



Mark Speakman
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage
Assistant Minister for Planning

MEDIA RELEASE

Sunday 31 May 2015

HAVE A WHALE OF A TIME DURING WHALE WATCHING SEASON

Environment Minister Mark Speakman today launched the 2015 whale watching season as thousands of whales began one of the world's largest wildlife migrations.

Launching the season at one of the premier whale watching locations at Cape Solander in the Kamay Botany Bay National Park, Mr Speakman said 20,000 whales were expected to make the journey north along the NSW coastline.

"With the whales already on their way north from Antarctica to warmer waters, now is the time to plan a winter coastal whale watching adventure in a NSW national park by visiting www.wildaboutwhales.com.au," Mr Speakman said.

"National parks make up almost 50 per cent of the NSW coastline and provide the best vantage points to spot the ocean's most majestic creatures."

National Parks and Wildlife Services whale migration expert Geoff Ross said with an additional 10 per cent of whales expected along the coast this season due to increased breeding, the opportunity to see a mother and its calf resting in a coastal inlet had increased.

Whales usually stop to feed their calves in inlets and a Humpback calf needs a staggering 600 litres of milk each day.

The Minister also acknowledged the tremendous work done by the Cape Solander Whale Migration Study volunteers who will now spend dawn to dusk each day for the next six weeks recording the number and species of whales that swim past this Sydney landmark.

"These volunteers will donate an astounding 18,000 hours of their own time to help create a better understanding of these amazing creatures, demonstrating their incredible commitment to the conservation of whales," he said.

We're encouraging people to share their whale sightings on Twitter with the @wildaboutwhales community using #whaleon, or log a sighting using our mobile app or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/wildaboutwhales.

Anyone on the water who comes across a whale is reminded boats must remain at least 100 metres from a whale and 300 metres if there is a calf present.

The regulations can be viewed
at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/animals/whaleregulation.htm>