



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 15, 2023

TO: Maria Gladyszewski, Chair Assembly Committee of the Whole

FROM: Alexandra Pierce, Tourism Manager

SUBJECT: Whale Watch Focus Group

The CBJ Assembly and TBMP have received numerous complaints about the whale watch industry this summer. In response, the operators met on June 26 and agreed to form a focus group to discuss issues surrounding the industry and produce a set of recommendations for action including more stringent TBMP guidelines to be implemented in 2024. The group meets every two weeks and has made good progress. The Committee will hear presentations from focus group chair Bob Janes with Gastineau Guiding and from Suzie Teerlink with NOAA. This is an opportunity to ask questions and provide verbal feedback on the recommendations.

This is an informational update only, and there is no requested Assembly action at this time.