

Be Whale Wise SOUNDWATCH K.E.L.P.



The Kayak Education & Leadership Program (K.E.L.P.) is a program that informs kayakers on marine wildlife regulations and guidelines in the San Juan Islands with the aim to reduce human-powered vessel disturbance to Southern Resident Orcas and all marine wildlife.

Human-powered vessels have the unique challenge of limited maneuverability and a variety of safety concerns that require special consideration to remain in compliance with federal laws and to reduce the overall risks of disturbing marine wildlife.

GUIDELINES FOR KAYAKERS WHEN ORCAS ARE PRESENT

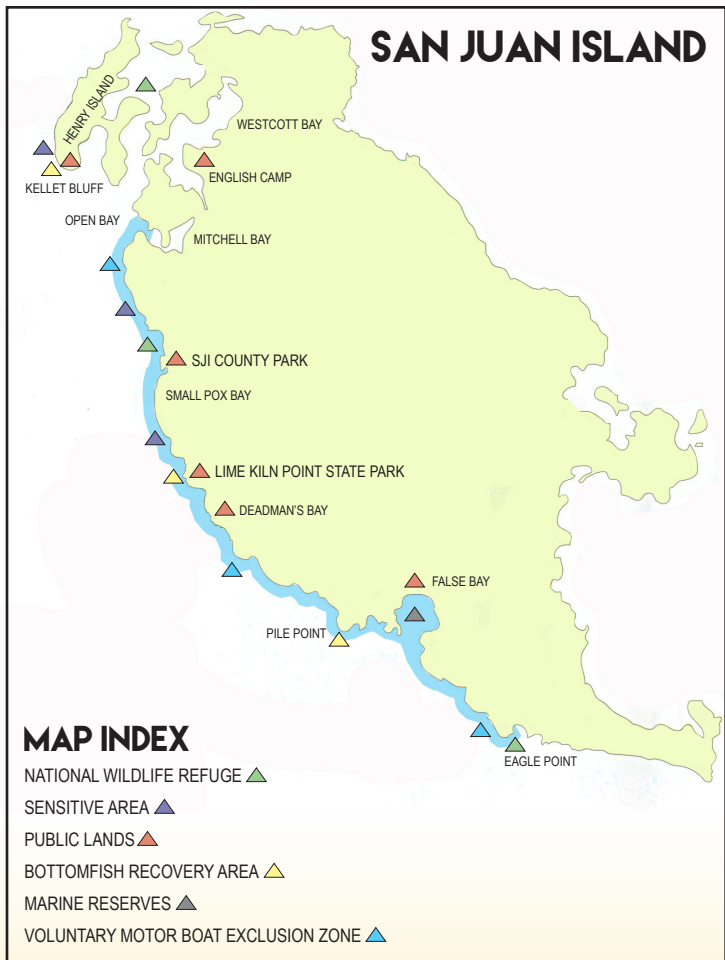
The Kayakers' Code of Conduct is a set of San Juan Island orca-specific guidelines meant to be used along with regional Be Whale Wise Marine Wildlife guidelines and current Federal Vessel Laws.

- Do not launch from shore if you are unable to maintain a distance of 200 yards from the whales.
- Paddle to shore or further offshore to maintain 200 yards to the side and 400 yards out of their path.
- If within 400 yards of orcas, kayakers should paddle toward shore, secure themselves (ideally in kelp beds), raft up, stop paddling, and wait until the orcas are 400 yards away.
- If offshore of orcas and within 400 yards, raft up for safety in boat traffic (preferably kayakers will always be in shore of boat traffic).
- Adjust your plan of action according to the whales' direction of travel and the state and federal laws.
- Maintain a 100 yard distance from all other marine mammals.

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KAYAK ASSOCIATION





Marine Reserves

Regulation: Closed to all shellfish & bottomfish activities. (See WDFW Marine Rules 7 for exact locations.) **Salmon Fishing Closure:** No salmon fishing within 300 yards of Yellow & Low Islands to reduce rockfish mortality.

National Wildlife Refuges

Boaters are advised to stay 200 yards away to avoid disturbing marine mammals & birds.

Bottomfish Recovery Zone

Guideline: No bottomfishing within 1/4 mile of shore to protect & restore regional fishing.

Voluntary Motor Boat Exclusion Zone

Guideline: Remain 1/4 mile offshore when orcas are present.
Guideline: 1/2 mile no go zone at Lime Kiln Point State Park when orcas are present.

Sensitive Areas

Areas marked are for seal haul-outs & seabird nesting sites. Eelgrass beds provide critical habitat for juvenile fish. Please avoid disturbing sediments & vegetation.