

# Interaction protocol

## In-water **humpback whale** interaction

In order to minimise both risks to visitors and disturbance to whales the following interaction protocol applies when swimming with humpback whales within Ningaloo Marine Park and Muiron Islands Marine Management Area.

### Interaction protocol for vessels – licensed trial participants only

**HW**

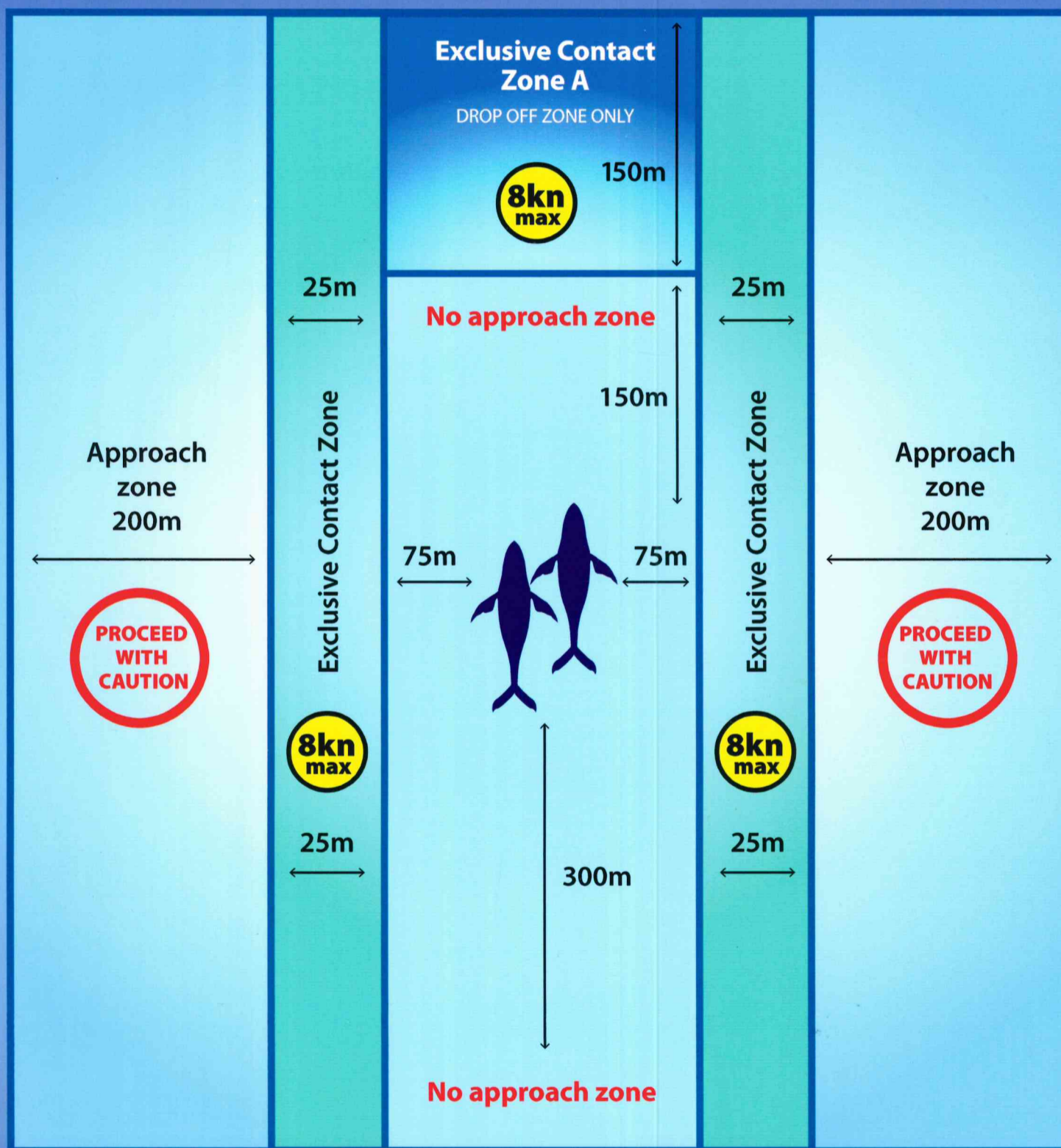
Humpback Whale (HW) flag must be displayed when in the Exclusive Contact Zones and when swimmers are in the water.



Vessels are not to split whale pods.



Vessels have a cumulative 60 minute time limit within Exclusive Contact Zones.



**8kn max**

Vessel speed in the Exclusive Contact Zones is a maximum of 8 knots.

**1 ONLY**

Only one vessel in any of the Exclusive Contact Zones.

**3 unsuccessful attempts**

Vessels have a cumulative limit of three unsuccessful attempts per whale or pod within a 60 minute time limit.

Vessel operators are required to abide by additional rules that outline approach and departure instructions for humpback whale interactions.

Only operators licensed to participate in the 'In-water humpback whale interaction in Ningaloo Marine Park trial' are allowed to provide the opportunity to swim with humpback whales as part of a commercial tour. Recreational boaters are not allowed to swim with the humpback whales.

In-water humpback whale interactions are not permitted in the Commonwealth waters of Ningaloo Marine Park.



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

