# **REPORTING MARINE MAMMAL SIGHTINGS**



Many populations of cetaceans are at risk in B.C. Report your sightings to help provide valuable information. By reporting your sightings, you are helping researchers better understand the distribution and abundance of these species. To understand and protect these marine mammals, commercial vessel operators and recreational boaters play an important role in reporting sightings of healthy or distressed marine mammals.



If you see a live free-swimming marine mammal, report sightings to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) at:

1.866.I.SAW.ONE (1.866.472.9663)

Use the Sighting Checklist to note as many details/characteristics as possible.

## Whale-Vessel Strikes and Marine Mammals in Distress

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is responsible for assisting marine mammals and sea turtles in distress. If your vessel strikes a whale, or if you observe a sick, injured, distressed or entangled marine mammal in B.C. waters, please contact the B.C. Marine Mammal Response Network Incident Reporting Hotline immediately.

### Sighting Checklist

- Date and time of sighting
- Location of sighting (latitude + longitude)
- Type of animal or species if possible (and degree of confidence in the identification)
  - Number of individuals
  - Distance to animal sighted
  - Estimated length of the animal
- Description of key body parts (including color, tags, or unique markings)
- If possible, from a safe location and abiding by the Marine Mammal Regulations, please provide photographs and video of the animal

### Report your Sightings

- **REPORT.WILDWHALES.ORG (BC** Cetacean Sightings Network)
- <u>Phone: 1-866-I SAW ONE (472-9663)</u>
- EMAIL:SIGHTINGS@OCEAN.ORG
- WHALEREPORT SMARTPHONE APP
- (iOS and Android devices)

### WhaleReport App

#### 1.800.465.4336 or VHF Channel 16

#### What to Report

- YOUR NAME AND CONTACT
- SPECIES
- DATE AND TIME
- LOCATION
- ANIMAL ALIVE/DEAD
- LATITUDE/LONGITUDE COORDINATES IF AVAILABLE
- NATURE OF INJURY
- PICTURES/VIDEO TAKEN
- DIRECTION OF ANIMAL'S TRAVEL













TAIL/PECTORAL SLA





### Send a Sighting. Save a Whale!

When you report sightings, large ships in your area are immediately alerted so they can take measures to avoid a ship strike or disturbance.

If you see a cetacean or sea turtle in B.C. waters, use the WhaleReport App to report what you see and directly contribute to important conservationbased data and research.









