

Sharing the Seas: Safe Boating for Sailors & Whales

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Sharing the Seas: Safe Boating for Sailors and Whales

Understanding the behavior of marine animals and identifying different species to ensure the protection of the ecosystem and safe navigation for sailors.



© Dolphin Fleet

Searching for Sustainability



Finding a balance between human use of ocean's resources and the preservation of the ecosystem.

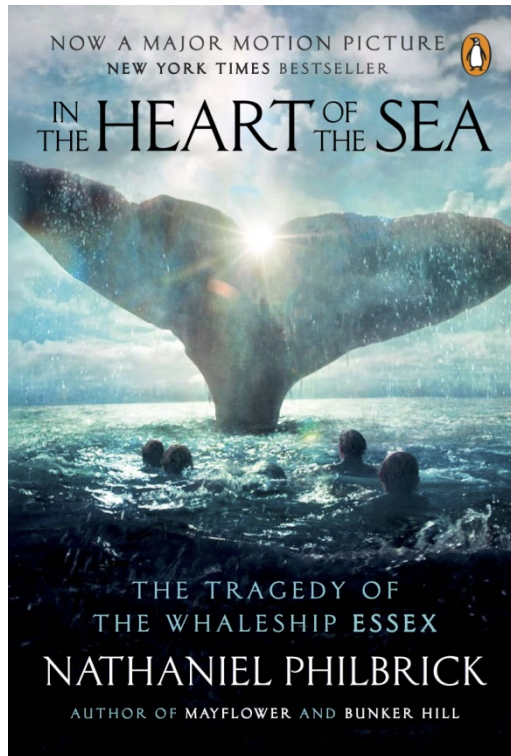


Why Is This Important?

- Understanding human impact on the ecosystem.
- Need for better communication and partnership among stakeholders.
- Since sailors are already on the water, you can help authorities monitor populations by reporting sightings and collisions.
- Become ocean stewards by picking up debris underway.
- Protecting both sailors and whales.

Protecting Sailors

The Stuff of Legends



© 2017 Nathaniel Philbrick

The whaleship Essex:

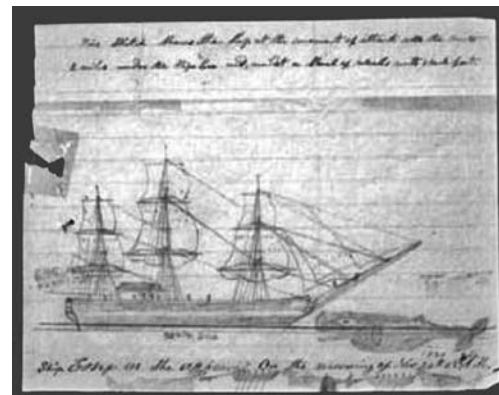
87ft 7inches with a 24 ft beam

Weight: 238 tons-Solid Oak Hull

Struck and sunk by a Sperm whale

Could it happen today?

How big is your boat?



Wikipedia

Drawing by Thomas Nickerson
Essex survivor

Protecting Sailors



Protecting Sailors



Protecting Whales

- Ship strikes and entanglement are the leading causes of whale mortality
- 85% of North Atlantic right whales have scars from entanglement



- * **S** Safe Boating Practices
- A** Alert Authorities
- I** Important Information to Know
- L** Limit Litter

Safe boating practices

ACTIVITY-Test Your Knowledge!

1. What is the best way to coordinate viewing times with other boats when near whales?

- A. No need to coordinate with other vessels. It's fine if multiple boats approach at the same time.
- B. Hail other vessels on VHF Channels 9, 13, or 16.
- C. Yell over to other boats in the area.
- D. B & C

Safe boating practices

ACTIVITY-Test Your Knowledge!

2. What should you do if you are under sail and a whale is nearby?

- A. Don't change anything- it's fine to be under sail because I won't disturb the whales.
- B. Turn my auxiliary engine on- it may be difficult to maneuver around the whales or stop at a safe distance under sail.
- C. Turn my auxiliary engine on- whales can't hear boats under sail coming, so I need to make them aware of my presence.
- D. B & C

Safe boating practices

ACTIVITY-Test Your Knowledge!

3. What are some signs that likely indicate whales are in the area?

- A. The presence of fishing gear.
- B. The presence of other animals that eat similar food as whales, such as flocks of birds or schools of fish.
- C. Commercial whale watch boats stopped in the area, because they are looking at whales, too!
- D. B & C
- E. All of the above

Safe boating practices

ACTIVITY-Test Your Knowledge!

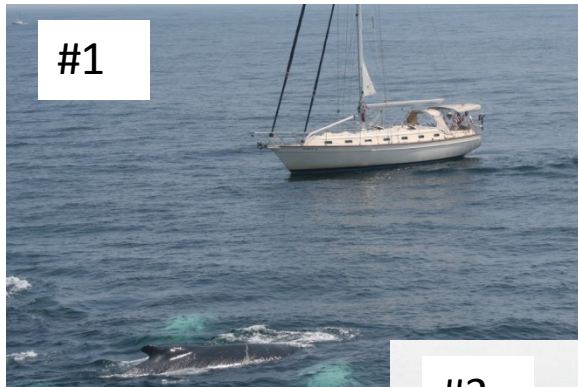
4. Why is it important to keep my distance while watching whales?

- A. Whales are wild, unpredictable animals that can resurface closer to me than where they dove. Getting too close can put us at risk of a collision.
- B. Disturbing whales' natural behaviors is against the law. Getting too close can cause me to violate the law.
- C. Keeping a distance will allow whales to behave naturally. I might be able to view more exciting behaviors this way.
- D. A & C
- E. All of the above

Safe boating practices

ACTIVITY-Test Your Knowledge!

5. Which of these images shows the best operation of a sailboat near whales?



All images © WDC



Safe boating practices

- Watch for signs of whales:
 - Large flocks of gulls and other marine birds
 - Bubbling water
 - Blow
 - Large school of fish
 - Fluke print
- Reduce your speed and **drop sail**
- Turn on engine to create noise
- Post a look out
- Maintain a safe distance
 - 100 ft approach for ALL marine mammals
 - 1,500 ft approach for North Atlantic right whales (**federal regulation**)
- Always stay parallel to the whale's course and don't approach head-on or cut off the whale's path.
- Drone Operators: Maintain a 1,500-foot minimum altitude.
- Go to NOAA Fisheries to find safe whale watch guidelines in your region.
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

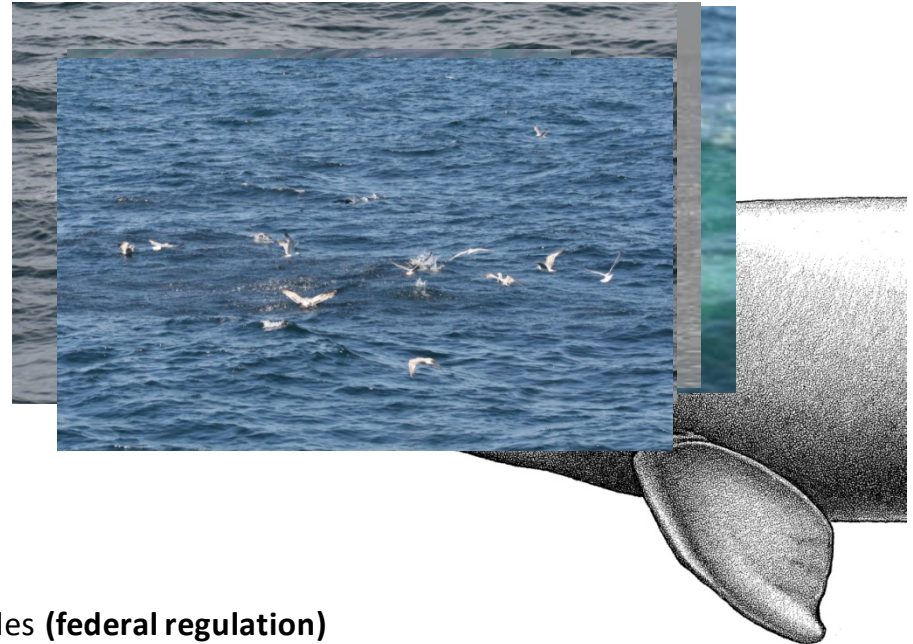
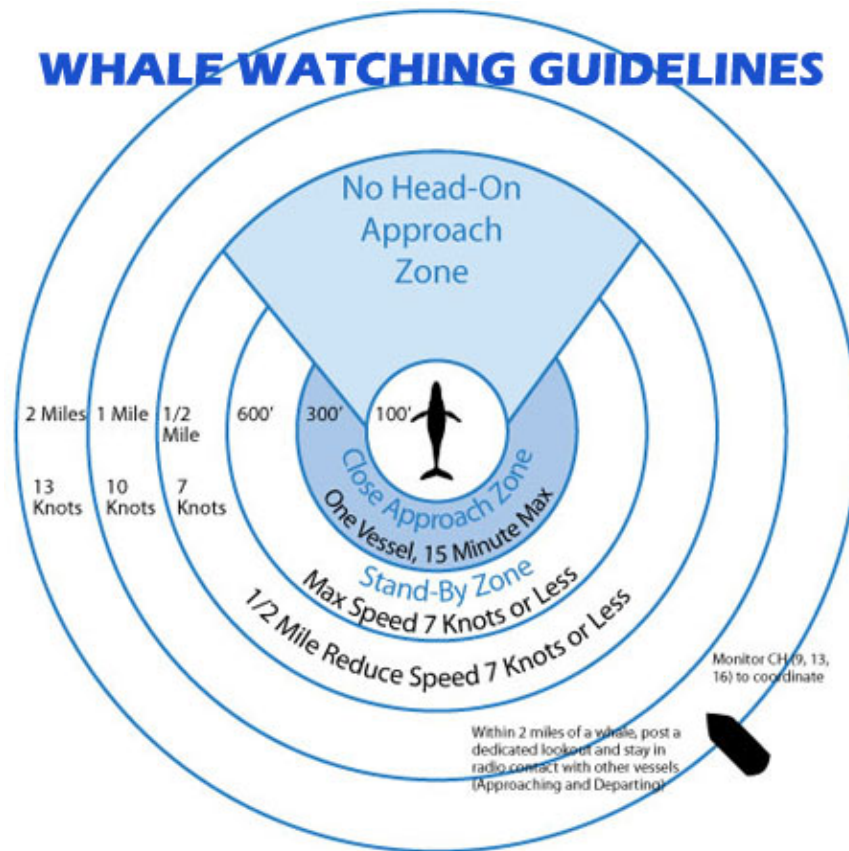


Image by S. Landry

NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Region Whale Watch Guidelines



<https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/Protected/mmp/viewing/approaching/>

S

Safe Boating Practices

*

A

Alert Authorities

I

Important Information
to Know

L

Limit Litter

Alert Authorities

- Dead, injured, ship struck or entangled marine mammals & North Atlantic right whale sightings call
 - **Call 1-866-755-NOAA (6622)-Greater Atlantic Region**
 - **Call 1-877-WHALE-HELP –Southeast Region**
 - **Hail Coast Guard on Ch.16**
- Mark your location (Latitude/Longitude)
- Maintain a safe distance
- If possible, stand by injured or entangled animal until help arrives or you receive instruction by authorities.
- **Do not intervene. Do not get in the water.**
- Take pictures and/or video
- If the whale is entangled watch for trailing lines that can foul your prop
- Know the number for your regional NOAA office

Alert Authorities

Note your region's hotline

Injured, Dead, Ship Strike or Entangled Marine Mammals & Sea Turtles
Hail Coast Guard-VHF Channel 16 or call:

NOAA HOTLINE Greater Atlantic Region
(Maine to Virginia): 1-866- 755-6622

NOAA HOTLINE Southeast Region
(North Carolina to New Mexico including Puerto Rico and
US Virgin Islands) : 1-877-942-5343

NOAA HOTLINE West Coast Region
(California to Washington): 1-866-767-6114

NOAA HOTLINE Pacific Island Region
(Hawaiian Archipelago, American Samoa and U.S. Pacific remote island
areas (PRIAs), the Mariana's Archipelago and Guam)
1-888-256-9840

NOAA HOTLINE Alaska Region:
1-877-925-7773

Canadian Waters:

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and
Prince Edward Island
Marine Animal Response Society
1-866-567-6277

Newfoundland and Labrador
1-888-895-3003

Quebec
1-877-722-5346

***This information is available in our
resources page in the NSPS 2017 App***

Alert Authorities

Questions to answer when reporting

If you see an entangled, injured, or beached whale

- Are you with the whale now? If yes, what is the location? If no, when and where did you last see the whale?
- What kind of whale is it? Can you describe it?
- Is the whale anchored? If not, in which direction is it moving? Is it lifting its tail flukes?
- Can you see lines or fishing gear? Please describe?
- Where is the gear? Around the head? Around the flippers? Around the tail flukes? Around the entire body?
- Is the whale able to breathe? Can you hear or see it breathing?

If you see a dead whale

- Is the whale floating or beached?
- Is it lying on its back, belly, or side?
- Is the whale's body covered in skin? (If the skin has decayed then the body will be a whitish color)
- Can you see side flippers or tail flukes?

Information provided by North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium

Alert Authorities

ACTIVITY: Who are you going to call?
True or False?



Image 1



Image 2

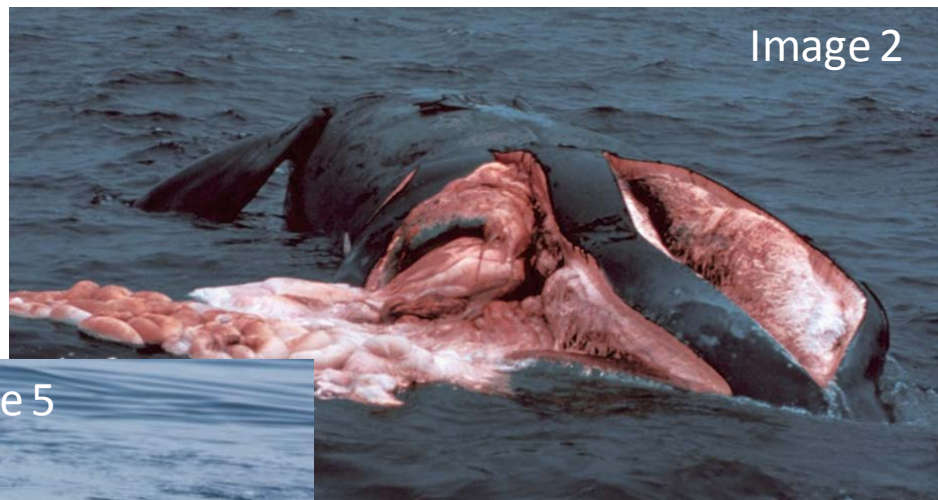


Image 5

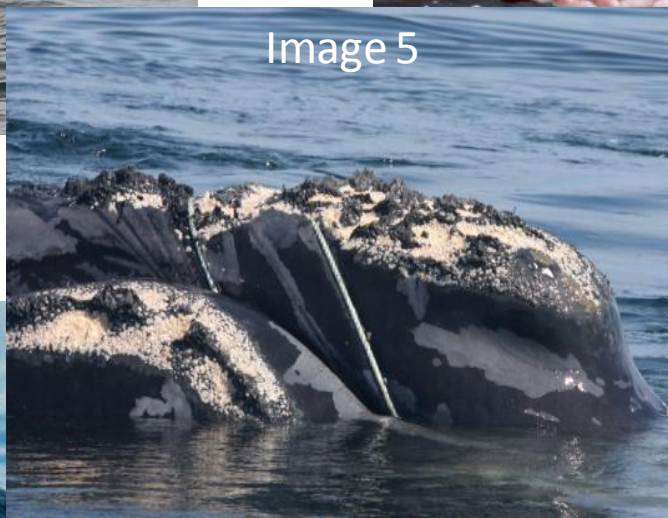


Image 3



Image 4



(c) Sascha Hooker

S

Safe Boating Practices

A

Alert Authorities

I

Important Information
to Know

L

Limit Litter

Important Information

- Know before you go! Study whales as you would a chart.
- Educate yourself on the species of marine mammals in your area.
- Understand marine mammal behavior and migration patterns.
- Find out about speed reduction areas and critical habitat zones in the areas you are traveling.
 - Refer to your regional NOAA office for information.
- Keep a marine mammal field guide onboard or download a helpful app such as *Whale and Dolphin ID* or *WhaleAlert*. More app information to come...



Important Information

ACTIVITY-Name that Whale!

Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*)

Adult Length: 78-88 ft

Newborn Length: 14-20 ft

Adult Weight: 50-70 tons

Newborn Weight: 2 tons

Feeds via: Baleen, gulp feeding

Distribution: Global, except polar regions

Notable Features: Second biggest of all whales, right side of head has two-toned coloration



Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliea*)

Adult Length: 40-50 ft

Newborn Length: 12-15 ft

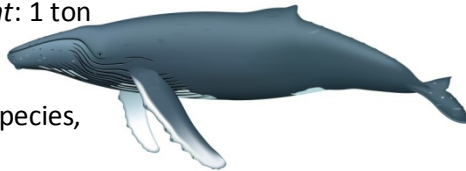
Adult Weight: 25-40 tons

Newborn Weight: 1 ton

Feeds via: Baleen, gulp feeding, bubble netting

Distribution: Global, except Arctic Ocean

Notable Features: Longest flippers of all whale species, Large knobs on head known as tubercles



North Atlantic Right Whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*)

Adult Length: 45-50 ft

Newborn Length: 12-15 ft

Adult Weight: 50-80 tons

Newborn Weight: 1 ton

Feeds via: Baleen, skim feeding

Distribution: North Atlantic Ocean

Notable Features: Large bumps, called callosities are found on the head, each pattern is unique to that animal



Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)

Adult Length: 7.5-8.5 ft

Newborn Length: 2.5 ft

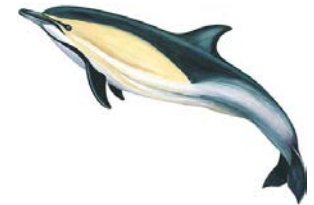
Adult Weight: 250-300 lbs.

Newborn Weight: 20-25 lbs.

Feeds via: Echolocation, teeth

Distribution: Coastal, tropical and warm-temperate waters

Notable Features: Most elaborate color pattern of any cetacean (whale, dolphin or porpoise)



Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*)

Adult Length: ♂ 62 ft, ♀ 38 ft

Newborn Length: 14-20 ft

Adult Weight: ♂ 40-45 tons, ♀ 14 tons

Newborn Wt: 2 tons

Feeds via: Echolocation, teeth

Distribution: Global, except polar regions

Notable Features: Enormous rectangular head, largest toothed predator on the planet, wrinkled skin, s-shaped blowhole

All illustrations by Uko Gorter

Important Information

ACTIVITY- Name that whale!

Bonus! (Worth 5 points!)

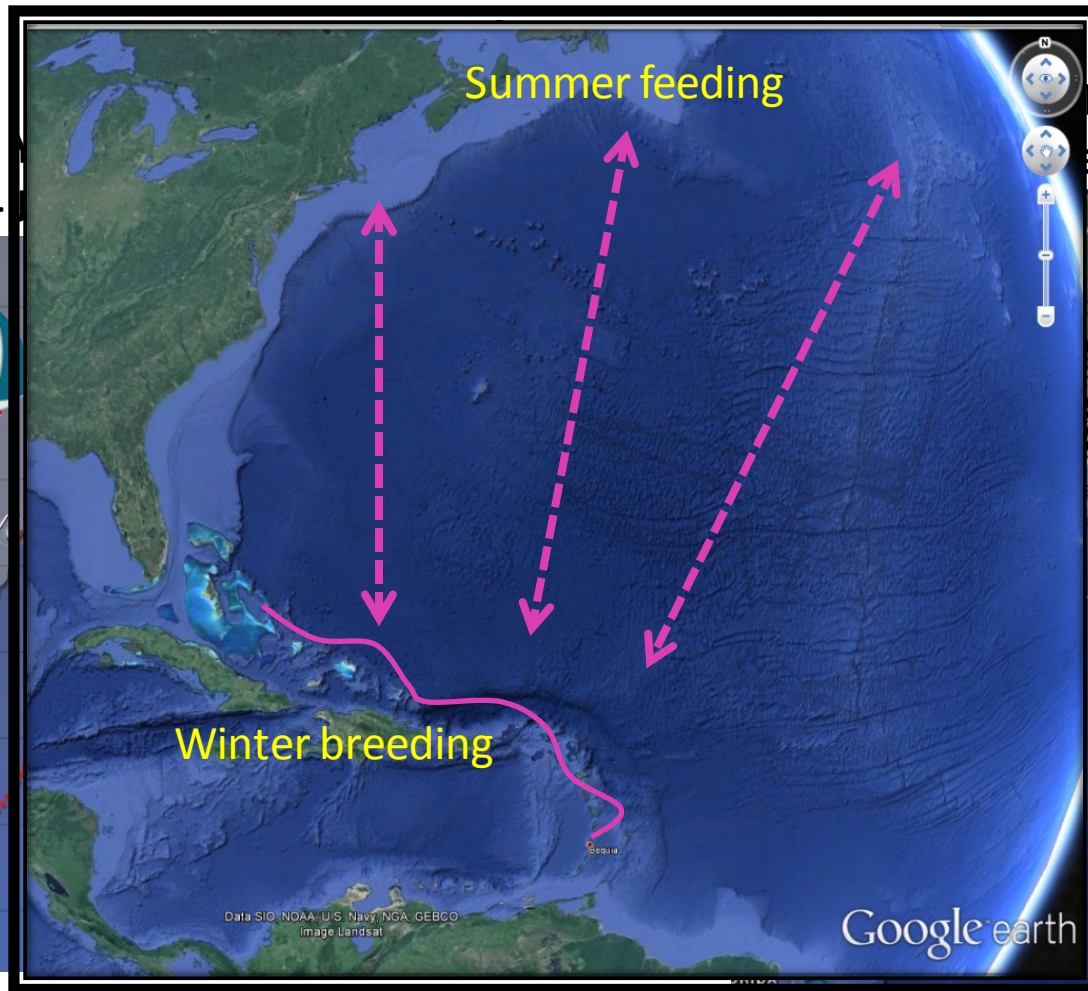
- What kind of whale is this?



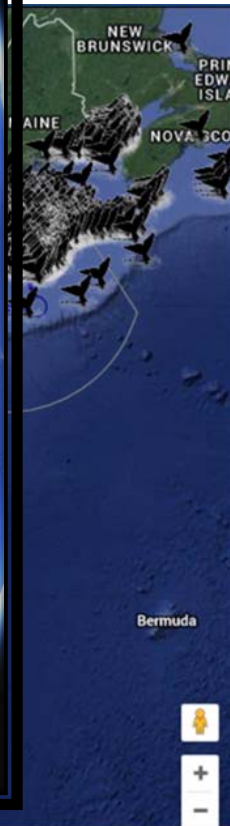
Important Information

Whale Habitats and Migration

Atlantic Cup
May-



Migration
(years)



Important Information

Whale Behavior



All photos and video © WDC

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S

Safe Boating Practices

A

Alert Authorities

I

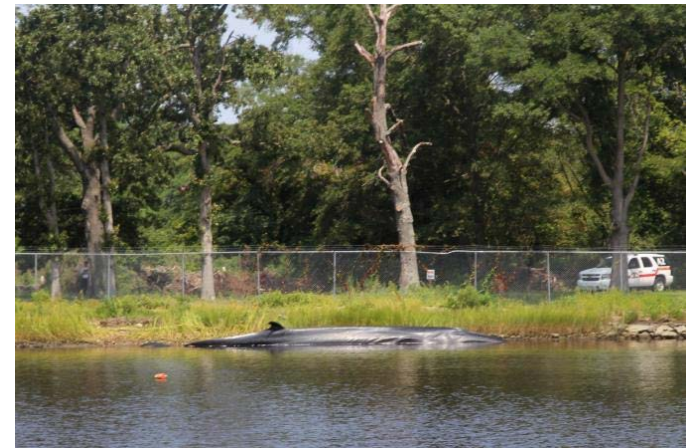
Important Information
to Know

L

Limit Litter

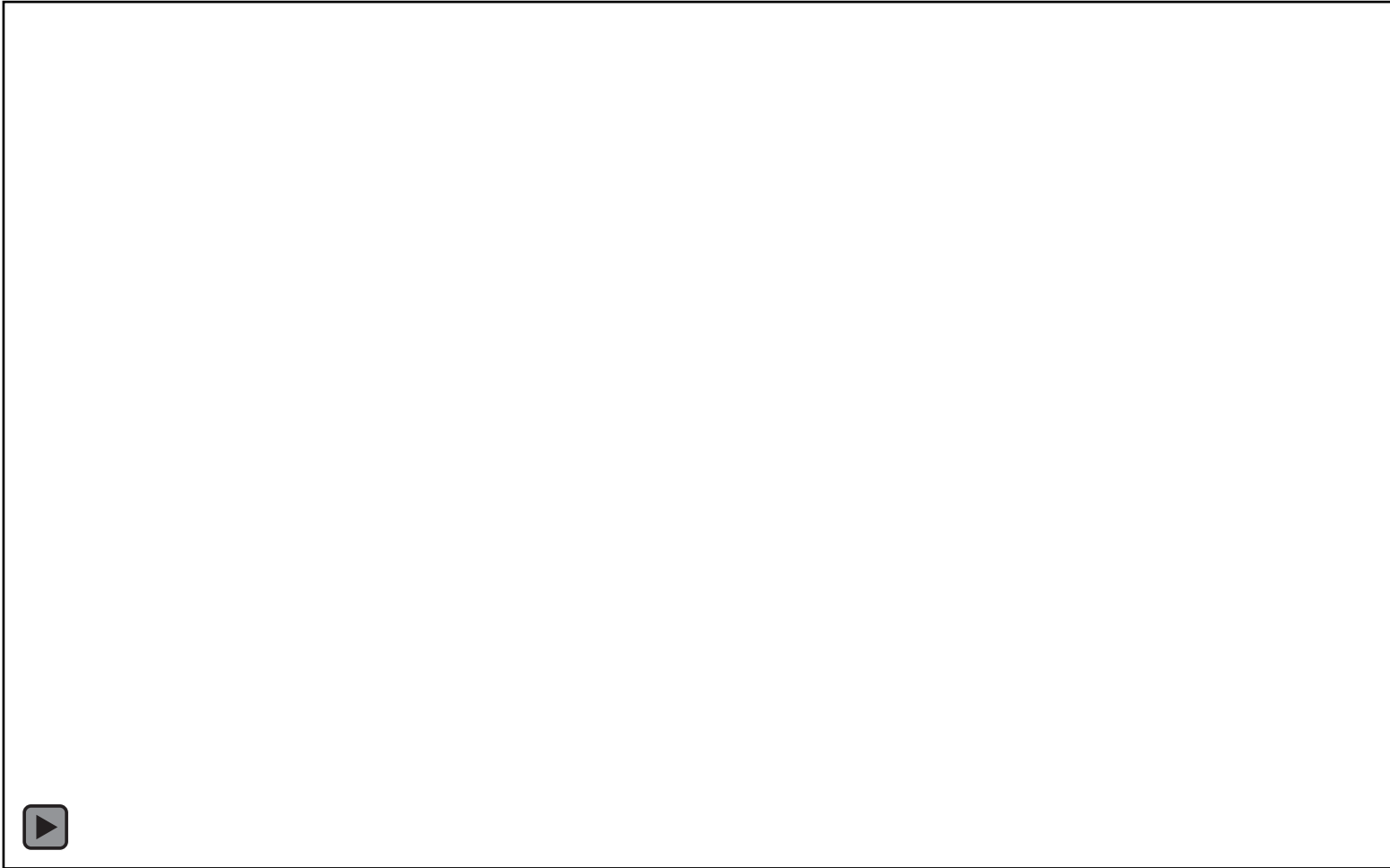
Limit Litter, Lead By Example

- Marine Debris kills thousands of animals each year and causes millions of dollars of damage to vessels and coastal economies.
- Prevention is vital!
- Do not let trash go over board
- Do not lighten your load at sea
- Pump out at approved pump out stations
- Your boat hook is the ocean's best friend. If you see trash in the water hook it or scoop it!
- Even the smallest trash in the water, like a DVD case or an old bathing suit, can kill or injure a marine mammal.



PHOTOGRAPH BY VIRGINIA AQUARIUM & MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

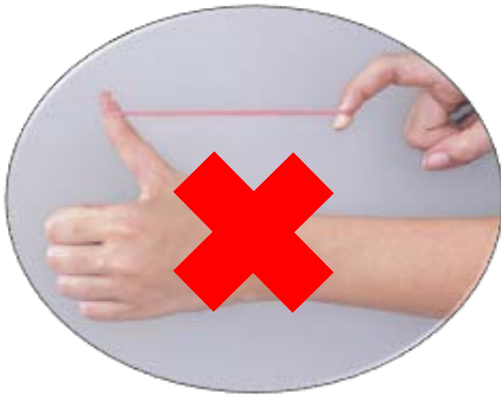
Limit Litter, Lead By Example



Limit Litter, Lead By Example

ACTIVITY- simulate whale entanglement

Each team member should have a rubber band. NOTE what not to do:



Place the rubber band across the back of your hand as shown.



Sharing t

FOUR COMMONLY SEEN SPECIES IN THE NORTHEAST

nd Whales



For more species information,
visit seeaspout.org/sail



Audubon Society
of Rhode Island



NEW BEDFORD
WHALING
MUSEUM

See a Spout



© Dolphin Fleet

WWW.S



WDC



N. Atlantic right whale

- 45-55ft. in length
- Produce a V-shaped blow
- No dorsal fin
- Distribution from Canada to Florida
- Critically endangered species



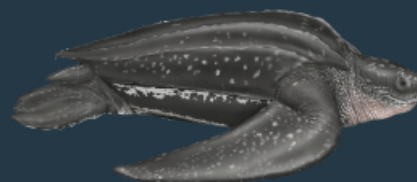
Humpback whale

- 45-55ft. in length
- Long, white flippers
- Notable hump before dorsal fin
- Distribution from Canada to the Caribbean



Common dolphin

- 6-9ft in length
- Hourglass coloration
- Travel in pods
- Distribution from Canada to North Carolina
- Protected species



Leatherback sea turtle

- 6.5 ft in length
- Forage in coastal waters
- Distribution from Maine to the Caribbean
- Endangered species

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minal species
ay from N. Atlantic right whales
it

ortant sightings:
entangled, ship struck
urtles, call **1-866-755-NOAA**

their behavior is important for
seeaspout.org/sail

ve animals each year
also causes millions
coastal economies through
d decreased tourism.
h go overboard.

ected species
tings reports.

Resources



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Sharing the Seas: Safe Boating for Sailors and Whales

WEDNESDAY, 06 APRIL 2016 /

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Did you know that collision with vessels is one of the leading causes of death among whales, such as the endangered North Atlantic right whale? Collisions can also cause thousands of dollars in damage to boats and injure crew. US Sailing, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, New Bedford Whaling Museum and Whale and Dolphin Conversation have joined forces to make the oceans safer for both sailors and whales. Go to www.seeaspout.org/sail to learn the simple things you can do to protect whales and your vessel. You can also help whales by reporting injured or entangled whales to 1-866-755-NOAA or download the free app to track right whale sightings: [Whale Alert](#), available on iPhone and Google Play.

Follow these straightforward tips to safely and responsibly watch whales. **Remember:** All whales are protected by federal law. These tips will help you from accidentally illegally disturbing these animals.

Found under Resources → Safety

Mobile Resources

Apps

- WhaleAlert <http://www.whalealert.org/#app>
- See & ID Dolphins and Whales
- Whale and Dolphin 911
- OCEARCH Global Shark Tracker
- Marine Debris Tracker

Back to App Store 3:44 PM 54%

Cancel Report Sighting

Is the whale dead, entangled in fishing gear, or stranded?

Dead or Injured

[Help identifying dead whales](#)

Entangled

[Help identifying entangled whales](#)

Stranded

[Help identifying stranded whales](#)

Additional Resources

- Help Hotlines
- Website Links
- Educational Curriculum
 - Apps
 - Field Guides
 - Books
 - and more!

Download our Resources Information from the
NSPS 2017 App or contact us at:

www.seeaspout.org/sail


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Monica Pepe, Policy Manager
Whale and Dolphin Conservation
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Robert Rocha, Director of Education and Science Programs
New Bedford Whaling Museum
508-997-0046 x 149
rrocha@whalingmuseum.org

**North Atlantic Right Whales
Need Your Help!**

This endangered species visits our region throughout the year. Please protect right whales by reporting sightings and keeping a safe distance.



If You See A Right Whale:

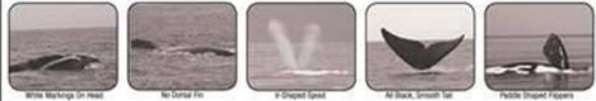
- Report the sighting to NOAA Fisheries or US Coast Guard.
- Operate vessel at slowest safe speed.
- Remain alert for other whales in the area.
- Depart area slowly and safely if whale approaches.

You Can Help!
Report sightings of right whales or marine mammals and sea turtles in distress to the Greater Atlantic Region NOAA Fisheries Marine Animal Hotline
866-755-NOAA (6622)
or the US Coast Guard on VHF Channel 16


Remember:

- It is illegal to approach North Atlantic right whales within 500 yards (1,500 feet).
- The law requires vessels 65 feet or greater to slow to 10 knots within seasonal management areas.*
- All vessels should consider slowing to 10 knots in seasonal management areas.
- If you see whales, basking sharks, or birds feeding on plankton patches, pay close attention; a right whale might also be feeding nearby.

Look Out For Right Whales!



Download a free right whale reporting and sighting app: www.whalehot.org
View responsible whale watching guidelines for other species: www.SeaSpout.org
*Learn about seasonal management areas and speed restriction regulations: www.greateratlanticfisheries.noaa.gov/rightwhale



Not Sure? Ask! We can help!

- Species identification and migration
 - Regulation questions
 - Workshops and talks (in-person or through Skype!)
 - Youth curriculum
 - Planning whale safe race courses
- and More!

A warning to mariners from right whales...



Making a difference

Having travelled the world's oceans for centuries, sailors have historically shaped mankind's knowledge of the marine ecosystem.

Today, sailors can be representatives and a vehicle for change in the conservation of marine ecosystems and species such as whales.

We need your help!

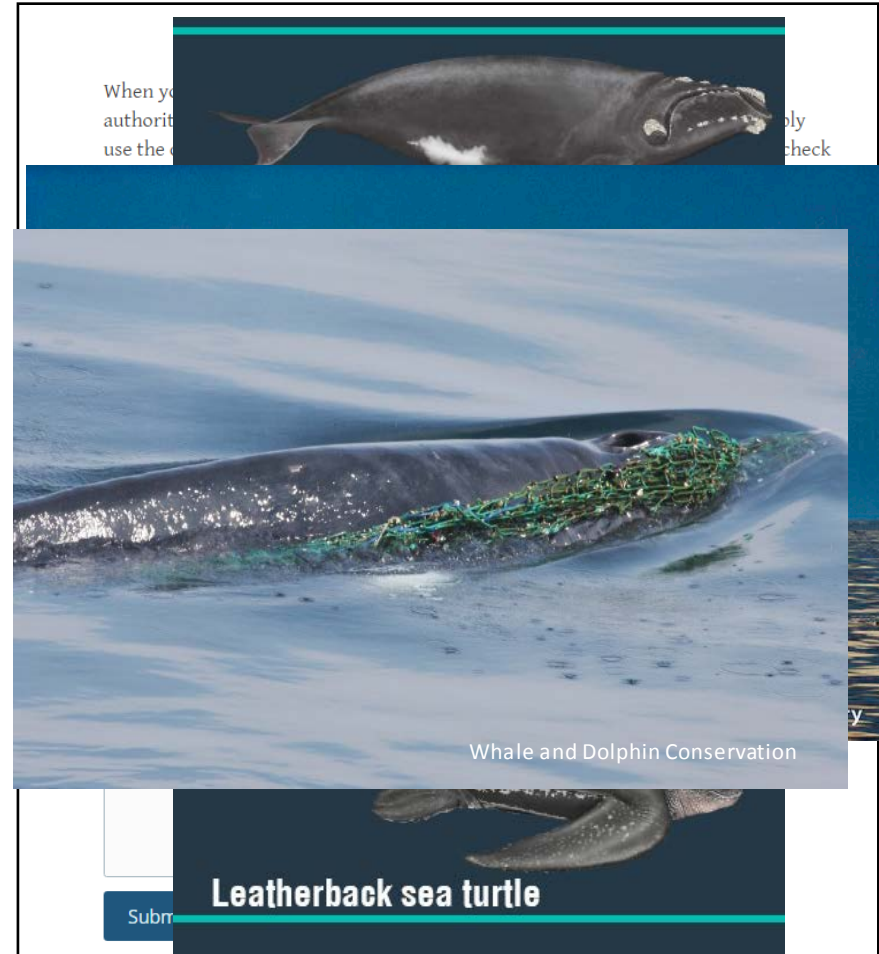


Mystic Seaport

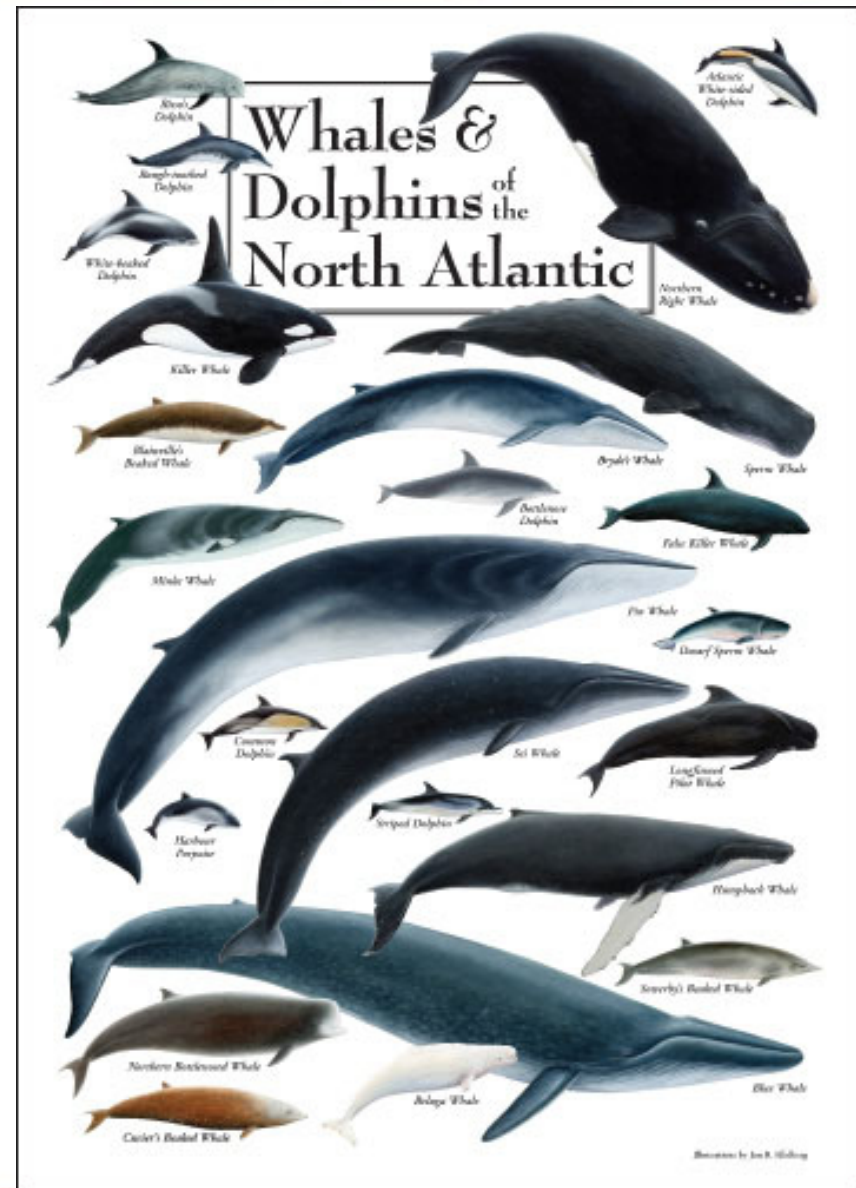


How you can help!

- Know the species in your region before you get on the water
- Keep an eye out for blows- they can sometimes be seen from miles away
- Report sightings of whales in distress
- Sign up for our “amber alert” system



And the
winner is.....



Discussion

We want your input!

- Have you encountered a whale on the water?
- Do you have questions that might help you and other sailors if answered? (FAQ list)
- UFO's- likely whales or something else?
- Have contacts who could use this information?
- Suggestions for WhaleAlert App

Your Opinion Matters

Please open the **NSPS app** and
complete the **session survey** found
in the **menu bar**.

Thank you for attending this session!