

# WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR IMPACT



When safety considerations allow, mariners can reduce their chance of striking or disturbing whales in the following ways:

## **Stay Alert**

Keep watch for marine mammals in the area near the path of your vessel. Detecting marine mammals at a greater distance opens up more options for avoiding a strike.

## **Keep your distance**

Stay at least 200 metres away when possible; greater distances are more beneficial. Learn more about the Be Whale Wise Guidelines [here](#).

## **Reduce your speed**

Slowing below your vessel's cavitation inception reduces underwater noise that may affect whale foraging and communication. The chance of a ship striking and killing or seriously injuring a whale is greatly reduced when a ship travels at 10 knots or less.

## **Avoid rapid acceleration**

Limit changes in RPM while transiting past whales.

## **Reroute your path**

Consider the whale's direction of travel and avoid entering their path. Do not assume that marine mammals will move out of the way.

## **Take Care of your Vessel**

Review the [International Maritime Organization's guidelines](#) for vessel noise reduction to learn more about how vessel maintenance and monitoring can contribute to a quieter vessel.

## **Design for Quieter Waters**

- The most effective and cheapest way to make a ship quiet is to design it to be so from the first schematics. In addition to lower noise levels, installing new technologies on ships can also lead to increased energy efficiency and other environmentally beneficial outcomes.
- Review the [International Maritime Organization's guidelines](#) for vessel noise reduction to learn more about how quieter vessel design and selection, hull design, and engine and machinery selection and mounting can contribute to a quieter vessel.
- Even during re-fits some noise mitigating technologies can be installed (e.g. propeller cap boss fins).
- Consider certifying vessels through a classification society or certification body (including DNV GL, Bureau Veritas, RINA, and Lloyd's).



## Be Informed

- Anticipate marine mammal sightings by communicating with other mariners and subscribing to Whale Alert, using WhaleMap, or referring to other relevant sources (such as the DFO or Transport Canada).
- Learn about the seasonal movements and behavior of marine mammals with [A Mariners Guide to Whales Dolphins Porpoises of Western Canada](#)
- Modify route (if safe) to avoid marine mammals in immediate vicinity and known sensitive marine areas.
- Promote marine mammal and underwater noise educational resources and training programs at your organization.



## Report your Sightings

- [REPORT.WILDWHALES.ORG](https://REPORT.WILDWHALES.ORG) ([BC Cetacean Sightings Network](#))
- Phone: 1-866-I SAW ONE (472-9663)
- EMAIL: [SIGHTINGS@OCEAN.ORG](mailto:SIGHTINGS@OCEAN.ORG)
- [WHALEREPORT SMARTPHONE APP](#) (iOS and Android devices)

