



### **Self Regulation of Responsible Whale Watching**

Members of the Dana Point Whale Watching are generally operating in the same areas and have visual and verbal communication with each other via designated public and private VHF radio channels as well as via cell phones.

If an offensive behavior takes place by visiting whale watching vessels who may not adhere to the same standards, attempts are made to communicate with the vessel to educate them on our protocols. If they fail to respond, photos or video are taken and shared with our NMFS contact. (This has only occurred once in all these years).

Private boaters who are slip holders in the Dana Point harbor are invited to a presentation by experienced whale watching company operators and are educated on the responsible "Whale Safe" protocols as well how to whale watch successfully and safely.

Private water recreational vessel infringements are also notified by radio if they are too close to a whale. If they fail to respond (not everyone is on the right public VHS channel) an attempt is made to communicate with them directly using a bullhorn or simply 'shouting' if possible. This has proven to be very effective and has always resulted in the remedy of the situation. If it didn't, we would again submit photos or video tour contact at NMFS.