

Attention Boaters

Protected Marine Animals Need Your Help

Every year marine mammals, sea turtles, and sturgeon are struck and killed or injured by boats. Help prevent these accidents by following the guidelines below.

Slow Down

If you think animals are in the area slow to 10 knots or less*. If you see animals, keep a no wake speed until the animals are a safe distance from your boat.

Give Space

How much space depends on the animal you are viewing.

- North Atlantic right whales: 500 yards or 5 football field lengths (required by law)
- Other whales: 100-600 feet
- Seals, dolphins and sea turtles: 150 feet
- Leaping sturgeon also require extra space to avoid injury to you and the fish

Report

You can help save the life of a marine mammal or sea turtle in trouble by calling our New England/Mid-Atlantic hotline (866) 755-6622, or radioing the Coast Guard. Never enter the water or attempt to rescue on your own.

Trained responders are available to help.

Don't Feed

Feeding marine animals puts them at risk of injury or illness if they approach people or boats too closely, become dependent on handouts, or eat something they shouldn't. Dependent animals can become aggressive. Feeding protected marine animals is also against the law.



*All boats over 65 feet in length are subject to North Atlantic right whale speed reduction areas in seasonal management areas along the East Coast. For more information visit: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/endangered-species-conservation/reducing-ship-strikes-north-atlantic-right-whales



NOAA
FISHERIES