

# SEE A WHALE? AVOID A WHALE!



Research shows that even small vessels that approach whales closer than 400 m disrupt their communication and feeding activity.



WATER BLOW



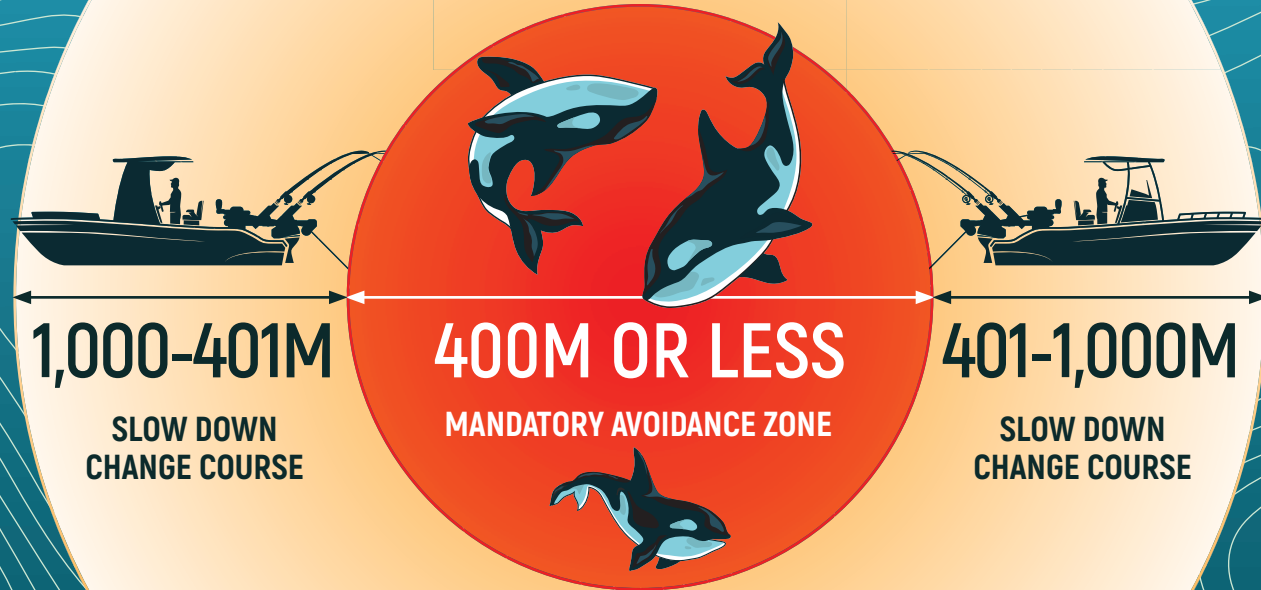
TAIL



SPLASH



FIN



Boaters must be very aware and extra careful of whales especially in southern BC, coastal waters from Campbell River to north of Ucluelet.

If whales move towards you or you spot a whale or pod while under way, here is what to do:

## 400M OR LESS

- If safe to do so, put engines in neutral and allow the animal to pass. If not safe, turn the boat in the opposite direction of the whale and slowly move away at trolling speed or less.
- Stop fishing to avoid potential whale contact with gear and/or catch.
- When safe to do so, turn off echo sounder(s)/fish
- When the animal has moved outside of the 400 m zone, change course, and move at slow speed to avoid the animal or its assumed path. Once outside of the 1,000 m zone, resume fishing.

## 401-1,000M

- Immediately change course away from the whale or its assumed path out of the 1,000 m zone.
- If changing course isn't an option, or the whale changes course towards you, stop fishing to avoid potential contact (gear and catch).
- Slow down.
- When safe to do so, turn off echo sounder(s)/fish finder(s).

Southern Resident Killer Whales Management Measures



Canada's Marine Mammal Regulations



Disclaimer: Guidelines offered by Island Fisherman magazine. Always check the regulations for current information.

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