



Responsible Boating Around Whales Is Up To You!

Seeing whales can be a special experience during a day on the water. Boating responsibly is important to keep whales, yourself, and your passengers safe from accidental collisions.

Follow the See a Spout guidelines to keep everyone safe while in the presence of some of the ocean's greatest wonders!

www.seeaspout.org

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See a Spout? Watch Out!

Did you see a spout, a tail, or a breaching whale? Slow down and post a lookout. Some whales dive 20 minutes or more. Seeing one whale at the surface means more could be nearby. Proceed cautiously!

Head On is Wrong!

Whales are protected under federal law, so interrupting their natural behaviors is illegal. Parallel the whale's course and direction while staying at least 100 ft away (**1,500 ft/500 yd for North Atlantic right whales**) to avoid cutting off its path or getting too close.

Lots of Boats, Talk to Folks!

If there are other boats watching or traveling near whales, contact them via VHF radio (CH 9 or 16) and coordinate viewing efforts. If you encounter whale watch boats at idle proceed with caution and idle your boat as well.

Avoid Troubles, Steer Clear of Bubbles!

Some whales, such as humpback whales, create "bubble clouds" and "bubble nets" to corral schools of small fish. Never approach or drive through bubbles. A feeding whale is likely to surface in that space!



Don't Chase, Give the Whales Space!

If a whale moves away from your boat, don't chase it. Respect the whales' behavior and keep your distance. Cautious boaters may get to see exciting natural behaviors. Enjoy the whales; don't endanger them or yourself.

Drop Your Sails When Watching Whales!

Under sail, it can be difficult to reduce speed or quickly stop a safe distance from a surfacing whale. In the vicinity of whales, luff or drop your sails and use your auxiliary motor to proceed cautiously.

Reporting Saves Lives!

Contact NOAA Fisheries at **866-755-6622**, or the U.S. Coast Guard via VHF CH16, to report:

- Stranded, injured, entangled, or dead marine mammals and sea turtles
- Live North Atlantic right whale sightings.



V-Shaped Blow? Right Whale Below!

Approach and seasonal speed restrictions are in place to protect North Atlantic right whales. Visit our site to learn more about these laws.

If you are a recreational boater in Atlantic waters, our Spout Spotters course can help you take proactive steps to ensure your safety while at sea around whales. Go to www.seeaspout.org/boating-course/ for more!

