

Sail Race Whale and Sea Turtle Protection Recommendations (Maine through Virginia):

(1) That the operator and crew of subject vessels keep a sharp lookout for whales and sea turtles and take evasive measures so as to avoid vessel to whale/sea turtle contact. Note that approaching a North Atlantic right whale closer than 500 yards is a violation of Federal and state law. Should such efforts fail and contact is made or assumed, the vessel operator should immediately contact the **NMFS Greater Atlantic Region Marine Animal Hotline** at **(866) 755-NOAA (6622)** for further instructions.

For stranded or entangled whales and sea turtles observed during sail race events, the following are the NMFS Greater Atlantic Region contacts that should be notified and can provide assistance:

Mendy Garron

Marine Mammal Stranding Coordinator

(978) 282-8478

Mendy.Garron@noaa.gov

David Morin

Large Whale Disentanglement Coordinator

(978) 282-8472

David.Morin@noaa.gov

Kate Sampson

Sea Turtle Stranding and Disentanglement Coordinator

(978) 282-8470

Kate.Sampson@noaa.gov

(2) That the race coordinator and participating sail vessel captains monitor NMFS North Atlantic right whale and other large whale sighting information sources, especially if a Dynamic Management Area is identified, and take action to avoid those areas where a congregation of endangered whales may be located.

VOLUNTARY DYNAMIC MANAGEMENT AREAS (DMAs)

Mariners are requested to avoid or transit at 10 knots or less inside DMAs where persistent aggregations of right whales have been sighted. Please visit:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/shipstrike>

FOR RECENT RIGHT WHALE SIGHTINGS, VISIT:

<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/psb/surveys/>

DOWNLOAD THE WHALE ALERT APP FOR iPad AND iPhone:

<http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/protect/whalealert.html>

***For North Atlantic right whales specifically, it is requested that all sightings (alive, injured, dead, or otherwise) be reported to the NMFS Hotline at (866) 755-NOAA (6622)