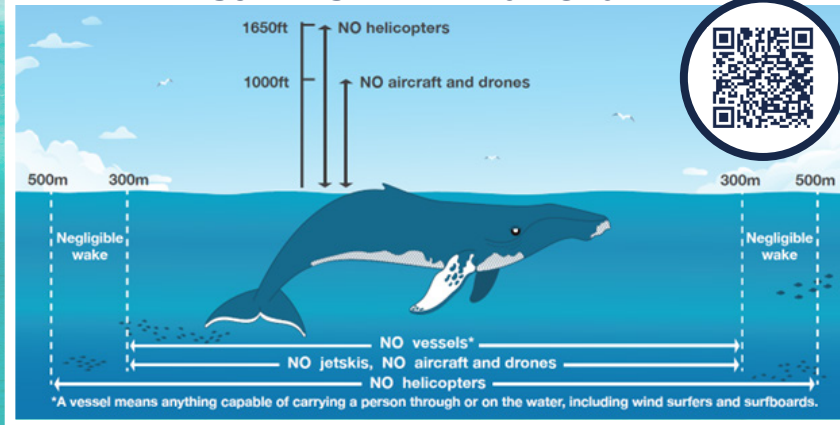


Whales of the Whitsundays

The Whitsundays has regulations in place to help protect both yourself and these ocean giants. However, whales can make an appearance at any time, at any distance - Should you be lucky enough to spot a whale on your Whitsunday adventures, turn off your engine whilst you wait for them to move on, sit back, relax and enjoy the show!

WHITSUNDAYS WHALE PROTECTION AREA



Learn more about the Whales of the Whitsundays

Join the Whales of the Whitsundays Facebook Group

Discover how we have become a Whale Heritage Site Candidate

Remind yourself of our Whale Watching Regulations

Download the Eye on the Reef App

Report an incident

LEARN TO SPEAK WHALE

BLOW

- Condensed breath when the whale comes to the surface to breathe and exhale.

TAIL SLAP

- Slaps tail on surface of water hard and fast.
- Used for **communication**, **scaring fish** or as a sign of **aggression**.

HEAD SLAP

- Head comes up first and is smashed forcefully on the water.
- Less than 40% of the whale is above the surface.
- Function is relatively unknown.

FLUKING

- Fluke (tail) is raised **above** water surface in an arch like movement.
- Normally indicates a **deeper dive**.

SPY HOP

- Whale brings head **above** water surface and is **vertical** in the water.
- Often performed to **visually inspect** the environment above the water line.

PEC SLAP

- Whale is **on side** and hits surface with one or both **flippers**.
- Various possible functions including **feeding**, **playing**, **communicating** and **mating**.

PENDUNCLE THROW / SLAP

- Fluke and peduncle are thrown out of the water with **great force**.
- Possible **aggressive connotation**, **dominance behaviour**.

BREACH

- Whale **leaps** out of water. More than 40% is above the surface
- Many different meanings that include **communication**, **playing**, **dominance**, **dislodging parasites**, **courting** and **stunning prey**.