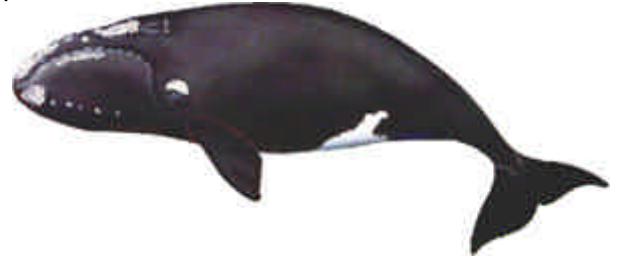


# CODE of ETHICS for Bay of Fundy Water-based Tour Operators

The purpose of this code is to foster an environment of co-operation and trust among water-based tour operators for the protection and safety of the whales and other marine wildlife, and the safety and understanding of their passengers. Tour operators agree to abide by this code for the protection and preservation of whales and the marine environment, and the education of their passengers and other boat operators. Adherence to this code demonstrates care and concern for whale conservation. **It is highly recommended that private individuals also abide by this code when watching whales.**



**Definitions:** A **vessel** will be defined as either a motorised vessel or a kayak group. A **kayak group** is defined as no more than 10 kayaks paddling in a co-ordinated group.

- The first vessel to locate a whale or group of whales will have first viewing priority. The vessel is under no obligation to announce the location of the whales to other operators.
- No more than two vessels will view a whale or group of whales at a time within 100m of the whale or group. If the whales are travelling, the viewing vessels will maintain a respectable distance to avoid herding the animals.
- A maximum of 30 minutes will be spent viewing a whale or group of whales if more than two vessels are in the immediate vicinity. Passengers will be informed that we are moving off to allow other vessels to view the whale and that we must avoid crowding the animals and endangering their safety. Motorised vessels will also take care not to crowd or endanger the safety of kayakers.
- Any whale showing avoidance behaviour such as turning away or increasing speed will be left alone.
- All operators will stand-by on a designated VHF radio channel for purposes of communication when one vessel is viewing or waiting to view a more than whale or group of whales, and we will co-ordinate the selection of the channel with whale watch vessels from other areas in the Bay of Fundy.
- Vessels approaching another vessel already engaged in whale watching will contact that vessel and arrange viewing priority.
- A fair distance will be kept when waiting to view so as not to crowd the whale or viewing vessels. While waiting tour operators will engage in other activities such as sea bird and seal viewing, or conservation education.
- When vessels are stopping to listen for whale blows in the fog, as a courtesy other vessels in the immediate vicinity will do the same.
- Vessels will cover different areas as much as possible so that not all vessels will be converging on the same location.
- In the vicinity of fixed fishing gear whales will not be herded in the direction of the gear.

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