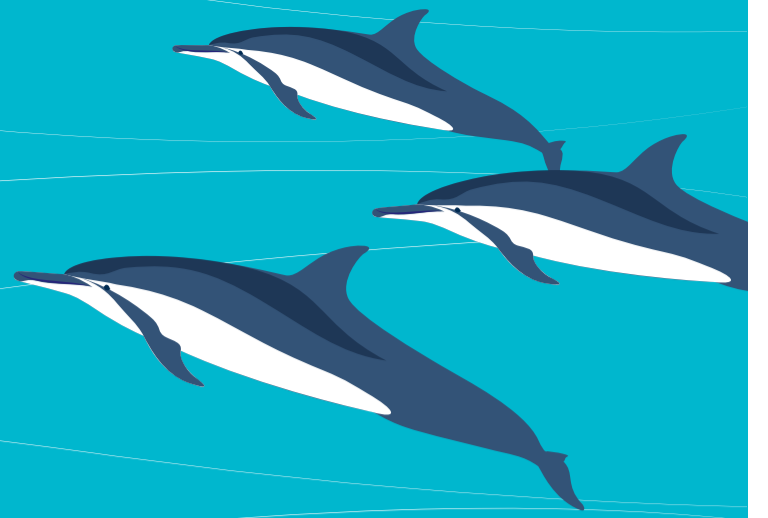


# BE DOLPHIN WISE

WITH PACIFIC WHALE FOUNDATION



## DOLPHIN VIEWING GUIDELINES FOR OCEAN USERS AND BOATERS

### 1. WATCH OUT WHERE DOLPHINS MAY BE ABOUT

Approach areas of known or suspected dolphin activity at low speed and stay alert, looking in all directions.

### 2. KEEP IT SLOW

A vessel's speed should be 6 knots or less and never faster than the dolphin's speed.

### 3. KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Approach no closer than 50 meters from the nearest dolphin. Vessels should approach only from the side and rear of the dolphin's travel direction.

### 4. DON'T LEAP FROG

Do not cut in front of a dolphin's path. There may be young calves or older animals that are slower to respond to your manoeuvres.

### 5. DON'T DRIVE THROUGH

Do not drive through a group of dolphins to encourage bow-riding or for any other reason.

### 6. KEEP MUM & CALVES TOGETHER

Do not separate mother/calf groups.

### 7. GIVE THEM ROOM

Never encircle or trap dolphins between vessels or between your vessel and the shoreline. No more than 3 vessels of any size or type should stop to watch the same dolphin(s).

### 8. LIMIT YOUR TIME

Limit your time observing a dolphin or pod to 30 minutes.

### 9. BE PREDICTABLE & RESPECTFUL

Avoid sudden manoeuvres, loud noises, or other disruptive actions around dolphins.

### 10. DON'T STRESS THEM OUT

Move away slowly if a dolphin's behavior indicates it is stressed. Dolphins will often slap their tail on the surface of the water as a threat display. When approached, they also tend to dive and re-surface a distance away. If this repeats every time you approach to within 50 meters, give the dolphin(s) more space.

### 11. ANGLE AWAY

When disengaging from dolphin(s), angle the vessel away from the nearest dolphin and depart at a slow, no-wake speed.

### 12. STEADY SPEED

Should dolphins choose to ride the bow wave of your vessel, maintain your course heading and speed.

### 13. DON'T FEED THE DOLPHINS

Do not attempt to feed dolphins or use food to attract them.

### 14. AVOID SWIMMING WITH DOLPHINS

Do not attempt to touch, hold, corner or swim with dolphins, even if they swim towards you. If you are approached by dolphins while swimming, remain calm, maintain your course, avoid sudden movements, and calmly swim away from them.

Do not underestimate the strength and power of a dolphin. Even an animal with the best intentions could harm you.

*If the millions of people who see dolphins tried to swim with them or approach them closely, the dolphins would experience significant daily disturbances. This may cause stress to their health or cause them to flee to other areas where there are more sharks, predators or other dangers. Humans may also transmit diseases or other pathogens when in close contact with dolphins.*

To report any SICK, INJURED, OR DEAD marine mammals call the RSPCA Queensland: 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625).

To report a VIOLATION OF THE APPROACH RULE or other human related disturbance, call the Queensland Police: 134 666.



PACIFIC WHALE  
FOUNDATION  
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For more detailed information regarding the **Be Dolphin Wise** program, please visit [PacificWhale.org/BWA](http://PacificWhale.org/BWA)