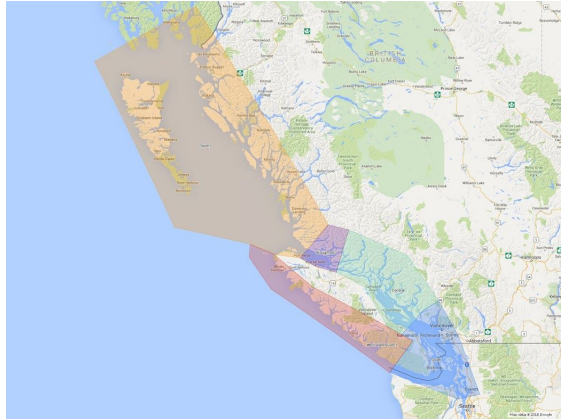


Wild Ocean Whale Society (WOWs)

Corporate Membership and Group Texting Service

Group Text Regions

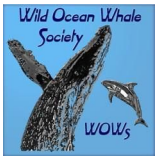
The Group Texting Service is established within Geographic Regions. Corporate members can designate individual employees receive texts within any or all of the following regions:



[Open Full Size Map](#)

- **South:** Southern Georgia Strait – from a line between Neah Bay, US & Jordon River in Juan de Fuca Strait to the Merry Island – Ballenas Island line
- **Central:** Georgia Strait - from the Halfmoon Bay, Merry Island – Ballenas Island line to Naka Creek – Forward Bay near the top of Johnstone Strait including all channels and inlets and waterways within.
- **Broughtons:** from Naka Creek – Forward Bay near the top of Johnstone Strait to Port Hardy – Blunden Harbour line in Queen Charlotte Strait
- **North:** from Port Hardy –Blunden Harbour line in Queen Charlotte Strait Northward.
- **Central-Broughtons:** covers both Central and Broughtons regions
- **South-Central:** covers both South and Central regions
- **West VI:** covers the West side of Vancouver Island
- **All:** for group members wishing to receive all Regions

This document is available from the [Corporate Members](#) page on the WOWs website



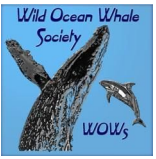
Wild Ocean Whale Society (WOWs)

Corporate Membership and Group Texting Service

SMS Phone / Boat Operator Subscription Form

Instructions for completing the SMS Phone/Boat Operator Subscription Form

1. Subscribed SMS Phone/Boat Operators will complete and **sign the form each year** in order to participate in the Group Texting Service.
2. For each row, circle a letter in the first column to indicate whether to **D**delete, **M**odify or **A**dd a name.
3. Print as many copies of this form as required.
4. Contact info for the responsible Company representative must be completed at the bottom of the first form submitted in one email.
5. Scan/photograph and submit all forms by email to info@wows.org.
6. Submit payment as needed from the [Corporate Members](#) Page of the WOWs website.
7. Submit additional forms throughout the year with payment when needed.



Wild Ocean Whale Society (WOWs)

Corporate Membership and Group Texting Service

SMS Phone / Boat Operator Subscription Form

Company Name: _____

As a Corporate Member, all company boats must follow DFO Whale Watching Guidelines.

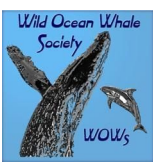
SMS Phone / Boat Operator Acknowledgment

I have read & agree to adhere to the DFO Whale Watching Guidelines and the Society Code of Conduct, included herein:

*	First and Last Name	Cell/SMS No.	Contact Email	VHF Call Sign (if relevant)	Group Text Region(s)	Publish My Photos	Date	Signature
D M A						Y / N		
D M A						Y / N		
D M A						Y / N		
D M A						Y / N		
D M A						Y / N		

Submitted on behalf of the Company:

Date:	Name	Contact Phone:
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Wild Ocean Whale Society (WOWs)

Corporate Membership and Group Texting Service

Code of Conduct Jan, 2017

Our Goals:

- Co-operative, open communicating of logged and published real time sightings for the benefit of tourism, education, business and cetacean research.
- Keep an open flow of real-time sightings for the benefit of Cetacean safety, public education and awareness.
- This document also covers VHF radio communications with groups members who are out of cell range.

Who Can Become a Member and Join in WOWs Group Texting Service:

- Corporations – Public, Private and Proprietorships
- Organizations – Bonafide Research Groups and Societies

Group Text Regions:

- The following group text regions have been established: South, Central, Broughtons, North, and West Vancouver Island. See map.
- Members may sign-up for one or more group texting regions.
- Messages received from a member of a group texting region are automatically distributed to all members of the region.

Group Text Service Purpose:

- Receive sightings at Wild Ocean Whale Society (WOWs)
- Simplified, open, co-operative, real-time communications

Membership Purpose:

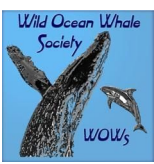
- Cover WOWs costs to maintain the Group Texting Service
- Any overage of funds maintain WOWs operations and programs
- Provide Corporate Members with input into Society governance through membership

Acceptable Practices:

- Adherence to the DFO Marine Mammal Watching Guidelines
- Cautious, considerate behaviour around Cetacea
- A commitment to timely sightings reporting via the Group Texting Service
- Professional co-operation
- Friendly, polite communications
- Courteous behavior
- Common sense

Unacceptable Practices include:

- Purposeful infringement into Cetacea space
- Dangerous behaviour to Cetacea or humans
- Withholding timely sightings information from group texting members
- Forwarding group text messages outside of the WOWs group texting service
- Abusive and confrontational behaviour including: verbal or physical assault, foul language, bigotry or bullying



Wild Ocean Whale Society (WOWs)

Corporate Membership and Group Texting Service

Code of Conduct Jan, 2017

Complaint Review Process:

- Complaints may be received from within or outside the group texting service members
- Complaints will be reviewed on a one by one basis using the above criteria
- Complaints must be submitted by email with some evidence of infraction

Accused will be allowed to respond:

- Without knowing specifics about accusers names
- All information received will be maintained confidentially

Mediation:

- Where the Society is able to bring the sides to an agreement which resolves the complaint, we will attempt to do so, however it is not the Society's function to mediate complaints.

Society Board of Directors will make the final determination:

- All facts will be presented to Society Board members for a determination of suitable remedy
- Neither the complainants nor the accused names will be used in determinations
- A special meeting of the board will make a determination as to whether expulsion from the Group Texting Service is required.
- shall be named in the final Minutes of the Meeting after the vote for clarity to future Directors and Members

Expulsion:

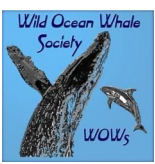
- The offending individual(s) together with their related Company and employees, as a consequence of their actions: shall be removed from the Group Texting Service
- Shall be banned from Membership – see below

Re-application to Membership after Expulsion:

- Written request must be submitted showing reasoning and cause why the application should be considered.
- Will be reviewed and voted on at the next WOWs AGM after the original complainants have had the opportunity to respond.

This document has been developed as a guideline and may be subject to update from time to time.

We welcome any comments or concerns for review by email please. info@wildoceanwhale.org



Wild Ocean Whale Society (WOWs)

Corporate Membership and Group Texting Service

DFO *Whale Watching Guidelines*

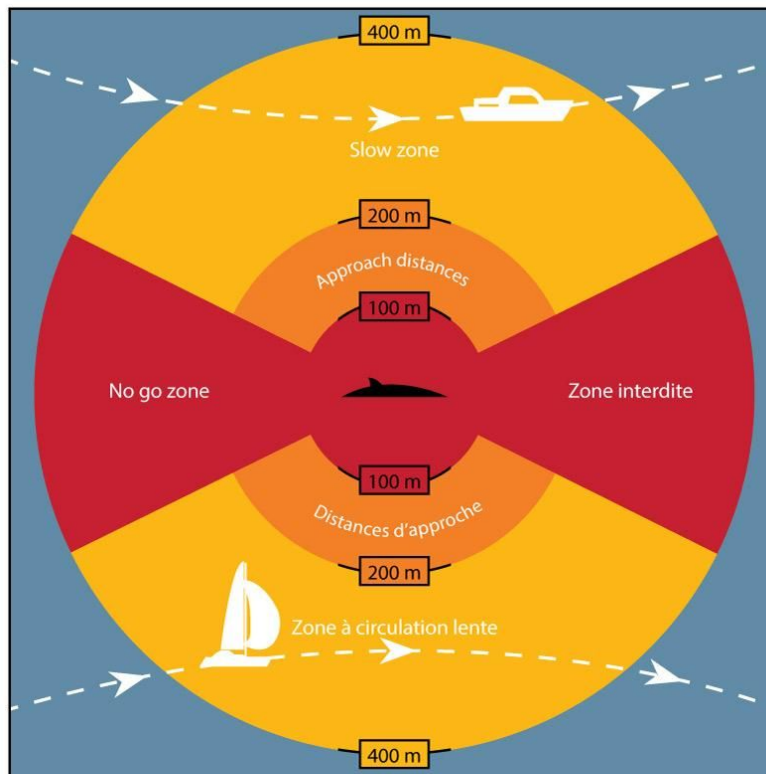
The DFO Whale Watching Guidelines may be accessed at <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/mammals-mammiferes/viewing-eng.html>
They are reprinted here for your convenience.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Canada's long coastlines provide many opportunities to observe whales and other marine wildlife in their natural environment. Close encounters with humans can disturb the animals' behaviour. Bring your binoculars, follow these guidelines and enjoy watching marine animals safely and responsibly.

These guidelines will help to:

- minimize disturbance and stress on marine mammals
- reduce the risk of collision with the animals
- provide special protection for endangered species



- 100 m Minimum approach distance / Distance minimale d'approche
- 200 m Approach distance in the Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park / Distance d'approche dans le parc marin du Saguenay-Saint-Laurent

How to watch marine wildlife

Remember these key guidelines:

- Do not feed whales.
- Approach areas of known or suspected marine wildlife activity with caution.
- Slow down as you approach whales. Avoid sudden speed or heading changes.
- Keep clear of the whales' path. If whales approach you, move out of their way.
- Do not approach whales from the front or behind. Approach from the side and move in a direction parallel to the direction of the whales.
- Do not approach or position your vessel closer than 100 metres to any whale. If your boat accidentally comes closer than 100 metres, stop or keep the boat stationary and let the animal pass.
- Stay on the offshore side of the whales when they are travelling close to shore.
- Limit your viewing time to 30 minutes. This will minimize the cumulative impact of many vessels, and give consideration to other viewers.
- Do not approach whales that are unmoving and floating at the surface or near the surface – they are resting.
- Do not surround whales when several boats are present.
- Do not approach marine mammals using aircraft.

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/mammals-mammiferes/viewing-eng.html>