

JUNEAU COMMERCIAL WHALE WATCHING FLEET

TBMP Guidelines and
Recommendations
to Date



27 YEARS OF DEVELOPING GUIDELINES



Impacts to coastal zones: Whale watching tour operators will take all available and reasonable steps to minimize impacts to coastal residents and other vessel operators. Vessel operators will strive to minimize the impacts of their wakes on other watercraft, docks, and beaches throughout the CBJ coastal waterways.

- **Honor and abide by** a voluntary “no wake zone” in the Smugglers Cove/Spuhn Island/Swedula Island vicinity.
- **Will not utilize** the Indian Island passage as a shortcut into and out of Auke Bay at cruising speed.
- **Be diligent in monitoring** their own wakes, vessel traffic, and recreational boats in the Coghlan Cut area and adjust their speed and/or routing as necessary to promote a safe environment for all users.

27 YEARS OF DEVELOPING GUIDELINES

Minimize wake damage to adjacent property owners in Auke Bay: Operators agree to voluntarily navigate along the centerline of the bay. The centerline is approximate to a line from the white speed buoy to the south end of Coughlin Island.



27 YEARS OF DEVELOPING GUIDELINES



Minimize wake damage to adjacent property owners in Auke Bay: Operators agree to voluntarily navigate along the centerline of the bay. The centerline is approximate to a line from the white speed buoy to the south end of Coughlin Island.

Monitor the volume and use of their onboard PA systems and outside speakers in a manner which reduces the impact on residents and recreational boaters.

When transiting through CBJ waters, operators agree to maintain (whenever possible) a 200-yard distance from boats that are actively fishing to reduce the impact of wake on those vessels.

27 YEARS OF DEVELOPING GUIDELINES



Operators will follow all applicable federal (NOAA) regulations regarding marine mammal viewing.

Time spent by operators observing a specific whale or group of whales should not exceed 30 minutes within a 2-hour time span on any one tour or charter.

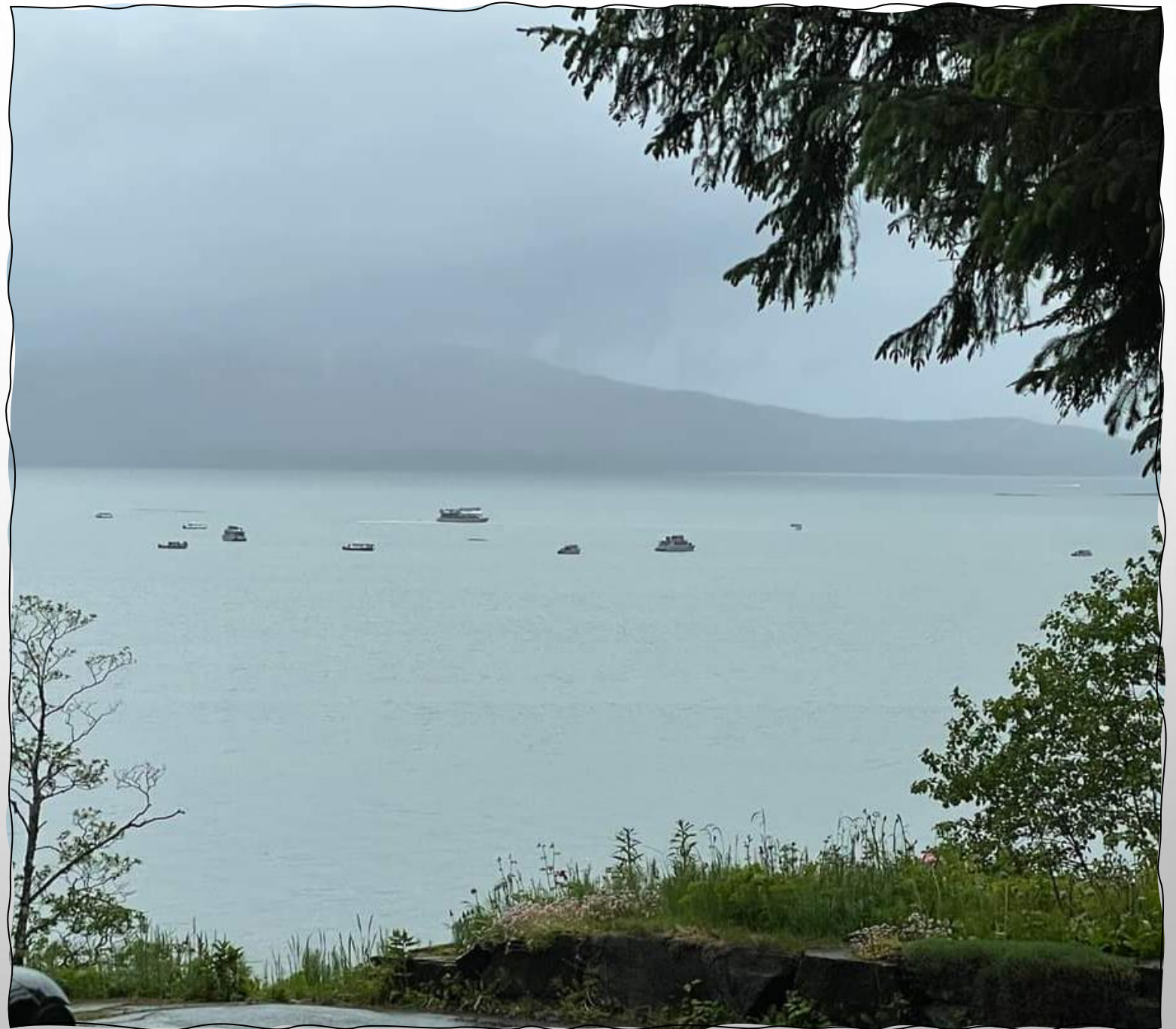
Vessel engine idling: Operators agree to minimize engine idling at every reasonable opportunity including loading and unloading of passengers and/or when standing-by in the various vessel loading zones throughout the CBJ.



The majority of whale watching tour operators also belong to **Whale SENSE**, a voluntary education and recognition program offered by NOAA to commercial whale watching companies.

CURRENT ISSUES

Public perception of
commercial fleet
whale watching behavior



CURRENT ISSUES

Satellite image of
commercial fleet
whale watching behavior



Background...



June 26 – All Operators Meeting:

- Operators met to discuss current concerns over negative public opinion of commercial whale watching
 - 18 operators/captains
 - Reps from D&H, TBMP, Travel Juneau, CBJ tourism, and Whale SENSE
- From this meeting came the idea of a whale watching operators focus group
- Develop recommendations for additional **future** whale watching guidelines

TIMELINE OF MEETINGS

June 26

Original operators meeting

Discussion moved from improving public relations to addressing significant issues

Idea to form focus group was proposed

July 17

Goals determined:

1. Develop public relations plan
2. Identify operations issues
3. Consider new guidelines or agreements

July 27

Discussions ensued:

1. Review Whale SENSE goals
2. Discuss elimination of “whales guaranteed” marketing
3. Consider setting a limit of boats around a whale/whales
4. Discuss limited entry idea

TIMELINE OF MEETINGS

August 10

Progress:

1. Discussed resolving wake issues in Auke Bay
2. Refined the “whales guaranteed” marketing issue
3. Suggested “Locals Day” event
(232 local guests, \$5,800 donation to SE Alaska Food Bank)

August 17

Progress:

1. Discussed idea of limited entry
2. Discussed option of best behavior rather than limited entry
3. Recommended plan for limiting boats around a whale/group of whales

August 31

Progress:

1. Finalized “whales guaranteed” limitations
2. Finalized wake issues plan
3. Finalized number of boats around whales plan

PROPOSED NEW TBMP GUIDELINE RECOMMENDATIONS

Operators agree to eliminate "whale sightings guaranteed" marketing:

Apr 1-May 15

Sep 15-Oct 31



PROPOSED NEW TBMP GUIDELINE RECOMMENDATIONS

Operators of inspected vessels agree to navigate Coghlin Cut at 5-7 knots when other vessels or people are present, 10-knot maximum speed when no vessels or people present. **OR** go around Coghlin Island at full speed.

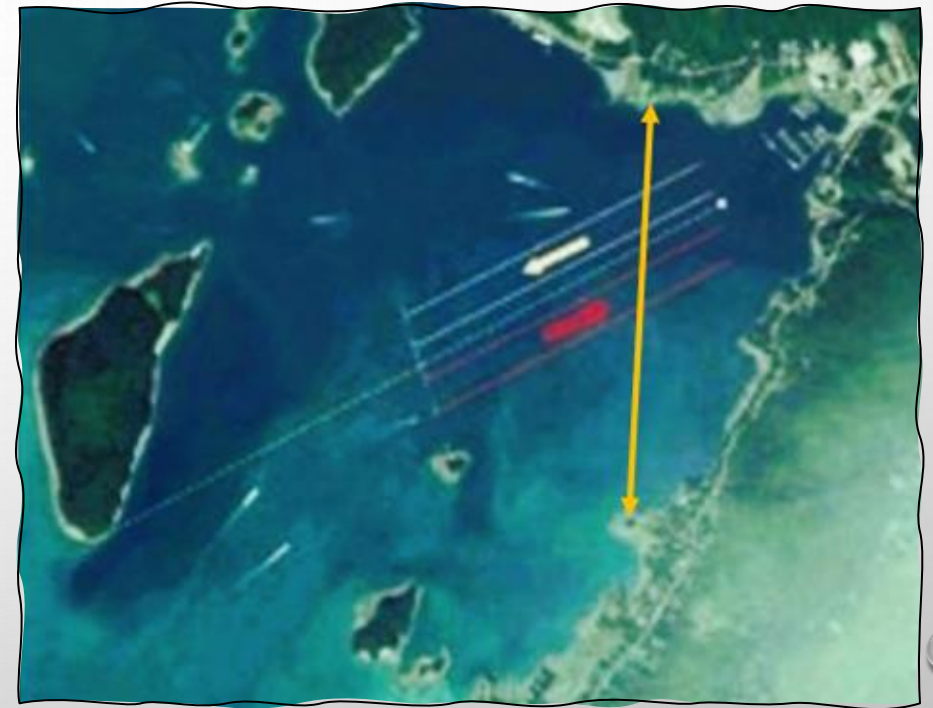


PROPOSED NEW TBMP GUIDELINE RECOMMENDATIONS

Operators of inspected vessels agree to come off step at the imaginary straight line between the two Derby orange markers in Auke Bay and to reduce speed to 5 knots *prior to* reaching the white buoy.



*Group is considering a wake study to be completed during the 2024 season.



PROPOSED NEW TBMP GUIDELINE RECOMMENDATIONS

Operators agree:

- In open water
 - 100-200 yards, 8 vessels
 - 200+ yards, 8 more vessels
 - Vessels would move in and out of the inner circle in 15-minute cycles with a total of 30 minutes for any one vessel.



PROPOSED NEW TBMP GUIDELINE RECOMMENDATIONS

Operators agree:

- Shoreline
 - 100-200 yards, 4 vessels
 - 200+ yards, 12 vessels
 - Vessels would move in and out of the inner circle in 15-minute cycles with a total of 30 minutes for any one vessel.



OUR PROMISE

With a strong commitment to responsible practices, our operators will continue to adhere to NOAA regulations.

Operators will continue to agree to voluntarily follow Whale SENSE and TBMP guidelines.

Operators will continue to take every precaution to value and protect the well-being of our whales.

TBMP WHALE WATCHING FLEET MEMBERS

49th Fathom Charters
Alaska Fjordlines
Alaska Galore Tours
Alaska Humpback Adventures
Alaska Luxury Tours
Alaska Sea to Shore
Alaska Tales Whale Watching
Alaska Travel Adventures
Alaska Whale and Drone Tours

Allen Marine Tours
Anchor Point Lodge
Dolphin Jet Boat Tours
Gastineau Guiding Company
Harv & Marv's Outback Alaska
Jayleen's Alaska
Juneau Charters
Juneau Lighthouse Tours

Juneau Sportfishing
Juneau Tours & Whale Watch
Juneau Whale Tours
Lost in Alaska Adventures
M&M Tours of Juneau
Rum Runner Charters
Sea Lion Adventure Tours
Sea Spirit Charters

