

Soundwatch Volunteer Job Description

The Soundwatch Boater Education Program Mission:

Promote responsible stewardship of the Salish Sea through the development, distribution and implementation of best practice guidelines and regulations for marine wildlife viewing by residents, visitors and commercial users.

Program goal:

Reduce disturbances to marine wildlife by irresponsible boater behavior.

Program objectives:

- Educate boaters on best practices for viewing marine wildlife before they leave the shore,
 - Reinforce the learning experience in the actual context where disturbances take place,
 - Develop and evaluate community-based voluntary guidelines and need for regulations,
 - Provide a scientific platform to monitor vessel activities.
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Soundwatch Volunteer Program Goals:

Provide intern and volunteer opportunities in a safe and instructive program assisting the Soundwatch Boater Education Program in promoting its larger mission of marine stewardship.

Volunteer Program Objectives:

- Execute safe and proper seapersonship while educating boaters about wildlife viewing regulations and collecting data on wildlife viewing activities,
- Educate commercial and private recreational boaters about wildlife viewing etiquette and guidelines in a positive, professional manner,
- Keep a daily record of vessel activities around whales or other protection areas for further study, verification, or possible legal action.

Training Requirements:

A. Participate in a Soundwatch Training Workshop.

Once you are invited to become a Soundwatch Volunteer, you need to attend an in-person training workshop to familiarize yourself with all aspects of the program. The workshop will be conducted during the first week of June. You will need to fill out an initial volunteer inquiry, and if available for a training workshop, an information sheet and a liability waiver. Once you have attended a workshop you can develop your volunteer schedule with the coordinator.

B. Be familiar with the Soundwatch Boat.

In addition to the training workshop, all volunteers must have a boat check out. This includes a basic run through of boat operations, safety equipment, radio and cell phone, GPS, range finder and video use. It is also a good idea to become familiar with the local area if you are not already. We do have some charts and field guides available, but you might want to get your own.

Daily Operational Responsibilities

A. Come prepared for a full day of variable conditions on boat days.

Includes bringing the following items:

Appropriate clothing: warm jacket, good rain gear, warm hat, sun hat, sunglasses, gloves and boots if it is cold and rainy. T-shirts and shorts are OK as long as they are not offensive and you have other clothing when it get cool. Most people also like to have a hat clip so you do not lose your hat and a handkerchief or piece of cotton cloth to wipe your glasses.

Plenty of food and water: snack food and easy to eat items are best because we often do not stop to have a lunch break. Bring more water than you will need, as dehydration is very likely.

Sunscreen is essential: the boat has little covered protection.

Equipment; binoculars are very handy as is a wristwatch. You may bring a camera, but keep in mind we are a working boat and are not getting close to wildlife.

Safety gear: we will provide floatation suits and jackets of various sizes. If you have something specific that you like to wear, feel free to use it. We have full first aide gear but bring anything you know you are likely to need, i.e. anti-nausea pills or bracelet. Please advise your driver of any special condition you may have before you leave the dock.

Be aware there is also no bathroom on the boat and field days can last more than 8 hours

B. Follow the lead of your driver.

The Soundwatch driver's main responsibility is to strictly follow all wildlife viewing guidelines keeping wildlife wellbeing as the first priority. They need to be aware and conscious of whales' whereabouts at all times. You can help by keeping a whale lookout and by following directions given to you by the driver. Many things are going on at the same time on the water and it can be overwhelming for short periods of time. If the driver does not have to worry about what you are doing, they can concentrate on the whales.

C. Follow the daily procedure.

This includes doing the morning check-ins, having a reliable way to be reached, and arriving at the designated time. It also includes helping with gear hauling, preparing daily educational materials, data collection gear and supplies and boat set-up.

D. Be professional at all times.

Come prepared and ready. Use appropriate behavior, language, attire (Soundwatch or Museum clothing if possible) and attitude- **you are the SOUNDWATCH PROGRAM and you are representing The Whale Museum at all times.** Be polite, courteous and firm. Don't lose your cool in tense situations. Relax. Take a deep breath. Have some fun.

Volunteer Educator and Data Collection Responsibilities:

A. Distribution of Educational Materials.

Using the pole on the boat, or at public facilities hand out educational materials that includes the Be Whale Wise Guidelines for Wildlife Viewing, Soundwatch Brochure, and any other relevant local service announcements.

B. Aiding the Driver with Vessels/ Animals Spotted.

Keeping a vigilant eye out for any vessel on the water which includes powerboats, kayaks, sailboats, personal watercraft etc. The vessel driver will be one in charge of communicating with these vessels either personally or through the radio. On top of being vigilant for any changes in sea conditions. Drivers will also watch for any vessels to contact or any marine life on the water. As a volunteer, it is expected of you to aid in the spotting of any marine vessel and/or wildlife in the area as well.

C. Maintain a daily boat log.

Includes date, time, weather, crew, destination, fuel and oil levels, added fuel or oil, boat maintenance needed, boat maintenance completed, equipment comments, big events on the water, marine mammal sightings, communications with officials, messages for other drivers, return time, engine hours

D. Enter data using KOBO data collector on the field phone.

Enter data using the KOBO collect (app) correctly, accurately and in a timely manner; help with boat identification, whale ID, boater behavior, and harassment issues.

Data entering includes (among many more):

1. Whale Watch Vessel Counts
2. Whale Watch Vessel Contact
3. Whale Watch Vessel Incidents

Soundwatch Daily Protocols

Interns & Volunteers

A.M. PROCEDURES

- Check the calendar in the shed for boating events/holiday info.
- Check for notes from yesterday's crew, re-stock brochures, datasheets, supplies for boat (if running low on boat, refill from shed, if shed stock is low tell your driver)
- Are the cameras, phone, and VHF charged? Do we need batteries? Tell the driver if these items are not charged **BEFORE** you get on the boat!
- Have you or other volunteers filled out a volunteer waiver and time sheet?
- Do you have a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, water, food? There are spare hats and glasses in the shed, water and sunscreen on the boat. Snacks for sale in Snug store.

P.M. PROCEDURES

- Do you need brochures, datasheets, video tape, or other supplies? *If so, refill from shed! And/or leave notes for next days crew to bring down to boat. If shed supply is low, tell your driver!*
- Are the phone, handheld VHF, camera batteries on the chargers?
- Do the mustang suits need to be dried out? *Please check the pockets, shake off sand and hang up each day.*
- Did you fill in your hours on the appropriate time sheet?
- Check volunteer schedules for your next day on the boat
- Are there any items of concern that need to be mentioned to the driver? Left as notes for the next day's crew?
- Did you make sure all data was correctly entered for the data on the KOBO app?
- Did you complete the daily summary data sheet (located in the volunteer binder)? When the sheet is completed put it in the "Done Data" pouch

SOUNDWATCH 2024
DRIVER AND STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Maria A. Sabando Plaza, Soundwatch Administrative Coordinator

360-378-4710 x33 (wk)

786-302-7825 (cell)

maria@whalemuseum.org

Erin Casellas, Soundwatch Field Operations Coordinator

360-378-4710 x33 (wk)

720-312-5612 (cell)

soundwatch@whalemuseum.org



Soundwatch Boat Phone 360-317-4464

1. **Meet at Snug Harbor at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise contacted.**
2. **If you need a ride to Snug Harbor on your scheduled volunteer day, please contact Maria or Erin by e-mail and phone, at least **48 hours IN ADVANCE.****
3. **If you need to cancel the morning of your scheduled day **PLEASE CALL THE BOAT CELL PHONE AND LEAVE A MESSAGE ASAP (360-317-4464).** In addition please contact Maria and/or Erin by e-mail and phone.**
4. **If you know in advance that you will not be able to keep your scheduled boat day, please contact Maria or Erin at the office via e-mail.**

You must carry a Passport or WA Enhanced Dr License at all times on the Boats!

Obtaining or Renewing a US Passport

New Passport: http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_830.html

Renew a Passport: http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/renew/renew_833.html

Obtaining a Washington State Enhanced Drivers License (WA EDL) - WA State Residents Only

<http://www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/edl.html> (Cannot be obtained on SJI, nearest office is Mt. Vernon, WA)



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The Whale Museum's Soundwatch Program

www.whalemuseum.org/programs/soundwatch/soundwatch.html

UW Conservation Biology Conservation Canine Programs

<http://conservationbiology.net/research-programs/killer-whales-2/>

Orca Sound

<http://www.orcasound.net/>

Center for Whale Research Orca Cam

<http://www.whaleresearch.com>

Orca Network

<http://www.orcanetwork.org/>

To Join The Orca Network Sightings List Serve:

<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=001kGIg99yfXXkSoHlfwFnWq%3D%3D>

NOAA Marine Forecast

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sew/get.php?wfo=sew&pil=CWF&sid=SEW>

Canadian Marine Forecast

http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/marine/forecast_e.html?mapID=03&siteID=14305

Cliff Mass Weather Blog

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/>

Hanbury Pt., Mosquito Pass, San Juan Island Tides

<http://www.tides.info/?command=view&location=Hanbury%20Point%2C%20Mosquito%20Pass%2C%20San%20Juan%20I.%2C%20Haro%20Strait%2C%20Washingt>
[on](http://www.tides.info/?command=view&location=Hanbury%20Point%2C%20Mosquito%20Pass%2C%20San%20Juan%20I.%2C%20Haro%20Strait%2C%20Washingt)

San Juan Islands, NOAA Navigational Chart #18421

<http://www.charts.noaa.gov/OnLineViewer/18421.shtml>

Snug Harbor- where both boats leave from

http://www.whaleresearch.com/old/thecenter/2008_OrcaCam.htm

Washington State Ferries

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/>