

# Environmental Management Practices



**Activity:** Protection of Marine Mammals and Sensitive Aquatic Habitats

**EMP No.** O-9

**Description:**

Protect marine mammals and other sensitive marine life from ship strikes, ship docking procedures, and other port activities.



**Targeted Activities:**

Ship and small watercraft movement near shore and off shore

**Operational EMPs:**

- Work closely with federal (e.g., NMFS, NOAA), state, and local regulatory agencies, as well as local advocacy groups to design an effective mitigation program
  - Identify regulatory requirements
- Identify species of concern, i.e., marine mammals, coral reefs
- Determine location and extent of species habitat <sup>1</sup>
- Determine species habits such as feeding, nursing, and migration as applicable <sup>1</sup>
- Develop procedures for sighting and avoiding species
  - Surface and near-surface signs of activity
  - Ship speeds
- Identify habitat and habits on nautical charts for easy distribution to shippers and the public
- Issue notices to captains and shipping companies on habitat, habits, and procedures for avoidance
- Include marine guide boats to assist ships en route, where possible
- Work with Harbormaster, Coast Guard and other appropriate agencies to issue sightings and warnings
- Develop voluntary watch programs whereby shippers and the public notify a central contact who then issues warning to other ship captains

**Potential Pollutants:**

**Target Environmental Media:**

**US Regulatory Requirements & Guidance:**

50 CFR 222.32

<sup>1</sup> Much of this information can be found through available literature, local universities and private interest groups

A copy of the Port Canaveral Manatee Protection Program and a public information brochure prepared by the Massachusetts Port Authority, in conjunction with other local interests, are presented in Appendix D.