



FRIEND OF THE SEA

Sustainable Whale Watching Checklist

Description of the Organization to be audited

This document has to be filled in only by the auditor of the selected certification body for the given audit. The document has to be typed in in English. Additional photographical evidence strongly appreciated. Video footage accepted and appreciated.

a) NAME AND STARTING YEAR OF THE ORGANIZATION TO BE AUDITED:
b) THE ORGANIZATION IS PART OF A GROUP?:
c) THE ADDRESS OF THE ORGANIZATION TO BE AUDITED
d) NAME, ROLE AND CONTACTS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE/S OF THE ORGANIZATION WHO WILL ACCOMPANY THE AUDITOR ON SITE
e) NAME/S AND FLAGS OF THE WHALE WATCHING VESSELS AND THEIR REGISTRATION AND LICENCE NRs
f) OWNER/S OF THE WHALE WATCHING VESSELS



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g) HORSE POWER AND LENGTH OF EACH OF THE WHALE WATCHING VESSELS
h) CAPACITY (IN TERMS OF NR OF PEOPLE WHICH CAN BE CARRIED) OF EACH AUDITED VESSEL
i) HARBOR/S FROM WHICH THE BOATS DEPART AND RETURN
j) WHALES SPECIES (COMMON AND SCIENTIFIC NAME) NORMALLY FOUND IN THE AREA WHERE WHALE WATCHING IS CARRIED OUT.
k) APPROXIMATE COORDINATES OF THE WHALE WATCHING TARGET AREA



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l) NAME OF THE BOAT/S BOARDED BY THE AUDITOR
m) NR OF EMPLOYEES OF THE WHALE WATCHING ORGANIZATION:
n) OTHER CERTIFICATIONS ACHEIVED BY THE WHALE WATCHING ORGANIZATION:
o) ANY OTHER RELEVANT NOTES:

<input type="checkbox"/> The Friend of the Sea project was shortly introduced		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Organization was informed by the auditor of the opportunity, in case of certification, to use the Friend of the Sea logo on its boats, marketing and communication material.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Timing of the audit has been agreed upon.		
NAME OF THE CERTIFICATION BODY	AUDIT TEAM:	DATE AND TIME OF BEGINNING AND END OF THE AUDIT:
AUDITOR SIGNATURE	NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION'S REPRESENTATIVE ACCOMPANYING THE AUDITOR:	AUDIT CODE:



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Sustainable Whale Watching Checklist

1 - Commercial Operations

The commercial cetacean-watching activity is carried out under a permit granted by the appropriate authority, for a given area.

2 - Detection of cetaceans.

The vessels do not use sonar systems that emit noise to detect cetaceans or to bring them to the surface.

3 - Zones

Except in circumstances where the cetaceans themselves choose to approach, vessels must always maintain themselves at a particular distance from the animals being watched. In the case of large whales, 100m and, for dolphins, 50m. Vessels at this distance from the animals are at the edge of the "Watching Zone";

between the watching zone and a distance of 300m from the animals, vessels must maintain a slow and constant no-wake speed this should allow them to close with the animals but not chase them. The area between 300m and the watching zone is the "Approach Zone";



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the vessel never approaches cetaceans head-on, but from the rear or the side;

care must be taken such that no cetacean be separated from a group or a mother from her calf or that a group be dispersed;

isolated mother and calf pairs and isolated calves should also be left alone, as should animals that appear to be resting or avoiding vessels;

only one vessel at any one time can be in the watch zone and no more than two in the approach zone;



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time in the watching zone must be limited to periods of maximum thirty minutes;

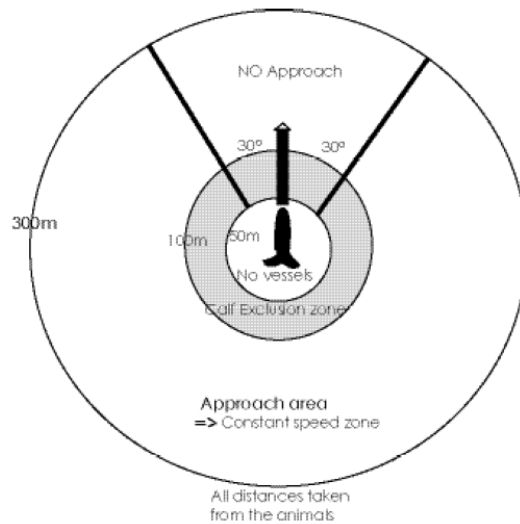
where a vessel stops to enable the passengers to watch a cetacean, the engines should be placed in neutral;

a vessel departing from the vicinity of cetaceans must also proceed slowly (i.e. travelling at no more than 6 knots), until it is at least 300 meters from the nearest cetacean;

when departing from watching cetaceans it is of importance to determine where the animals are relative to the vessel to avoid collisions or coming too close to the animals. In some circumstances it may be necessary to wait for animals to return to the surface from a dive to be certain as to their position.



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4 - Special Considerations for Sperm Whales :

when a sperm whale abruptly changes its orientation or starts to make short dives of about 1 to 5 minute durations without showing its tail flukes, the vessel must leave the watching zone at a no wake speed until outside of the approach zone;

the vessel does not stay with a sperm whale or group of sperm whales for more than 3 of the whales' dive sequences;

the vessel does not stay with a social group of sperm whales for more than 15 minutes.



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5 - Swim-with

The vessel does not carry out Swim-with activities.

6 - Other

No rubbish, sewage or other polluting substances (including oil) or food should be disposed of in the proximity of the cetaceans;

The Marine mammals are not subjected to whale watching activities by any vessel at least one third of the period of daylight.

Recommendations

an early assessment of the numbers, distribution and other characteristics of the target population/s in the area must be undertaken;



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closed seasons or areas are determined to provide additional protection;

monitor the effectiveness of management provisions and modify them as required to accommodate new information

scientific research and population monitoring is an integral component of management;

training programs for operators and crew on the biology and behavior of target species and whale watching operations are developed;



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whale watchers are provided an accurate and informative material and development of realistic expectations is encouraged to avoid disappointment and pressure for increasingly risky behavior.

CONCLUSIONS

The auditor MUST fill in also the following fields

- The audited whale watching Organization is deemed COMPLIANT with the Friend of the Sea Sustainable Whale Watching Requirements.**
- The audited whale watching Organization is deemed NOT COMPLIANT with the Friend of the Sea Sustainable Whale Watching Requirements.**
The Auditor reports the following Non Conformities, identified by the related requirement Number:

NON CONFORMITIES (to be complied with within 3 months from audit date)

RECOMMENDATIONS