

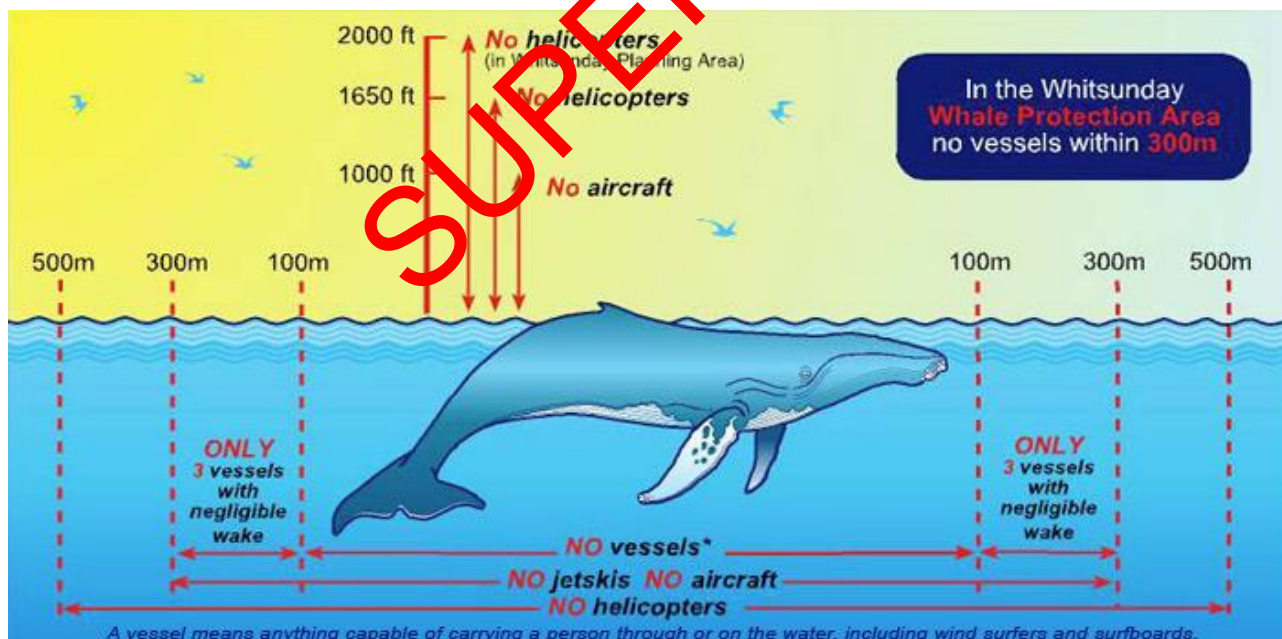


All whales and dolphins in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are legally protected.

### When encountering whales or dolphins, either from a vessel, aircraft\* or in the water

- You must not kill, take, injure and/or interfere with whales and dolphins (interference includes harassing, chasing and herding).
- You must not restrict the path of whales or dolphins.
- You must minimise noise when closer than 300 metres of a whale or dolphin.
- You must not touch or feed, or attempt to touch or feed, a whale or dolphin.
- You must not enter the water within 100 metres of a whale or within 50 metres of a dolphin.
- You must not approach closer than 30 metres to a whale or dolphin if you are in the water. If a whale or dolphin approaches you while you are in the water, move slowly away, do not touch or swim towards it.

### When operating a vessel or aircraft



- A vessel must not approach closer than 100 metres of a whale, or 50 metres of a dolphin.
- Approach the whale or dolphin only from the rear or by positioning the vessel ahead of the whale or dolphin, and always in a position that is more than 30 degrees to its observed direction of travel.
- If the whale or dolphin is a calf, a vessel must not enter within 300 metres of the whale and 150 metres of the dolphin (i.e. the caution zone).
- If a calf appears causing your vessel to be within the caution zone, you must stop the vessel and turn off the engines or disengage the gears or withdraw your vessel at a constant slow speed.

\* **aircraft** means a machine or apparatus that can derive support in the atmosphere from the reactions of the air or from buoyancy, but does not include a hovercraft. This definition does, however, include planes, helicopters and unmanned aircraft.



- If your vessel is closer than 300 metres of a whale or 150 metres to a dolphin, it must be operated at a constant slow speed with negligible wake, if closer than 50 metres of a dolphin the vessel must not change course or speed suddenly.
- If there are three vessels within 300 metres of a whale or dolphin, all additional vessels must remain outside a 300 metres radius from the whale or dolphin.
- If a whale approaches close to your vessel, take all precautions to avoid a collision, either slow down and steer away from the animal, or place the engines in neutral and let the animal pass.
- Prohibited vessels (i.e. jetskis, parasails, hovercraft, hydrofoils, wing-in-ground effect craft and motorised diving aids such as underwater scooters) must not approach closer than 300 metres of a whale or dolphin.
- An aircraft must not operate below 1000 feet within a horizontal radius of 300 metres to a whale or dolphin and must not approach a whale or dolphin head on.
- In addition, a helicopter must not operate below 1650 feet within a horizontal radius of 500 metres to a whale or dolphin.
- If you accidentally strike a whale you must report it.

### When in the Whitsunday Planning Area

- A vessel must not approach closer than 300 metres of a whale in the Whitsunday Whale Protection Area.
- A helicopter must not approach below 2000 feet or within 1000 metres of a whale.

### Notifications

You must notify the Secretary of the [Department of the Environment and Energy](#) within seven days of becoming aware that an activity you undertook without a permit resulted in an unintentional death, injury, trading, taking, keeping or moving of a species specified in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

### For more information

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