


Interaction protocol


In-water **humpback whale** interaction in Ningaloo Marine Park

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.


Interaction conditions for swimmers – licensed trial participants only



Do not attempt to touch or free-dive with a humpback whale

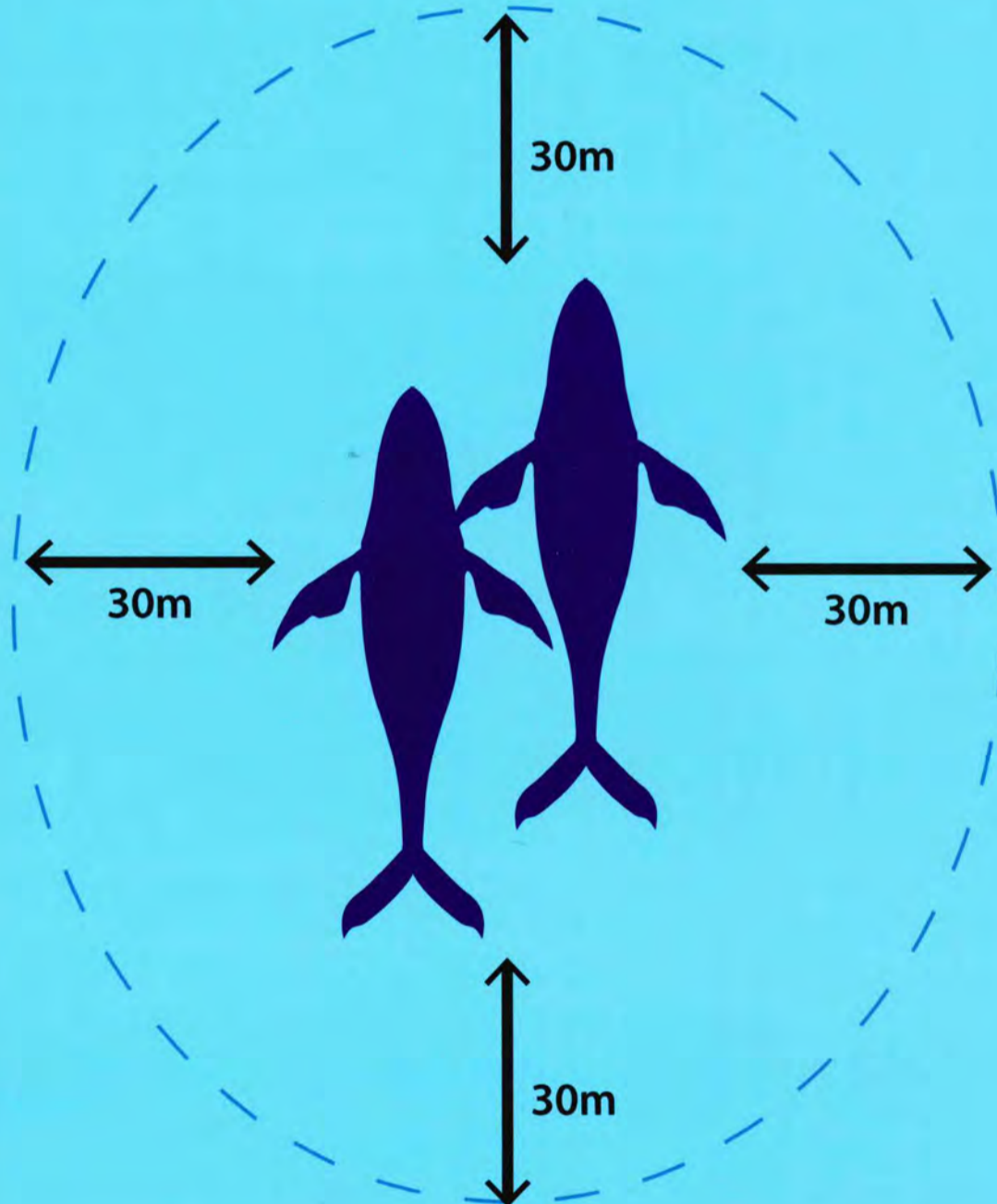


No cameras on extension poles



Do not undertake strobe or flash photography

Members of the public or people on private boats must not attempt to swim with whales




30m


30m

30m

30m



Only 7 swimmers and 2 crew or photographers/videographers in the water at any one time.



Swimmer must not approach closer than 30m to whale. If whale approaches, swimmer must attempt to maintain 15m from whale.

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 whale watching tour. Recreational boaters are not allowed to swim with the humpback whales.

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