To ensure that Humpback Whales return the following year, here are some points to consider to keep both you happy and the whales safe on their journey:

- During this sensitive period, vessels should approach slowly, carefully, and quietly (keeping engine noise to a minimum). Maintaining a respectful distance ensures that they will not be stressed or feel threatened.
- Avoid “fencing in” the whales. This includes blocking them between boats, too close to shore/shallow water, cutting off their direction of travel, chasing after them, or getting between mother and calf.
- If whales change their direction 3-5 times, it means they are feeling hassled or stressed. Simply maintain your distance and allow them their space. Disturbed whales will swim away and your viewing could be unfortunately cut short.
- When operating a vessel, move parallel to the whales to avoid approaching them head-on, as this may give the whales the impression that they are being chased. **Surprised whales may show aggression and become very dangerous given their size.**
- Mothers and calves are tired and are more likely to be “spooked.” They will need extra consideration of the above.
- If another vessel is with a whale or a group of whales, have some courtesy: Radio or call that vessel to a) find out if it is safe to approach and b) ask if you may join the experience. Proper communication will allow everyone to enjoy the experience.
- **Remember:** whales are much bigger than people and most whale watching vessels. Safety is always a priority, for both the whales and the viewers. Approaching with caution ensures the whales stay happy and you will get the most out of your experience!
- For more information, please contact DEMA at environment@gov.tc