



Humpback whale migration

From September to November, thousands of humpback whales will pass through the Brisbane and Moreton Bay area. Whale watching is a significant part of the Queensland tourism industry, with thousands flocking to get a glimpse of one of the world's largest mammals.

This is an incredible natural phenomenon that we are lucky to witness each year. However, organisations who operate within the Port need to ensure the safety of these beautiful mammals are protected, as well as the people who use the waterway during this period.

During this time, we urge you to consider protocols you can implement to avoid collisions with the creatures, known as 'ship strikes'. Ship strikes have the potential to harm or kill whales, as well as cause damage to your vessel and lead to onboard injuries.

To ensure the safety of vessels, passengers and whales, we've provided some important safety tips to remember at this time of year.

Should you see an injured whale, be a responsible operator and report the incident via the National Marine Mammal Data Portal. This information is reported to the International Whaling Commission, who map out whale 'hotspots' to avoid. Submitting your data could prevent further accidents and improve the safety of all Port users.

Each year, thousands of whales make the journey from Antarctica to the warm Queensland coastline. The 5,000km trip is an opportunity for humpback whales to mate and give birth, making the journey imperative to their survival. The safe migration of humpback whales is not only important to the conservation of the species, but also to our economy, so we appreciate you staying vigilant during the season and keeping the waterways safe.

The team at Brisbane Marine Pilots thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

Safe travels,

Peter Liley
Managing Director
Brisbane Marine Pilots



Safety tips during whale migration season

- 1 Navigate with caution and pay attention to what is occurring in and on the water.
- 2 Have someone keep watch for whales, and avoid areas that you have noticed a high concentration of whale activity in.
- 3 Be aware of an increase in tourism vessels carrying whale watching enthusiasts.
- 4 Report injured whales at <https://data.marinemammals.gov.au/report/shipstrike/>
- 5 Visit the International Whaling Commission website to access data on past ship strikes.