



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier Bay National Park
and Preserve

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Glacier Bay News Release

Effective date: 5AM Thursday May 31, 2007

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Vessel Speed and Course Restrictions Implemented to Protect Whales

In Accordance with Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations
Subpart N, 13.1174

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Superintendent Tomie Lee announced today that a vessel speed limit of 13 knots through the water is being implemented in lower Glacier Bay whale waters to protect numerous humpback whales that have been sighted in the area. This speed restriction will apply to all vessels from 5 AM Thursday, May 31 until further notice. Since May 15, vessels greater than 18 feet in length passing through this area have also been restricted to a mid-channel course or 1 nautical mile offshore.

In addition, the Superintendent announced that a vessel speed limit of 13 knots through the water is being implemented in Park waters southwest of Point Carolus and at the entrance to Glacier Bay. This speed restriction will apply to all vessels from 5 AM Thursday, May 31 until further notice. There are no vessel course restrictions in this area.

As shown on the attached map, these two areas are defined by the following boundaries:

Lower Glacier Bay whale waters (*13 knots and mid-channel course or 1 nautical mile offshore*): Waters north of a line drawn from Point Carolus to Point Gustavus; and south of a line drawn from the northernmost point of Lars Island across the northernmost point of Strawberry Island to the point where it intersects the line that defines the Beardslee Island group, and following that line south and west to the Bartlett Cove shore (so as to include the Beardslee Entrance and Bartlett Cove).

Southwest Point Carolus and entrance to Glacier Bay (*13 knots*): Waters south of a line drawn from Point Carolus to Point Gustavus; and north of a line following the Park boundary; bounded on the east by a line following longitude 136 deg 10 min 0 sec (just east of the salt chuck) and on the west by a line running due south from Point Gustavus.

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During the past week as many as 14 humpback whales, including two cow/calf pairs, have been observed in these two areas. Boaters are reminded that vessels are prohibited from operating within $\frac{1}{4}$ nautical mile of a humpback whale in Park waters, including those Park waters outside Glacier Bay proper. In addition, vessel operators positioned within $\frac{1}{2}$ nautical mile of a humpback whale are prohibited from altering their course or speed in a manner that results in decreasing the distance between the whale and the vessel.

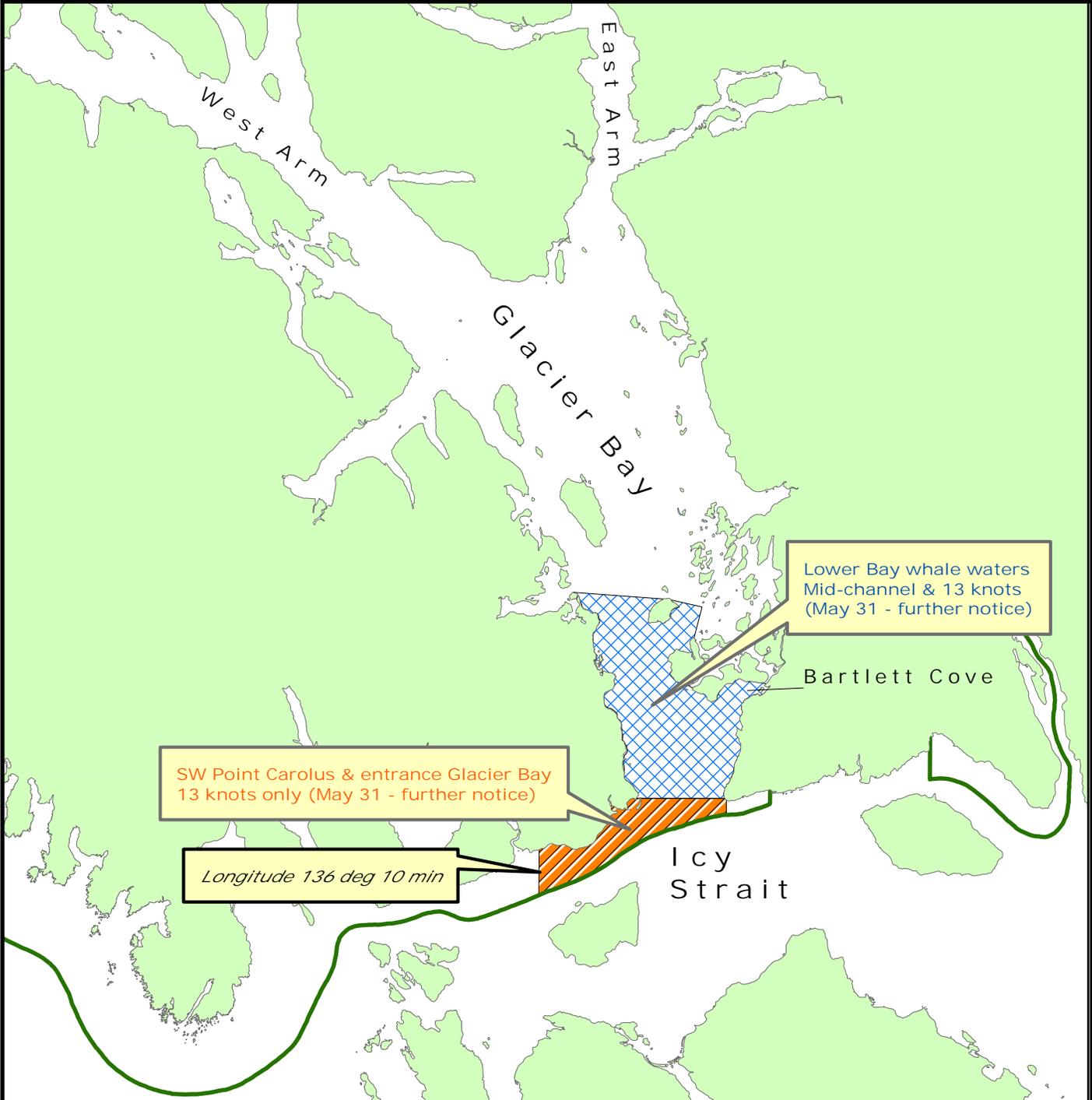
Speed and course restrictions in whale waters are intended to reduce the disruption of feeding humpback whales and to lower the risk of whale/vessel collisions. Boaters should proceed cautiously in all areas where whales are present because whales may surface in unexpected locations, posing a hazard to both the vessel and the whale. Although humpback whales tend to be distributed along the shoreline, boaters should note that whales frequently cross mid-channel as they move between feeding sites.

Boaters are advised to verify whale waters designations prior to entering Glacier Bay by telephoning (907) 697-2627 or by contacting KWM20 Bartlett Cove on marine VHF radio.

Whale Waters

Effective May 31, 2007

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 Park boundary

ALASKA



Glacier Bay National Park
Resource Management

0 1 2 4 6 8
 Nautical Miles