



# Increase Situational Awareness with Whale Alert Alaska: Accessible by Web Map and Mobile App

Since 2011, cruise lines, pilots, and biologists in Southeast Alaska have worked together to produce whale maps to improve situational awareness for cruise ship bridge teams. Real-time whale sightings have been our mutual goal for quite some time. **In 2016, mariners and biologists began sharing sightings in real time using Whale Alert!**

Whale Alert is the result of a growing network of non-profit institutions, government agencies, shipping, and technology companies with the common goal of reducing ship strikes of whales. **Whale Alert Alaska** is made possible by a partnership between the National Park Service, NOAA Fisheries, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, and software developer Conserve IO.

**Mobile App:** Whale Alert is a free iOS and Android app for tablets and smartphones that anyone can use to report whale sightings.

**Web Map:** A map for reporting and displaying sightings is offered only to professional mariners to share information on whale locations.

**Email Alerts:** Mariners signed up for the web map can opt to receive email alerts when whales



## In Alaska, humpback whales are the species most often struck

### New in 2018!

In addition to whales, users can now report sightings of harbor seals hauled out on ice. Harbor seals on ice are vulnerable to disturbance so advanced warning can help you avoid getting too close.

### Regulations displayed on the map!

In Glacier Bay National Park, temporary course and speed restrictions known as "Whale Waters" will be displayed on the app and web map.

We are looking for pilots, bridge teams, and state ferry captains willing to report their whale sightings as they happen using Whale Alert on a mobile device or a web browser.

Please take time to provide feedback on Whale Alert technical issues and usefulness for situational awareness. Use the contact information provided on the next page.

### Reporting and Viewing Whales: How it Works

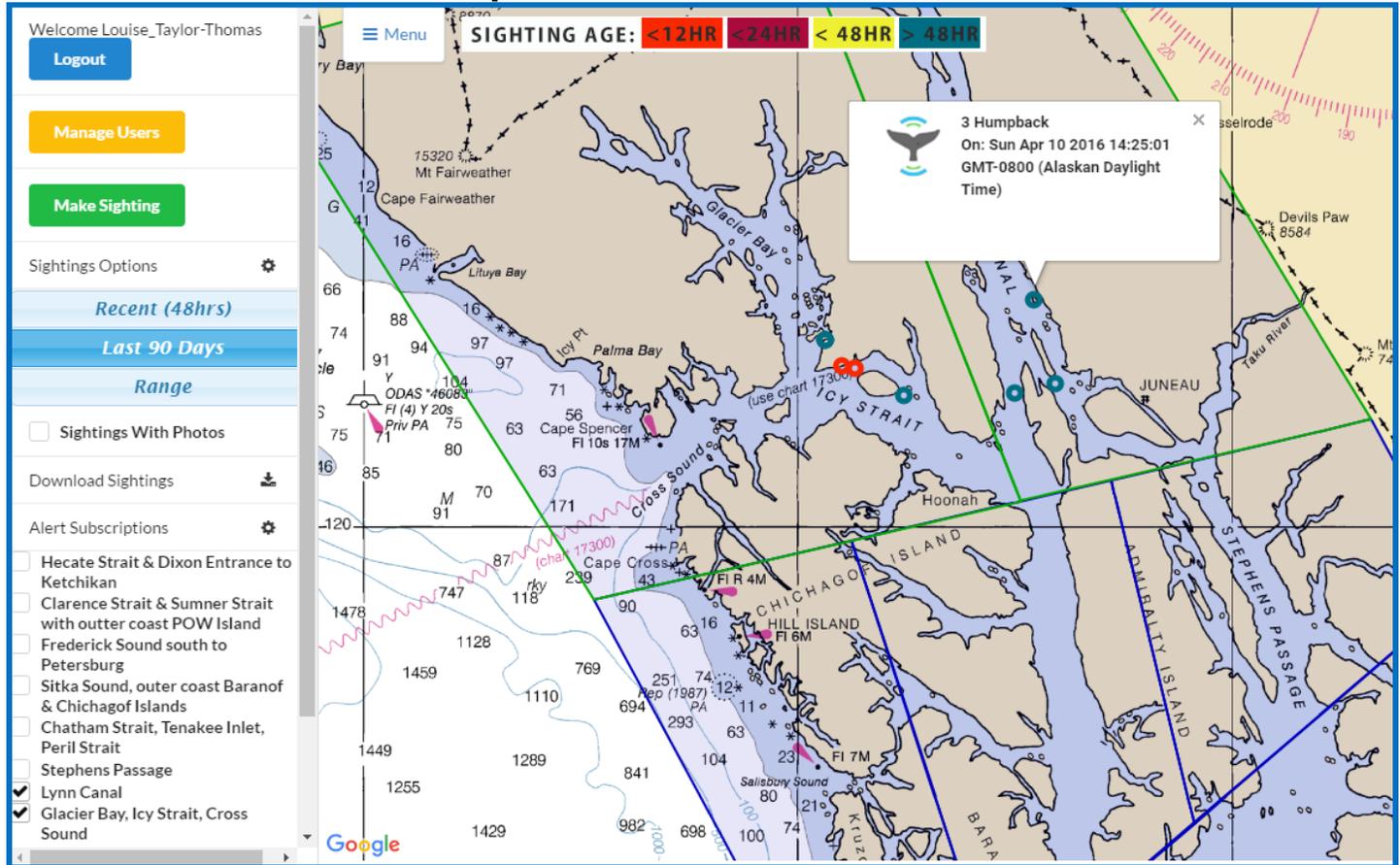
Mariners have **TWO OPTIONS** for **REPORTING WHALE SIGHTINGS** as they happen

1. Use **Whale Alert on a mobile device**. Anyone can **download the free Whale Alert app** onto any iOS or Android device to report whales. Whale Alert knows the ship's location and the user inputs the species and number of whales. If the ship does not have cellular or internet access at the time of the sighting, the **Whale Alert App will store the sighting and automatically submit it when the user's device connects to the internet**. The app makes it easy to report whales as you go!
2. Report sightings on the **Whale Alert Alaska web map** on any computer browser. Mariners **sign up for a password to access the web map** where sightings can be reported and displayed. **Sightings will be displayed for all users within 15 minutes** or so.

Mariners **VIEW WHALE SIGHTINGS** on the secure web map

- The web map may be **viewed by an approved user on any device with a web browser** and internet connection at <https://maplify.com/waseak/index.php>
- Sightings indicate the **number of whales, species, and when the sighting was made**. A comment section might include notes about behavior, presence of calves, or who made the sighting. You can choose to view only sightings from the last 12, 24, or 48 hours or select a custom date range.
- Users can choose to **receive email alerts** when new sightings are added in specific geographic areas. The subject line of the email indicates in which area the sighting occurred so users know whether the new sighting is in their area. This feature may be useful on its own even if the user cannot check the web map for the location of the sighting.
- Whale sightings from the web map can be **printed** or **downloaded** as a .gpx file that can be imported into your electronic navigational software of choice.

# Whale Alert Alaska web map user interface:



## Nobody Wants to Hit a Whale

Thank you for joining our collaborative effort to keep people and whales safe in Southeast Alaska. Our goal is to provide professional mariners with the best possible information to help them avoid whale-ship collisions.

### Contacts:

#### Ideas, concerns, questions?

Chris Gabriele  
Glacier Bay National Park  
907-697-2664  
Chris\_Gabriele@nps.gov

Kristin Mabry  
NOAA Fisheries  
907-586-7490  
Kristin.Mabry@noaa.gov

#### LEARN MORE:

**Whale Alert:**  
<http://www.whalealert.org/>

**Humpback whale biology:**  
[www.alaskahumpbacks.org](http://www.alaskahumpbacks.org)

**Marine Mammal Viewing:**  
<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/pr/>

**Getting Started:** **Whale Alert** is a free app available to anyone. Download it onto your iPhone, iPad, or Android tablet to easily report your whale sightings in real time. (If you will be using a web browser to enter sightings, there's no need to download the app). When you first use Whale Alert, move around the map of Southeast Alaska to ensure charts download and will be available offline. **Note that whale sightings are not visible in the app.**

The **web map** where all users can report and/or view sightings reported in the Whale Alert app is being offered to mariners working on cruise ships and state ferries for whale collision avoidance purposes only. To obtain access to the web map, go to <https://maplify.com/waseak/login.php> and click on Sign Up. Wait for an administrator to confirm your account (faster response time on weekdays).

Once approved, log in and view, download, or print a PDF map of recent whale sightings along your route on any computer or device with an internet connection. Under Menu, click on geographic areas for emailed alerts. Download sightings as a .gpx file to import into SealQ or other electronic charts.

### Partners:

