?

1. Call the WHALE HOTLINE on 0427 942 537
2. Call Andrew Hunter (wildlife officer) on
3. Keep watch of the whale's whereabouts

Is it less than 500m away?

1. Stop all marine farming activity straight away
2. Call Andrew Hunter (wildlife officer) on
3. Call the WHALE HOTLINE on 0427 942 537
4. Keep watch of the whale's whereabouts

Has it connected with or become entangled in farm equipment?

Whale & Dolphin Viewing Guidelines

Guidelines for dolphin and whale watching are in place in Tasmanian and Commonwealth waters to ensure human safety and to protect the welfare of the animals. The guidelines apply to both commercial operators (eg tour operators) as well as individuals lucky enough to chance upon a pod of dolphins or whales.

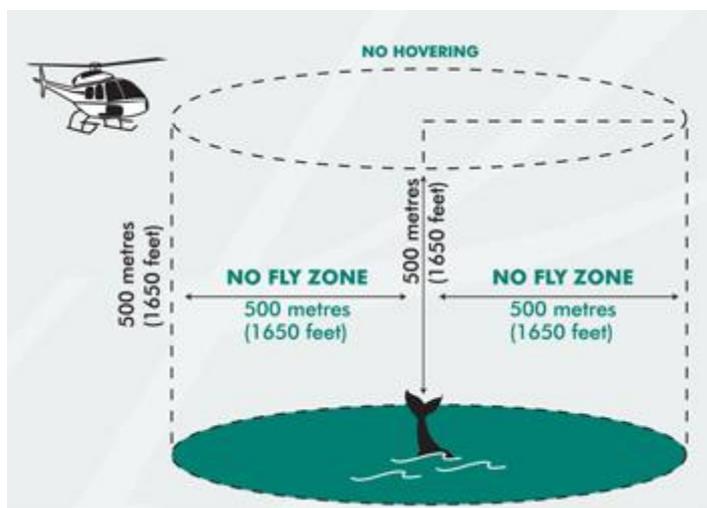
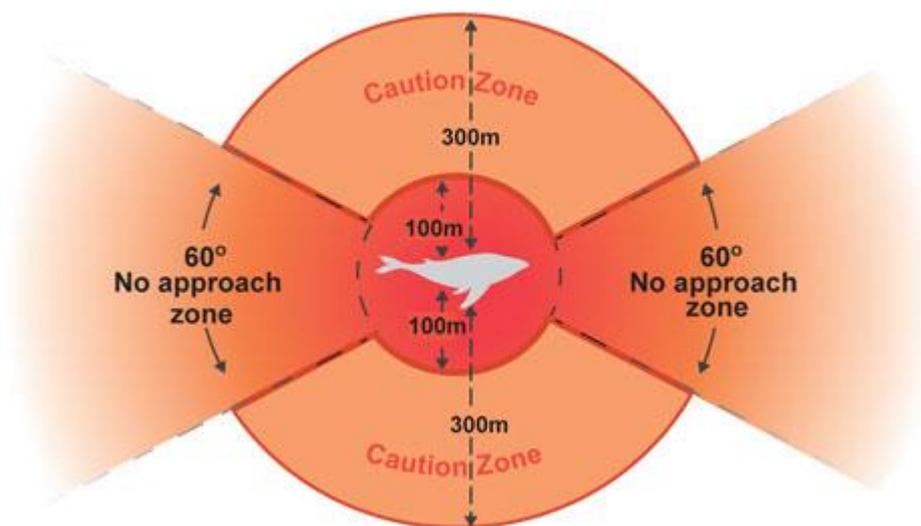
If you see whales, dolphins or other marine mammals in Tasmanian waters, please ring our hotline:

0427 WHALES or 0427 942 537

This information is vital. Not only are you adding to our knowledge of these species, your information may even prevent whales and dolphins from stranding.

The basic rules when near whales and dolphins are to keep a safe distance, remain quiet, and do not try to touch or feed them.

APPROACH DISTANCES FOR WHALES



Images courtesy Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

Viewing guidelines

- In a vessel approach no closer than 100m to a whale or 50m to a dolphin
- If your vessel is under steam you should approach no closer than 300m for whales or 150m for dolphins - no more than three vessels within the caution zone (see diagram)
- Withdraw immediately, at a slow and steady pace, if the animals show any kind of disturbance
- Adopt a slow speed (no wake) while in the area
- Approach the animal from parallel to, and slightly to the rear (see diagram)
- Personal motorised watercraft (including jet skis and remotely operated craft) should not approach whales or dolphins any closer than 300m. If whales or dolphins move within this distance, the vessel should slow down and move away from the animal(s) at no-wake speed to at least 300m away.

Please remember - keep a safe distance, remain quiet, and do not try to touch or feed them.

Contact

Biodiversity Conservation Branch

134 Macquarie Street
HOBART TAS 7000
Phone: 03 6165 4319

Contact

DPIPWE Threatened Species Section

Louise Jerrim
GPO Box 44
HOBART TAS 7000
Phone: 03 6165 4340

Wildcare whale rescue training

If you are interested in assisting with whale rescues then join [WILDCARE Inc](#) and register for whale rescue on the membership form. You will receive information about WILDCARE Inc. Whale rescue courses, formation of First Response teams and will be contacted in the event of a stranding where assistance from volunteers is required.

Supporting whale and dolphin conservation

The waters around Tasmania support a diverse range of whale and dolphin (cetacean) species, however many populations are still recovering from historical exploitation. The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) is responsible for the conservation and management of cetaceans in Tasmania.

You can help:

- 1 Immediately **REPORT** all stranded, injured or entangled whales or dolphins (alive or dead) to the Whale Hotline **0427 WHALES (0427 942 537)**

Rescue of compromised whales and dolphins requires specialised skills and equipment, and rapid reporting via the 24hr/7day hotline provides the Marine Conservation Program with the best chance of effecting a successful response.

- 2 Visit our WhalesTas **FACEBOOK** page for more information and to report sightings (www.facebook.com/whalestas)



Reporting sightings of whales and dolphins contributes valuable information to long-term monitoring of these species in Tasmania, providing the opportunity to actively participate in their conservation and protection. To discuss sightings please call the Whale Hotline.

Photos of the dorsal fin, head and tail are particularly useful for identification.

- 3 Tag your **PHOTOS #whalestas**

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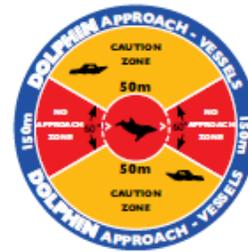
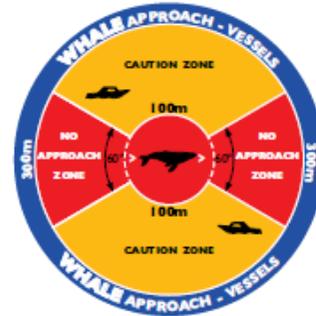
Viewing whales and dolphins

Guidelines for viewing and approaching cetaceans are outlined below, and additional information can be found on the DPIPWE website. These guidelines apply to all water users including commercial operators (e.g. tour vessels) as well as recreational boaters.

In general, when a whale or dolphin is observed, vessel operators should:

- Slow down and avoid erratic changes in speed and direction
- Approach no closer than the specified approach distances (see below)
- Avoid approaching from directly in front of or behind the animal

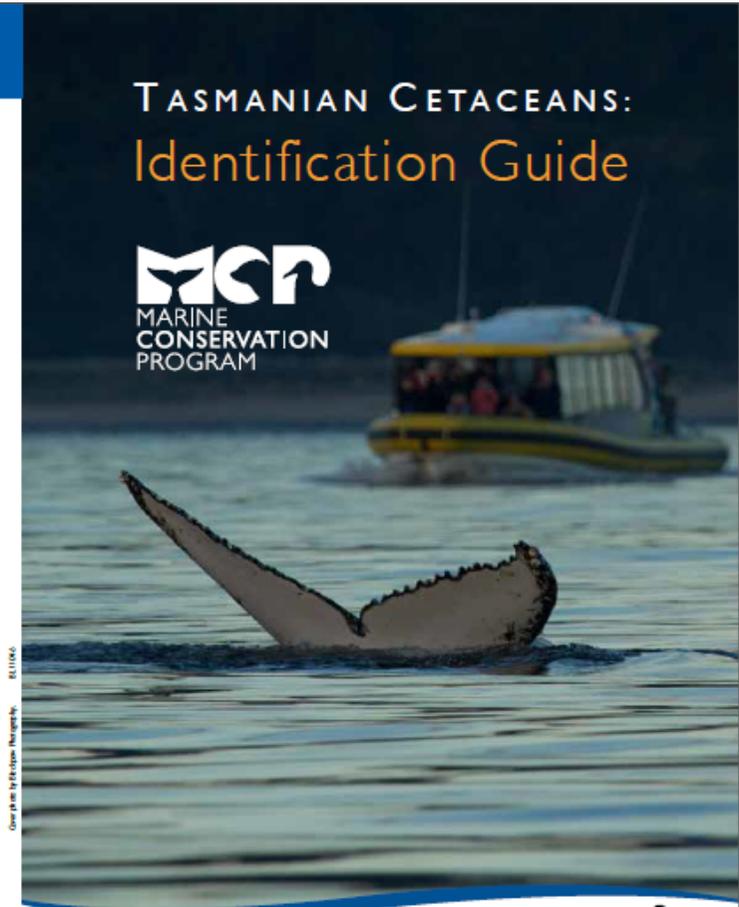
If vessels are operated appropriately, the impacts of whale and dolphin watching can be minimised and you will have a more enjoyable experience. Remember, it is OK if whales or dolphins deliberately approach your vessel closer than the approach distances outlined below (e.g. dolphins riding a vessel's bow-wave), however this must be entirely determined by the animal.



Marine Conservation Program
Department of Primary Industries,
Parks, Water and Environment
134 Macquarie St Hobart
GPO Box 44 Hobart TAS 7001
www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au



TASMANIAN CETACEANS: Identification Guide



Department of
Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment



Report sightings to 0427 WHALES

Approximately 40 cetacean species have been identified in Tasmania to date. The following provides a guide to identifying the 10 most frequently sighted whales and dolphins in Tasmanian waters.

Key:

Baleen whales

Toothed whales

Dolphins

TASMANIAN CETACEANS: Identification Guide

Blue whale - *Balaenoptera musculus*

Tas: *Endangered* National: *Endangered*

Identifying features
Max 33 m
150 tons

Massive shoulder and splashguard

Tiny dorsal fin



Turquoise silhouette below the water

Tail, columnar blow

Surfacing behaviour

Southern right whale - *Eubalaena australis*

Tas: *Endangered* National: *Endangered*

Identifying features
Max 17 m
70 tons

No dorsal fin



Broad paddle-shaped flippers



White callosities (barnacle-like features)

Surfacing behaviour

Humpback whale - *Megaptera novaeangliae*

Tas: *Endangered* National: *Vulnerable*

Identifying features
Max 18 m
40 tons

White underside to flukes and flippers



White throat pleats

Extremely long flippers



Arches high above water when surfacing

Surfacing behaviour
flukes lifted high prior to diving

Pygmy right whale - *Caperea marginata*

Identifying features
Max 6.5 m
3.5 tons

Sickle-shaped dorsal fin far back on body



Characteristic arched mouthline

flukes never raise above surface

Surfacing behaviour

Antarctic minke whale - *Balaenoptera bonaerensis*

Identifying features
Max 10.7 m
9.1 tons

Rather tall sickle-shaped dorsal fin



Pointed snout, straight mouthline

White leading edge to flipper

Surfacing behaviour

Sperm whale - *Physeter macrocephalus*

Identifying features
Max 18 m
55 tons

Dark wrinkled skin

Rounded or triangular dorsal fin



Single blowhole on left side

Exaggerated "knuckles" on tail stock

Surfacing behaviour

Bottlenose dolphin - *Tursiops truncatus*

Identifying features
Max 4.1 m
650 kg

High erect falcate dorsal fin

Uniform dark dorsal colouration



Large peg-like teeth

Common dolphin - *Delphinus delphis*

Identifying features
Max 2.5 m
230 kg

Black eye spot/strip

Dark beak-flipper stripe

Large yellowish-buff thoracic panel



Killer whale - *Orcinus orca*

Identifying features
Max 9.8 m
5.5 tons

Tail triangular dorsal fin on mature males



Unmistakeable black and white pigmentation

White underside to flukes

Surfacing behaviour

Long-finned pilot whale - *Globicephala melas*

Identifying features
Max 7.4 m
3 tons

Characteristic lobed dorsal fin

White saddle patch and eye-stripe



Bulbous melon

Sickle-shaped flippers

Surfacing behaviour