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

Sponsored by:

NOAA Fisheries

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

WDC Whale and Dolphin Conservation

New Bedford Whaling Museum

Audubon Society of Rhode Island

Whale Sense Atlantic Region
**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/](http://www.seeaspout.org/boating-course/) for more!