



Protected Species And Sensitive Habitat Protocol



You should be on the lookout for any whales, sea turtles, seals and sturgeon.

- In the event that any of the protected animals are observed entrapped in a crab trap or net, that information must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours.
- All vessels participating must maintain a lookout for protected animals and reduce speeds to 10 knots or less should one be sighted.
- All scanning should be done at 4 knots
- No grappling may occur if they are in the area of the project vessel.
- All grappling should be done at speeds less than one knot.



Protected Animals



- All protected animal sightings should be recorded and reported to NMFS.
You should:
 - Take a complete description of the type and condition of the animal.
 - Take a digital photograph
 - Record the Lat./ Long.
 - Record any marine debris gear
- **The 24-hour NMFS Stranding & Entanglement Hotline can be reached at 978-281- 9351**



Sea grass

1. Do not attempt to retrieve material in areas of known submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).
2. When retrieving material, if grappling device pulls up any submerged aquatic vegetation, cease attempts in that area.
3. Do not attempt retrieval in areas where vessel prop will disturb bottom.

