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.

www.whalemuseum.org
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.