

GO SLOW— WHALES BELOW

Regulations and Best Practices for Whale Watching in Hawaiian Waters



**Humpback whales are protected by law.
This prohibits an approach of less than 100 yards by any means.**

GO SLOW – WHALES BELOW • The Law • Recommended

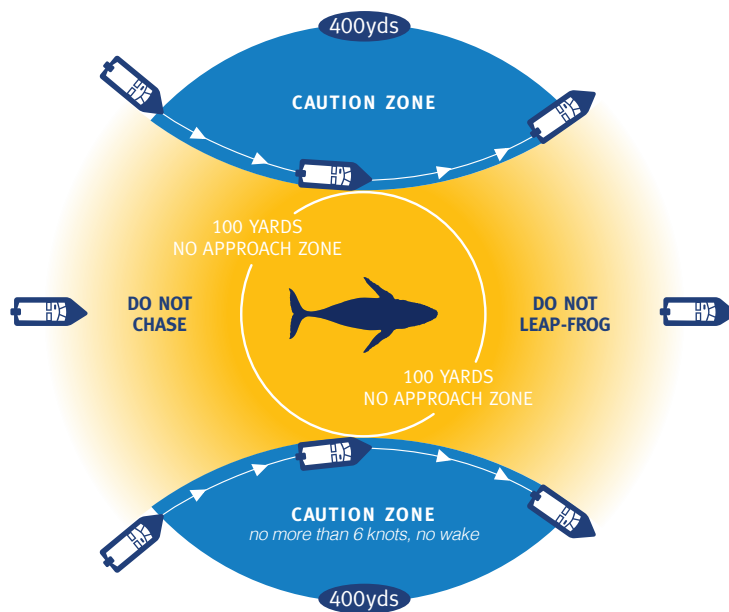
[in depths less than 100 fathoms (600 feet)]

Speed increases the risk of a collision.

- Vessels should travel below 15 knots (or minimal planing speed) during whale season (November through May).
- Reduce vessel speed to 6 knots or less when approaching within 400 yards of a whale.
- Minimize sudden, unnecessary maneuvers or speed changes in the vicinity of whales.

APPROACHING & WATCHING WHALES

- Do not approach whales within 100 yards. **It's the law.**
- Do not leap-frog ahead or cut in front of a whale's path. **It's also the law.**
- Vessels should operate in a direction parallel and to the side and behind a whale's direction of travel.
- Always stay at your helm, and post an extra observer to spot whales while underway.
- Be aware that cumulative impacts may also occur. Your vessel may not be the only one to have approached the same whales.



**LISTED REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES
APPLY TO DRONES AND ALL WATERCRAFT,
INCLUDING PADDLEBOARDS, KAYAKS, BOATS,
JET SKIS, EFOILS, AND CANOES.**

Call the NOAA Marine Wildlife Hotline if involved in a collision at 1-888-256-9840, or to report an entangled or distressed marine mammal. To report a VIOLATION OF THE APPROACH RULE, or other human related disturbance, call NOAA Enforcement: 1-800-853-1964.



Scan for more information

