

Mark Ferrari (Hawaii research)

Aloha Charles,

Thanks again for all your help!

Boat Strikes...

It's something we all think about. And hopefully we'll never be involved in one. Hitting a whale or manatee or dolphin would not only greatly endanger or kill them, but would also do substantial damage to our vessel.

Please allow me to introduce myself. I'm Mark Ferrari of the Center for Whale Studies. For the past 28 years we have been studying the endangered humpback whale off the coast of Maui, Alaska, and California. Each year we see the scars of boat collisions with the humpbacks. Most of the time these incidences are fatal, or at the very least catastrophic. Particularly for the calves (see attached photo). Just as we recognize the injury and vulnerability of the injured whale, so to do their predators...tiger sharks, great white sharks, and killer whales.

None of us wants to be the one who endangers the life of one of the greatest animals on our planet. And now there is something we can do to not only reduce the risk of these incidences, but also aid in everyday navigation. I'm talking about the Interphase Twin Scope. We use one here in Hawaii. It allows us to see FORWARD and to the side of our research vessel, and aids us in knowing BEFORE we come upon a whale, where they are in relation to our boat. It is an incredible tool for us, and an absolute must for navigation.

We urge all of you who traverse waters where marine mammals live to make the modest investment in this incredible technology. IT WORKS! Let's work together to enjoy and protect the marine environment we mutually share with these magnificent creatures. And each do our part to become part of the solution, rather than the problem. Have a great day on the water!

Aloha,

Mark Ferrari

Executive Director Center for Whale Studies