

## PANAMA

Resolution ADM/ARAP N°1 (13 February 2007)

Resolution DM/ARAP N°1 (13 February 2007) regulates the activity of whale watching in the waters of the Republic of Panama. Licensing is provided by Autoridad de Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá (ARAP).

- Operators must have the appropriate permits and with trained fieldguides and qualified.
- Report sightings of cetaceans to ARAP.
- Safety manuals should be on board of whale watching vessels.
- To have life insurance and accident insurance for tourists and crew. (Responsible institution is ARAP).
- Regulates scientific activity in Panama
- Boats must have their permits for both navigation and the Autoridad Marítima de Panama (AMP) Should be reported to the harbormaster the departure, number of passengers, possible route and arrival time.
- Artisanal vessels must have permission from Autoridad de Turismo de Panama (ATP), AMP and if operating in the waters of protected marine areas from Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente (ANAM) Boats must have safety measures
- The whale watching boats may not have more than 60 passengers
- The engines are 4 stroke and must be guarded propellers
- Tour guides must have the certification.
- Tour guides must be Panamanian
- Regulate whale watching from the air, limiting the height to no less than 300m Regulate the observation from land.
- Prohibit swimming and diving cetaceans.
- Regulates the dolphins approach no closer than 100m and 250m of whales.
- The maximum speed of navigation for sailing with a group of cetaceans is 4 knots and the engine at the time of the sighting should be neutral.
- The maximum sighting time is 30' per group but in the case of mother and calf groups should not exceed 15'
- Provide guidelines approach to cetaceans
- Establishes a maximum of two ww vessels per group
- The use of echo-sounders in areas of whale watching activities is prohibited.
- Prohibit the feeding of cetaceans
- It is prohibited to change the behavior of cetaceans.
- **AMP will apply sanctions to the breaking of the law.**