

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

December 15, 2015

Aloha,

Humpback whale season is upon us and to ensure the well being of both ocean users and whales it is necessary to observe safe boating practices. Thousands of humpbacks come to Hawai'i each year, primarily between November and May, and unfortunately, vessel-whale collisions happen every year. As an ocean user, we want to remind you to remain vigilant and:

- **Keep a Sharp Lookout** – Look for whales and other hazards.
- **Watch Your Speed** – Research shows that speeds of 10 knots or less reduce injuries if collisions occur.
- **Stay at the Helm** – Always keep your hands on the wheel and the throttle.
- **Keep your Distance** – Once you've sighted a whale, stay at least 100 yards away.

Humpback whales are protected by state and federal laws. **Please note it is illegal to approach a humpback whale closer than 100 yards by sea and 1,000 feet by air.**

Ocean users provide an invaluable role as our eyes and ears on the water. Please help by:

- **Report suspected violations of the approach regulation (100 yards by sea, 1,000 feet by air) to NOAA Office of Law Enforcement at 1-800-853-1964.**
- **Immediately report an injured or entangled marine mammal to NOAA by calling the 24-hour hotline at 1-888-256-9840.** Monitor the animal from a safe distance of 100 yards or more until trained responders arrive.

For more information you will find the "Boating and Ocean Use Guide", which provides detailed information on safe boating and ocean use practices around humpback whales on our web site. Please share this information with your staff, customers, volunteers, and others. This information is available from the sanctuary web site at <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/documents/resprot.html>

You may also request a presentation by sanctuary staff for your organization. To find out more, please call Shannon Lyday at (808) 725-5905 or shannon.lyday@noaa.gov. Thank you for helping to ensure the continued protection of Hawaii's humpback whales.

Sincerely,



Malia Chow
Sanctuary Superintendent
NOAA



Bruce S. Anderson, PhD
Administrator, Division of Aquatic Resources
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary was designated to protect humpback whales and their habitat and is co-managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the State of Hawai'i's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).



Visitor Center & Maui Office

726 South Kihei Road
Kihei, HI 96753
Toll Free: 1-800-831-4888
(808) 879-2818

O'ahu Office

NOAA/DKIRC
NOS/HHWNMS
1845 Wasp Blvd, Bldg 176
Honolulu, HI 96818

Kaua'i Office

4370 Kukui Grove Street
Suite 206
Lihue, HI 96766
(808) 246-2860

State of Hawai'i Department of Land and

Natural Resources

1151 Punchbowl Street
#330
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 587-0437

**NOAA and the State of Hawai'i - a Partnership for
Protection**

**E-mail: hihumpbackwhale@noaa.gov Web site:
hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov**