

Boat propellers can kill or maim whales. Your vigilance can prevent this sort of tragedy.



Photo: WCHNE

Helpful Hotline Numbers

Observant boaters can be instrumental in helping gather crucial data, such as sightings of the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale, and saving injured or entangled animals by reporting them to the appropriate authorities. Please refer to the

respective hotline numbers if you see a right whale, find a whale that is injured or stranded, or see a whale entangled in fishing gear. You can make a difference!



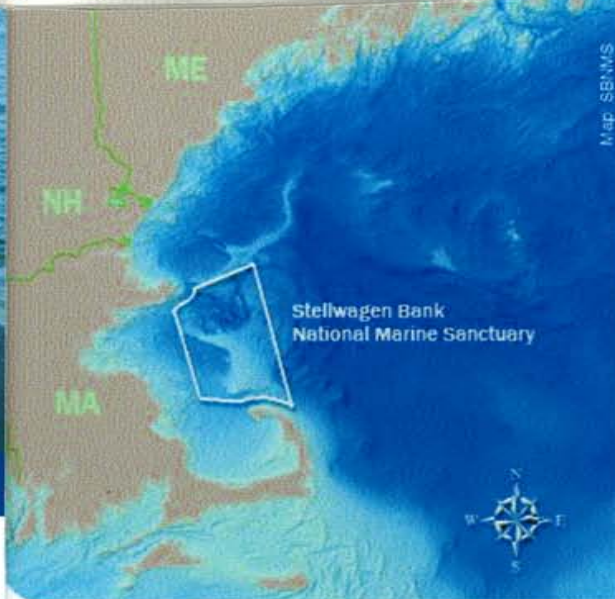
Photo: PCCS

To report live right whale sightings, call:
978-585-8473

To report stranded or injured whales, call:
978-281-9351

To report a whale entangled in fishing gear, call the Coast Guard on VHF 16 or call the Center for Coastal Studies at:
800-900-3622

If possible, please standby an entangled whale until a response vessel arrives. If you must depart, please document your sighting with photos or video and report the time, location, and whale's direction of travel when you left.



MAP: SBAMS

Stellwagen Bank
National Marine Sanctuary

For our Web-based whale safe boating course, regional whale watching guidelines and updates on whale conservation programs, contact:

Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society
70 East Falmouth Highway,
East Falmouth, MA 02536;
508-548-8328
<http://www.whales.org>

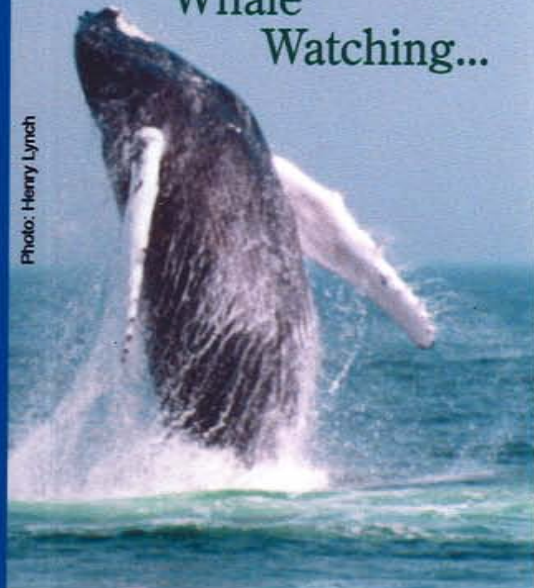
**Gerry E. Studts Stellwagen Bank
National Marine Sanctuary**
175 Edward Foster Road,
Scituate, MA 02066;
781-545-8026
<http://stellwagen.noaa.gov>

**NOAA's National Marine
Fisheries Service,
Northeast Regional Office**
One Blackburn Drive,
Gloucester, MA 01930;
978-281-9300
<http://www.nero.noaa.gov>



Responsible
Whale
Watching...

Photo: Henry Lynch



It's Up To You!

See a Spout...
Watch Out!

Important Tips for boaters
to help protect the whales
of Stellwagen Bank
National Marine
Sanctuary and
the Northeast
Region



See a Spout... Watch Out!

Five Tips for Boating Around Whales

1.

See a Spout, Watch Out!

If you see a spout, or a tail, or a breaching whale, please slow down and post a lookout. Some whales dive 20 minutes or more searching for food. If you've seen one whale, many more could be close - maybe too close to your boat and its spinning propellers. Proceed cautiously!

2.

Head On is Wrong!

Don't alter a whale's path by cutting it off or risk striking a whale by approaching too closely. Federal law prohibits the harassment of all marine mammals. NOAA Fisheries regulations and Massachusetts laws prohibit approaching the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale closer than 500 yards. Please comply with regional guidelines when watching other whales.

3.

Lots of Boats, Then Talk to Folks!

If there are other boats watching or traveling near whales, hail them on your VHF radio (channels 9 or 16) and coordinate your viewing efforts.

4.

Avoid Troubles, Steer Clear of Bubbles!

Humpback whales sometimes feed by creating "bubble clouds" and "bubble nets." As the bubbles rise through the water, they confuse and condense schools of small fish. With mouths wide open, the whales surface through the middle of the bubbles, engulfing large numbers of dazed fish. Bubble clouds look like light green, foamy patches on the surface of the water. A bubble net is a ring of small bubble patches. Never approach or drive through a bubble cloud or bubble net as a feeding whale is likely to be just below the surface.

5.

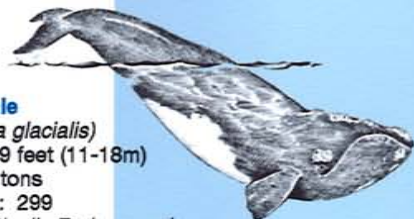
Don't Chase, Give the Whales Space!

Closely approaching a whale may cause the animal to move away from its food source. Respect the whale's behavior and keep your distance. If a whale moves away, don't chase it. A cautious boater may get to see whales feeding, breaching or tail and flipper slapping. Enjoy the whales; don't endanger them!

Marine Mammal Guide



Finback Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*)
Size: 59-72 feet (18-22m) and 30-80 tons
Population: 2,814 Status: Endangered



Right Whale
(*Eubalaena glacialis*)
Size: 36-59 feet (11-18m)
and 30-80 tons
Population: 299
Status: Critically Endangered



Humpback Whale
(*Megaptera novaeangliae*)
Size: 37-49 feet
(11-15m)
and 25-30 tons
Population: 902
Status: Endangered



Minke Whale
(*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)
Size: 23-33 feet (7-10m)
and 5-10 tons
Population: 3,618
Status: Protected
under MMPA



Atlantic White-sided Dolphins
(*Lagenorhynchus acutus*)
Size: 6-8 feet (1.9-2.5m)
and 365-440lbs (165-200kg)
Population: 51,640
Status: Protected
under MMPA

Illustrations: Frank McCue

Keep Our Waters Clean and Pristine!

We rely on the ocean for food, fun, and phytoplankton (single-celled ocean organisms that provide us with oxygen to breathe), so keeping the marine ecosystem clean and healthy is in our best interest. Here are a few easy things that you can do to help ensure a healthy ocean:



Photo: WDCS

Don't Dump, Pump!

Contact with disease-causing bacteria found in sewage can lead to human ailments, habitat degradation and shellfish poisoning. Call ahead to the local harbor master to find a local pumpout station to remove sewage from your vessel. Dumping untreated sewage within three miles of shore is illegal.

Put a Sock in It!

Using oil absorbent "socks" and pads in your bilge can prevent oil from leaking out and contaminating the water. Pads should be checked regularly, changed when needed and disposed of properly. Remember that a well-tuned engine runs more efficiently and much cleaner.

Stash Your Trash!

Federal laws prohibit dumping any trash overboard within three miles of shore. Plastic waste may not be dumped anywhere in the ocean. At least 49 species of marine mammals and 312 types of birds are known to ingest or become entangled in marine debris, which can lead to fatalities. Please do not leave trash on the deck where it can be blown overboard. Bring your trash back to shore for proper disposal.

Note: All population estimates are for Gulf of Maine