

Boaters

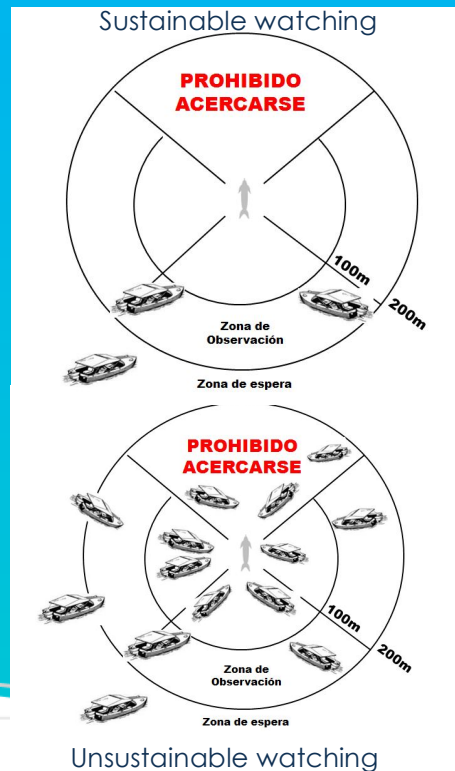
Observe, admire, protect

- A maximum of two (2) boats should be observing dolphins at the same time.
- Keep your distance:
When cetaceans are traveling, keep a distance of a 100m and parallel to the group always going as fast as the slowest cetacean. Observe the same group for a max of 15 mins.
- When the cetaceans are socializing or foraging avoid the disruption of these behaviors. Disrupting these behaviors can affect their survival and reproduction.
- Put engines in neutral and re-engage propulsion at 4-5 nautical knots only when the cetaceans have left the area and there is no risk of collision.
- Avoid separating individuals, especially mothers with calves.

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- When dolphins approach the boat keep the engine in neutral avoiding rapid changes of speed and direction. Do NOT circle the cetaceans; this confuses them and increases the risk of collisions.
- To improve the whale watching experience, we recommend the use of hydrophones to listen to the cetaceans



Indicators of disturbance

If you see any of these behavioral displays, we recommend that you abandon the area.

- Tail slaps
- Prolonged dives
- Rapid changes in swim direction and/or behavior.
- Swimming away or speeding away from the boat.
- Loud blows when surfacing for air.

Let's reduce boat traffic

- When there are already two (2) boats in the area, wait for your turn at a distance of 200m with the engine in neutral.
- Other alternatives include:
 - Search for cetaceans in other areas.
 - Educate passengers about what is expected from the whale watching activity.
 - Provide information about the natural history of the cetaceans of Panama.
 - Coordinate time of watching with other boaters. Having a high boat traffic affects watching activity and the satisfaction of the tourists.