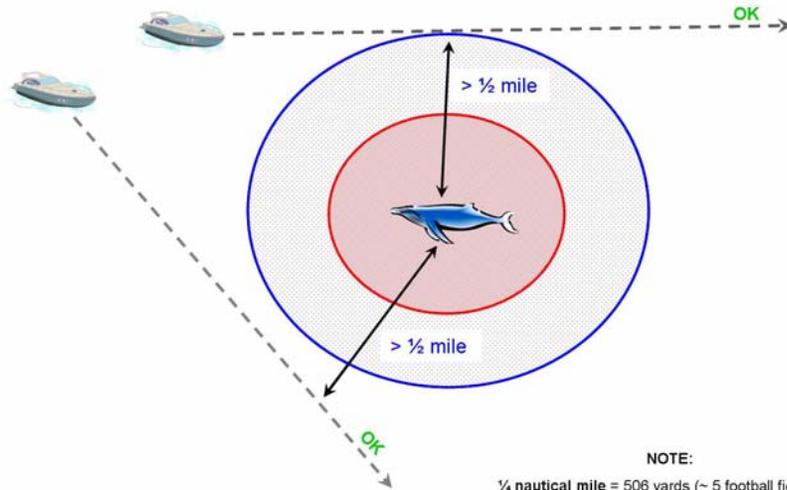


# Humpback Whale Sighted: *What now?*



**Scenario 1:** Vessel in transit sees a humpback whale surface  $> \frac{1}{2}$  nautical mile from vessel.

**Response:** Maintain course and speed. Do not change course or speed to get closer to the whale. (Changing course or speed within  $\frac{1}{2}$  nautical mile to get closer is prohibited – see next scenario.)

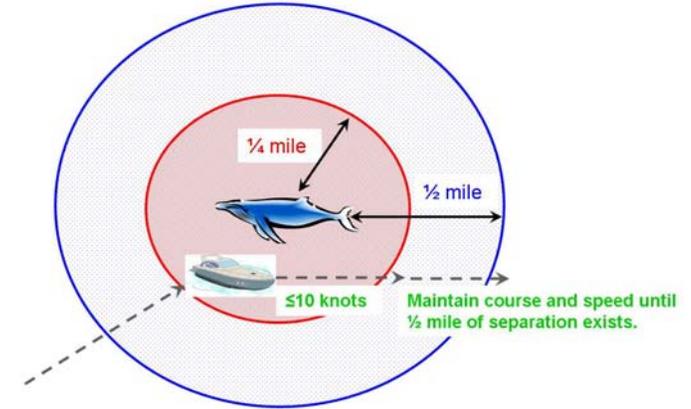


NOTE:

$\frac{1}{4}$  nautical mile = 508 yards (~ 5 football fields)  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  nautical mile = 1,013 yards (~ 10 football fields)

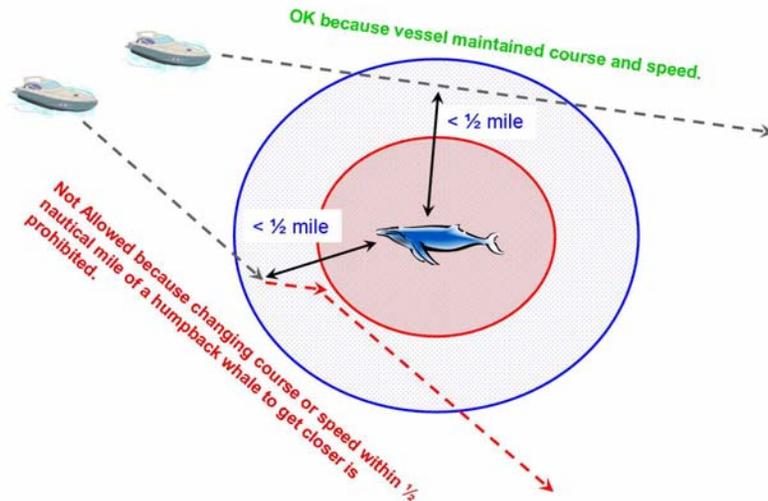
**Scenario 3:** Vessel is in transit when a humpback whale surfaces unexpectedly within  $\frac{1}{4}$  nautical mile.

**Response:** Immediately slow vessel to 10 knots or less, without shifting into reverse unless impact is likely. Direct the vessel on a steady course away from the whale. Once  $\frac{1}{4}$  nautical mile from the whale, maintain course and speed until  $\frac{1}{2}$  nautical mile of separation exists.



**Scenario 2:** Vessel in transit sees a humpback whale surface less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  nautical mile but more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  nautical mile from vessel.

**Response:** Maintain course and speed. Do not change course or speed to get closer to the whale. Changing course or speed within  $\frac{1}{2}$  nautical mile to get closer to the whale is prohibited.



**Scenario 4:** Vessel is *drifting* (with engine on or off) (e.g., to watch other wildlife, sport fish, etc.) when a humpback whale surfaces unexpectedly within  $\frac{1}{2}$  nautical mile.

**Response:** Continue drifting if desired, or leave the area. If you leave the area, maintain a steady course and speed away from the whale until  $\frac{1}{2}$  nautical mile of separation exists. Changing course or speed within  $\frac{1}{2}$  nautical mile to get closer to the whale is prohibited.

**Note:** If you continue drifting and the whale approaches within  $\frac{1}{4}$  nautical mile, immediately direct the vessel on a steady course away from the whale at a speed of 10 knots or less. Once you are  $\frac{1}{4}$  nautical mile from the whale, maintain course and speed until  $\frac{1}{2}$  nautical mile of separation exists.

