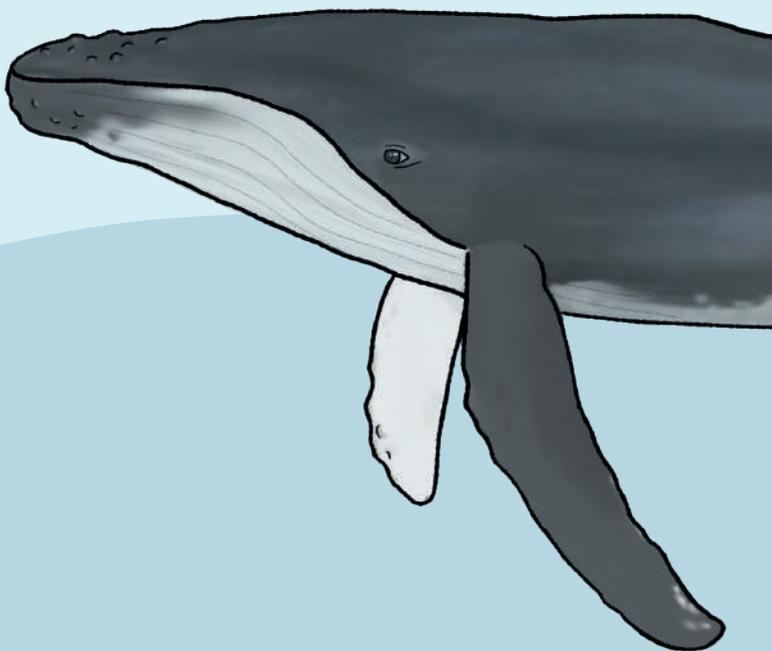


KNOW THE RULES

A **LEGAL** GUIDE TO **RECREATIONAL VESSELS AND WILDLIFE**



300m



INTRODUCTION

Are you planning a trip to sea?

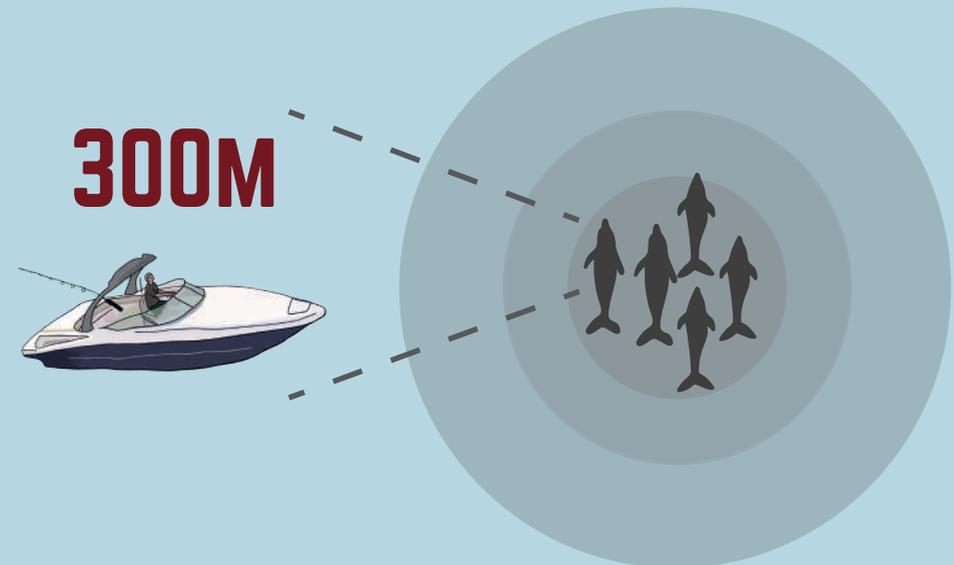
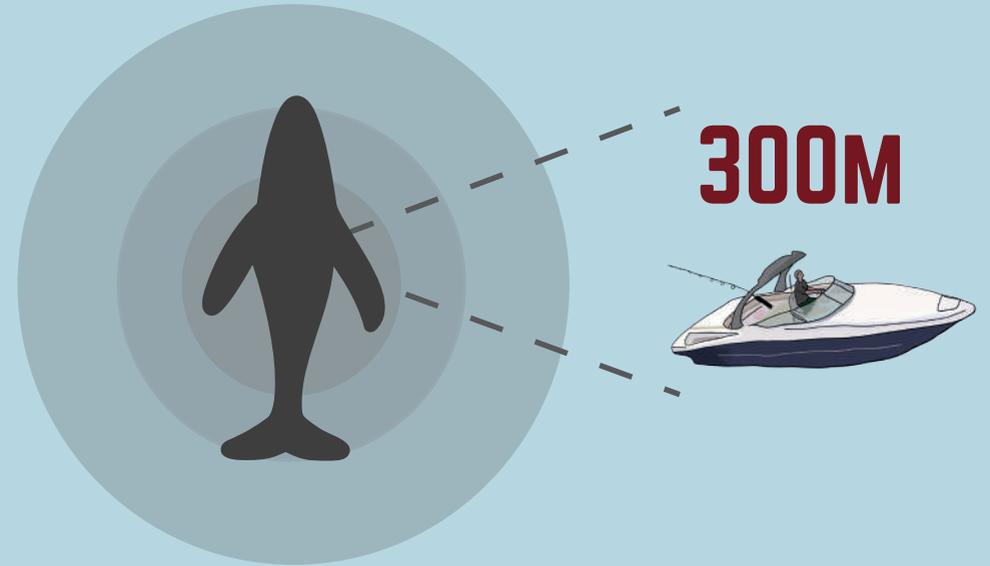
Did you know there are rules and regulations surrounding marine wildlife in South Africa? Our marine life is protected by the Biodiversity Act for threatened and protected species (Tops legislation). Make sure you read this booklet to be fully informed and able to conduct a legal and ethical trip.

Recreational vessels and fishing vessels are **not legally allowed** close encounters with marine wildlife. This is to protect both ocean users and wildlife. Legally, you are not permitted to approach **closer than 300m** from a whale or dolphin. Species-specific regulations are displayed inside this booklet.

Get to know the unique identification characteristics and behaviours of our local marine wildlife. Understanding how they behave can help you to **respect and share** the ocean with them, and ensure they are not disturbed or harmed in any way.

LEGAL DISTANCES

Recreational vessels **must not** intentionally **approach** any cetaceans closer than 300m. If you find yourself accidentally closer to animals move away slowly.



WHALE SPECIES

FEATURED BELOW ARE SOME OF SOUTH AFRICA'S MOST COMMON WHALE SPECIES.

Humpback whales are dark grey to blue-black on their upper side and white or mottled white underneath. Their tail fluke is broad, serrated on the trailing edge, and usually has some white on the underside. Their flippers are large, measuring close to 1/3rd of the total length of the whale (up to 5m for a 15m whale). They have a large puffy blow and often raise their tail flukes out of the water as they dive.

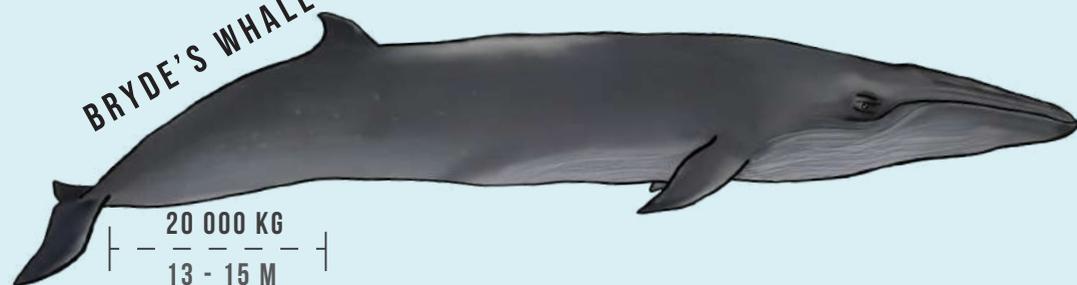
Humpback whales enter our waters whilst on their migration route (**May-December**). They will have young calves with them as they migrate back from the breeding area, therefore, extra care must be taken later in the season. They are known to sometimes **display aerial and social behaviours** such as breaching and tail slapping. Keep your distance and **remain aware** of their unique behaviours to ensure safety.



HUMPBACK WHALE

36 000 KG
11.5 - 15 M

BRYDE'S WHALE



Southern right whales have a robust body that is very dark, near black in colour with subtle blue, grey or brown mottling of the skin. They have a large head, roughly 1/3 of their body size, with callosities (wart-like bumps) seen on the top and bottom. They have no dorsal fin, large and broad paddle-shaped flippers, and their blow creates a v-shape.

Southern right whales are a migratory species that use the South African coastal waters to breed and calf (**June-October**). They are often found logging (lying still at the surface) **close inshore** and may have a young calf with them. **Be cautious** of this so as not to disturb or collide with them.

Bryde's whales are smoky grey in colour on their upper side fading to white underneath. They have three distinct ridges on their head and a prominent hooked dorsal fin situated 2/3rds down the body. Their flippers are relatively short and they have a single narrow blow shape. They are a **resident species** along the coast of SA year round.

Bryde's whales are shy and more elusive than some other species. They can often swim in an **unpredictable** manner therefore you must **remain vigilant** so as not to accidentally approach or collide with them. If you find yourself close to one, **slow down** and maintain your course, **do not change direction suddenly**.

SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALE



80 000 KG
13 - 16 M

WHALES CAN **HOLD THEIR BREATH** UNDERWATER FOR CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS OF TIME (AROUND **20-30 MINUTES** FOR THE SPECIES ABOVE). LOOK OUT FOR THEIR **BLOWS** ABOVE THE SURFACE AS THEY COME UP TO BREATHE SO THAT YOU ARE **AWARE OF THEIR LOCATION**.

SEE A BLOW, GO SLOW!

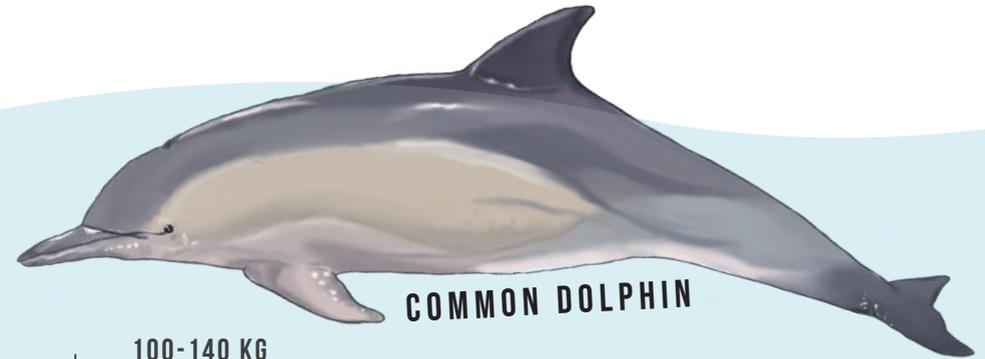
DOLPHIN SPECIES

FEATURED BELOW ARE SOME OF SOUTH AFRICA'S MOST COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED DOLPHIN SPECIES. HEAVISIDE'S AND DUSKY DOLPHINS ARE ALSO REGULARLY SEEN IN THE CAPE TOWN REGION.

YOU ARE **NOT ALLOWED** TO APPROACH ANY DOLPHIN SPECIES CLOSER THAN **300M**. IF YOU ACCIDENTALLY FIND YOURSELF CLOSER, MOVE AWAY FROM THE ANIMALS AT A SLOW '**NO-WAKE**' SPEED.

Common dolphins are dark grey on their upper side with a yellow/cream and grey middle in an hourglass pattern and a white underbelly. They have a tall and slightly curved dorsal fin with pointed tip. They can be found in very **large pods** of a few thousand individuals. Their vocal high-pitched squealing can sometimes be heard above the surface.

Common dolphins are known to be highly **energetic**. Look out for large patches of disturbance in the water which may indicate a pod's location. If you accidentally get too close or between a pod, move away at a **slow no wake speed**, allowing the animals to continue on their course.



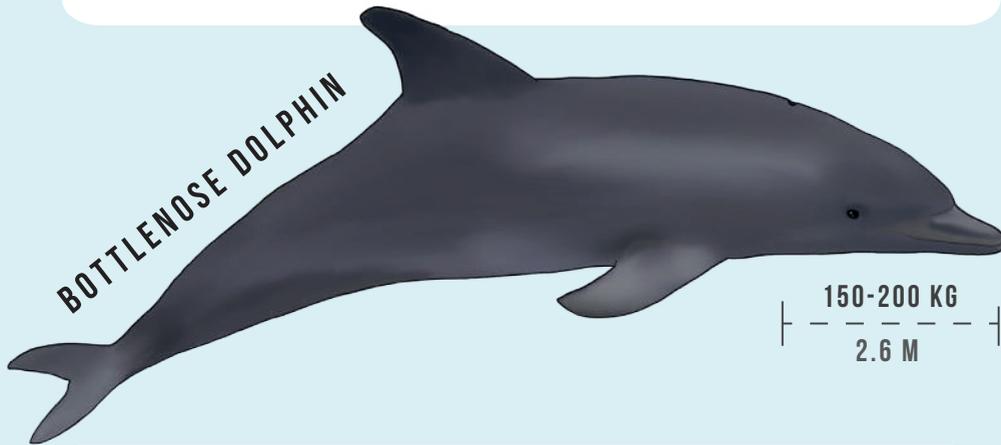
COMMON DOLPHIN

100-140 KG
1.5 - 2.7 M

IF YOU COME ACROSS AN **ENTANGLED OR INJURED** ANIMAL INFORM YOUR LOCAL PORT AUTHORITY AND/OR NSRI OF ITS LOCATION.

Bottlenose dolphins are grey in colour on their upper side fading to a lighter shade underneath. They have a curved dorsal fin with a slightly hooked tip, long and slender flippers, and a thick tail stock. They are usually found in groups of 20-200 individuals.

Bottlenose dolphins can be very **inquisitive** and active, frequently seen surfing waves and breaching. If they approach your boat, drive slowly and keep **your course**. **Do not** make abrupt changes in speed or direction.

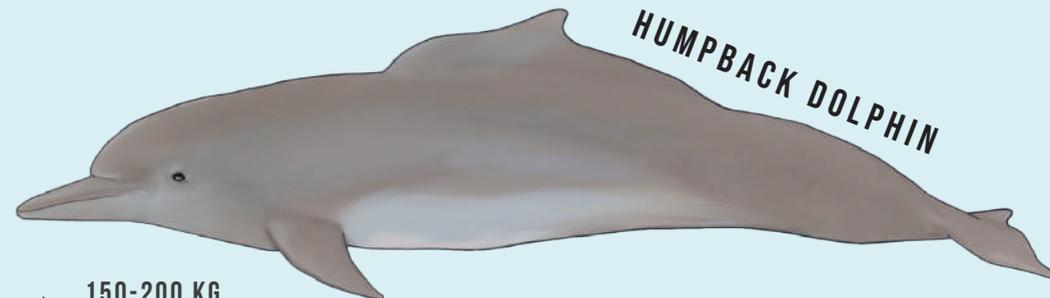


BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

150-200 KG
2.6 M

Humpback dolphins are a lead grey colour with undersides usually lighter in colour. They have a pronounced hump under their dorsal fin and broad flippers with round tips. Their pod size is usually fairly small (2-12 individuals), and they are classified as an **ENDANGERED SPECIES**.

Humpback dolphins are a **shy** species and often evade boats. They **only** occur very **close to the shore** in water less than 25m deep. As they cannot always easily be spotted, be sure to **travel slowly** in inshore areas and be vigilant so as not to disturb or collide with them.



HUMPBACK DOLPHIN

150-200 KG
2-2.8 M

DOLPHINS ARE OFTEN FOUND IN **LARGE PODS** OF ANIMALS. BE CAREFUL **NOT TO SEPARATE ANIMALS** FROM THE POD OR **DRIVE THROUGH** THEM, REMAIN ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE POD. THEY MAY NOT ALWAYS BE EASY TO SPOT SO ALWAYS **BE OBSERVANT**. CIRCLING AND DIVING SEABIRDS CAN OFTEN BE AN INDICATOR OF WHERE A GROUP OF DOLPHINS MAY BE FEEDING.

OTHER SPECIES

FEATURED BELOW ARE SOME OTHER COMMON MARINE WILDLIFE SPECIES YOU CAN FIND IN SOUTH AFRICA.

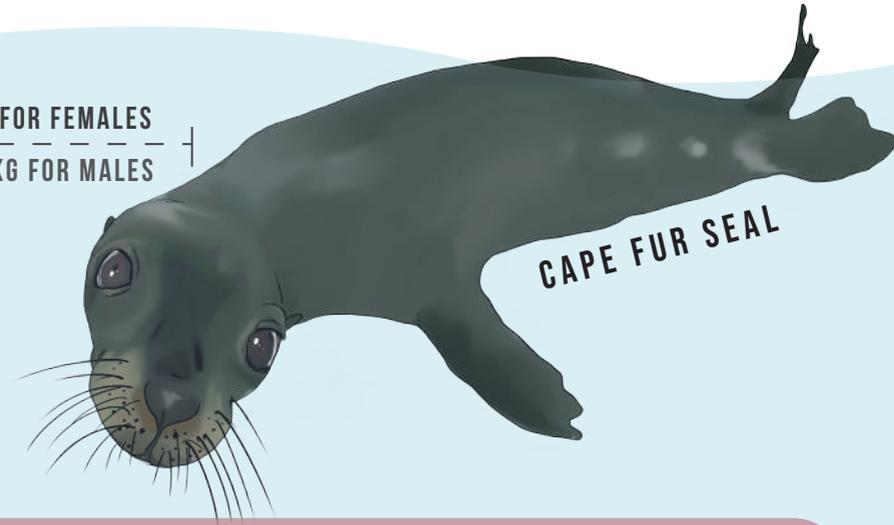
ALTHOUGH NOT ALL MARINE WILDLIFE HAS SPECIFIC REGULATIONS, DO NOT HARASS ANY SPECIES AND **BE RESPECTFUL** TO ALL MARINE LIFE.

The **Cape fur seals** are the largest of all fur seals. Like all fur seals they have external ears. The fur of an adult is dark grey to brown in colour. The fur of a pup is pitch black. They have long hind flippers that they can rotate under the body to allow a walking motion on land, rather than belly dragging, as seen in true seals such as the elephant seal.

Seals are often playful and quick moving. **Go slowly** and be aware of their movements so as not to collide with them. Be cautious not to disturb breeding colonies.

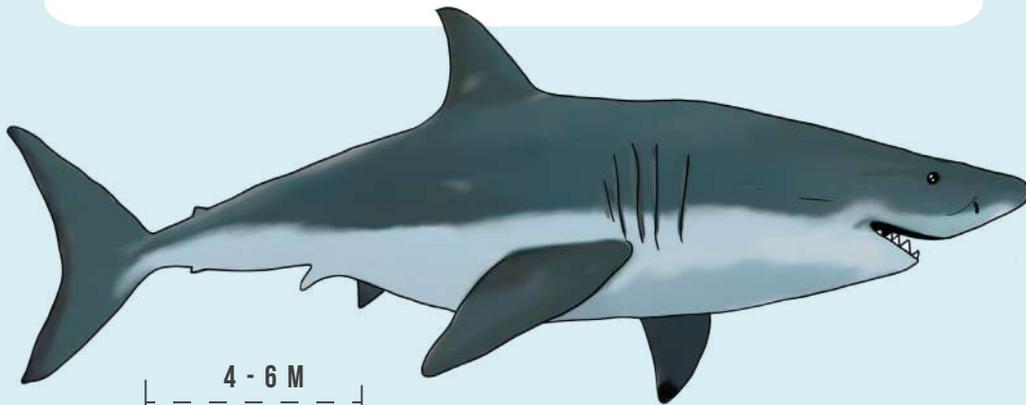
You **MAY NOT GET CLOSER** than **15M TO A COLONY**.

90 KG FOR FEMALES
300 KG FOR MALES



Great white sharks are slate grey on their upper side and white on their belly. They are the largest predatory fish species. They have a bluntly pointed snout and black tips on the underside of their pectoral fins. They are one of a few shark species known to lift its head above the surface to gaze at other objects such as prey. Sharks are agile in the water and can detect electromagnetic fields emitted by the movement of living animals.

You must **NOT APPROACH** white sharks closer than **80m**. Great white sharks are classified as 'vulnerable' and are a **protected species**. **Do not** harass, chase or encircle **any** shark species.

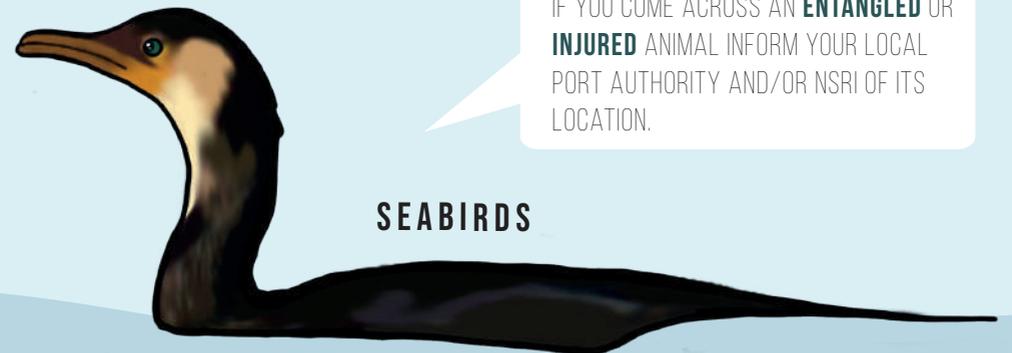


GREAT WHITE SHARK

South Africa has a wide variety of **seabird** species that use its waters to feed and rest; seasonally occupying coastal areas to breed. Birds such as Cape cormorants breed on coastal cliff faces. You **MUST NOT** approach a colony by boat closer than **15M** or disturb any nests or eggs.

Be aware of birds on the water so as not to drive through, disturb or collide with them- especially if they are feeding and may not see your approach. This is particularly important for **Cape Gannets** and **Cape Cormorants** that are both **endangered**.

IF YOU COME ACROSS AN **ENTANGLED** OR **INJURED** ANIMAL INFORM YOUR LOCAL PORT AUTHORITY AND/OR NSRI OF ITS LOCATION.



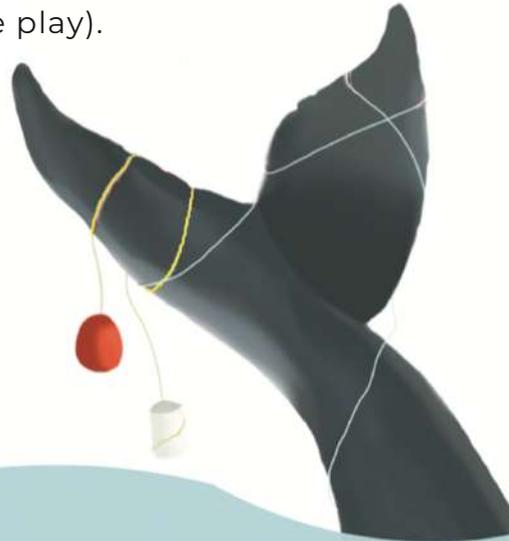
SEABIRDS

AS YOU WILL NOT ALWAYS BE AWARE OF WILDLIFE UNDER THE WATER IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO YOU, **DRIVE RESPONSIBLY**. TRY **NOT** TO MAKE ABRUPT MANOEUVRES AND KEEP YOUR SPEED **SLOW** ENOUGH TO SPOT ANIMALS IN GOOD TIME AND **AVOID COLLISIONS**.

ENTANGLEMENTS

An entangled cetacean is the **only** exception to the legal distance rules. If you spot an entangled whale or dolphin please **do the following**:

1. Call your nearest NSRI station.
2. Be respectful of the animal and be careful not to cause further distress.
3. Provide the animal's location and direction of travel.
4. If possible stay within sight of the animal until assistance arrives.
5. Do not under any circumstance attempt to free an animal yourself.
6. Take photos of the animal.
7. Report to the Seafari App (available to download free on apple store and google play).



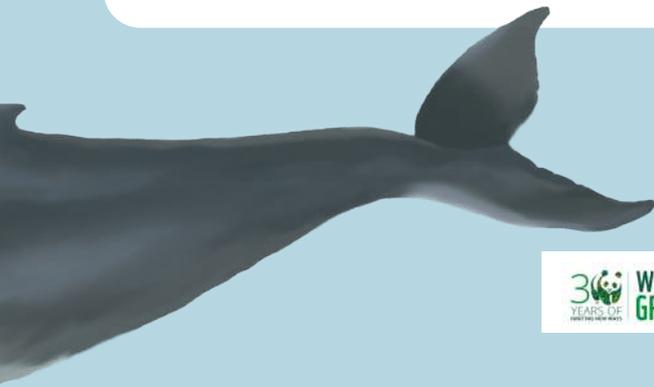
KNOW THE RULES

RECREATIONAL VESSELS AND WILDLIFE

PLANNING A TRIP TO SEA? DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE RULES AND REGULATIONS SURROUNDING MARINE WILDLIFE IN SOUTH AFRICA? THIS BOOKLET GUIDES YOU THROUGH THE **TOPS LEGISLATION** FOR THREATENED AND PROTECTED SPECIES (BIODIVERSITY ACT 10 OF 2004).

MAKE SURE YOU READ THIS BOOKLET IN ORDER TO BE FULLY INFORMED AND ABLE TO CONDUCT A **LEGAL** AND **ETHICAL** TRIP.

BOOKLET CREATED AND ILLUSTRATED BY CAITLIN JUDGE



WWF NEDBANK
GREEN TRUST

NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

