



PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE

## LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS No 192 of 2022

Our Ref: **TM/PYD 0001/22**

27 October 2022



**Transport Malta**

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### **Further to Local Notice to Mariners No 017 of 2022 - Dolphin, Whales, Turtles, Sharks, Jellyfish blooms and Alien species studies by the Conservation Biology Research Group of the University of Malta**

The Ports and Yachting Directorate, Transport Malta, notifies that the Conservation Biology Research Group of the University of Malta, is bringing their code of conduct on how to approach cetaceans and turtles to the attention of all mariners and the public.

This code of conduct is to be observed at all times.

All the information and procedures mentioned in Local Notice to Mariners No 017 of 2022 will remain valid.

# The code of conduct: how to approach cetaceans and turtles?

When you spot whales, dolphins or turtles, there are **few simple rules** you can follow to **enjoy the sighting without disturbing** them. It is recommended to:



## Speed to keep

- **Reduce the speed** to match the speed of the slowest animal and **never exceed 5 knots**
- Stay **parallel** to the animals' direction



## How to approach

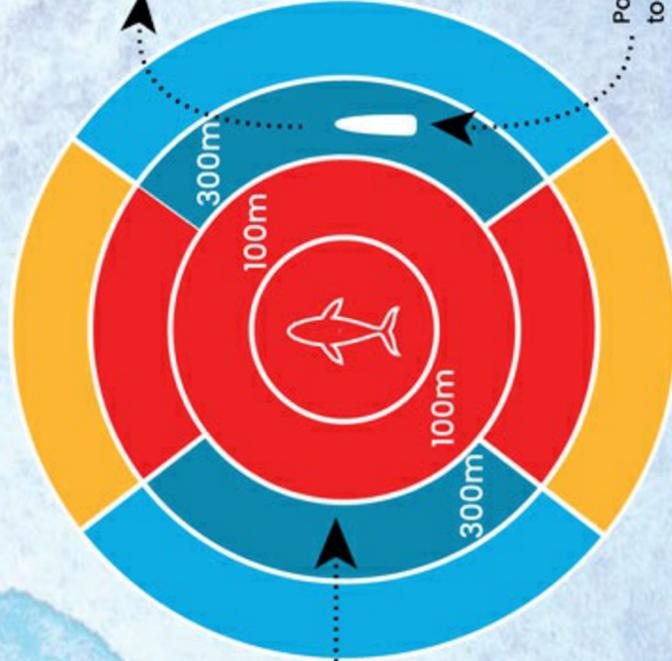
- Keep a recommended distance of at least **100m**
- **Turn off the fishfinder**
- **Only one boat** at a time can be within a 300m area



## If they spontaneously get close to your boat

- **Never try to touch** them
- **Never throw food or rubbish** to the animals
- **Never swim** with them

## DO NOT APPROACH FROM THE FRONT



## How long

- The observation is limited to **30 minutes** in case of **cetaceans** and **10 minutes** in case of **turtles**
- Observation time is anyway limited to **15 minutes if other boats are waiting**



## What to do

- **Never approach** them either **from the front or from the back**
- **Never follow** or try to chase them
- **Never make quick changes** in your navigation
- **Never separate the animals** from their group