

SC/66a/WW/2

A summary chart of whalewatching areas
and operators off the western United
States: Alaska, Washington, Oregon and
California

Stack, S.H., Currie, J.C. and Kaufman, G.D.



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

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Alaska, Washington, Oregon and California

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Country	WW-Areas and Major Operations	Location	# Operators	Platform	Main Targeted Species	Research	Guide	Regulations/Code of Conduct	Other
USA	<u>Alaska</u>	Glacier Bay	6	Boat, Kayak	Humpback, Mink, Fin	No	Yes	Marine Mammal Protection Act (Federal Legislation); Glacier Bay National Park Regulations (Stricter than NOAA Alaska Regional Office regulations); NOAA Alaska Regional Office Regulations	Maintain a distance of 1/4 nautical mile from humpback whales; pursue humpback whales from a distance of 1/2 nautical mile or more; maintain a distance of one nautical mile from shore; speed limit of 20 kts (13 kts when there are high numbers of whales)
		Juneau	19	Boat	Humpback, Orca	No	Yes	Marine Mammal Protection Act (Federal Legislation); Glacier Bay National Park Regulations (Stricter than NOAA Alaska Regional Office regulations); NOAA Alaska Regional Office Regulations	Maintain a distance of 1/4 nautical mile from humpback whales; pursue humpback whales from a distance of 1/2 nautical mile or more; maintain a distance of one nautical mile from shore; speed limit of 20 kts (13 kts when there are high numbers of whales)
		Ketchikan	5	Boat	Humpback	No	Yes	Marine Mammal Protection Act (Federal Legislation); NOAA Alaska Regional Office Regulations	No approach within 100 yards of a humpback; do not place vessel in path of humpbacks causing them to surface within 100 yards; operate at a slow, safe speed
		Sitka	10	Boat, Kayak	Humpback, Gray, Minke, Fin	No	Yes	Marine Mammal Protection Act (Federal Legislation); NOAA Alaska Regional Office Regulations	No approach within 100 yards of a humpback; do not place vessel in path of humpbacks causing them to surface within 100 yards; operate at a slow, safe speed
		Seward	4	Boat	Humpback, Gray, Orca, Minke, Fin	No	Yes	Marine Mammal Protection Act (Federal Legislation); NOAA Alaska Regional Office	No approach within 100 yards of a humpback; do not place vessel in path of

								Regulations	humpbacks causing them to surface within 100 yards; operate at a slow, safe speed
		Valdez	2	Boat	Humpback, Gray, Orca, Minke	No	Yes	Marine Mammal Protection Act (Federal Legislation); NOAA Alaska Regional Office Regulations	No approach within 100 yards of a humpback; do not place vessel in path of humpbacks causing them to surface within 100 yards; operate at a slow, safe speed
	Washington	Puget Sound	5	Boat	Orca	Yes	Yes	Marine Mammals Protection Act (Federal Legislation); Endangered Species Act (Federal Legislation); Global standard for whale viewing distances - 100 yards (Code of Conduct)	Center for Whale Research
		San Juan Islands	12	Boat, Kayak	Orca	Yes	Yes	Marine Mammals Protection Act (Federal Legislation); Endangered Species Act (Federal Legislation); Global standard for whale viewing distances - 100 yards (Code of Conduct)	Center for Whale Research, San Juan Island Whale & Wildlife Tours Marine Mammal and Wildlife Monitoring
	Oregon	Depot Bay	2	Boat	Gray Whale	No	Yes	Marine Mammals Protection Act (Federal Legislation)	Oregon Whales ? ("Research EcoExcursions")
		Garibaldi	3	Boat/Plane	Gray Whale	No	Yes	Marine Mammals Protection Act (Federal Legislation)	
		Newport	5	Boat	Gray Whale	No	Yes	Marine Mammals Protection Act (Federal Legislation)	Marine Mammal Institute
		Charleston	1	Boat	Gray Whale	No	Yes	Marine Mammals Protection Act (Federal Legislation)	
		Brookings	1	Boat	Gray Whale	No	Yes	Marine Mammals Protection Act (Federal Legislation)	
		Astoria	1	Plane	Gray Whale	No	Yes	Marine Mammals Protection Act (Federal Legislation)	
		Florence	2	Plane	Gray Whale	No	Yes	Marine Mammals Protection Act (Federal Legislation)	
		Bandon	1	Plane	Gray Whale	No	Yes	Marine Mammals Protection Act (Federal Legislation)	
	California	Santa Cruz	3	Boat, Kayak	Gray, Humpback, Blue	No	Yes	Marine Mammal Protection Act (Federal Legislation); Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	

								regulations require boats to stay 100 yards away	
		Moss Landing/Monterey	7	Boat	Gray, Humpback, Blue, Minke, Fin	Yes	Yes	Marine Mammal Protection Act (Federal Legislation); Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary regulations require boats to stay 100 yards away	Monterey Bay Cetacean Project, Cascadia Research Collective
		San Francisco (including Sausalito & Half Moon Bay)	5	Boat	Gray, Humpback, Blue, Minke	Yes	Yes	Marine Mammal Protection Act (Federal Legislation)	Cascadia Research Collective
		San Diego (including La Jolla & Oceanside)	16	Boat, Kayak	Gray, Blue, Humpback, Fin, Minke	No	Yes	Marine Mammal Protection Act (Federal Legislation)	
		Orange County (Newport Beach, Dana Point)	8	Boat	Gray, Blue, Humpback, Fin, Minke	No	Yes	Marine Mammal Protection Act (Federal Legislation)	Some operators note that they stay 100 yards away (recommended distance) and avoid sudden turns and approaching whales from the front, etc.
		Los Angeles/Long Beach	5	Boat	Gray, Blue, Fin, Humpback, Minke	No	Yes	Marine Mammal Protection Act (Federal Legislation)	
		Northern California (e.g. Mendocino County, Humboldt County)	5	Boat	Gray	No	No	Marine Mammal Protection Act (Federal Legislation)	
		Santa Barbara/Ventura/Oxnard	6	Boat	Gray, Blue, Humpback, Fin, Minke	No	Yes	Marine Mammal Protection Act (Federal Legislation)	
		Morro Bay	3	Boat	Gray, Blue, Humpback	No	No	Marine Mammal Protection Act (Federal Legislation)	