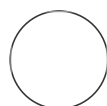


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Recording Whale Watching Boat and Humpback Whale Collisions

Laura Barragan¹

¹University of California, Berkeley



Laura Barragan

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research protocol is to record collisions caused by whale watching boat tours. We make use of remotely operated water vehicles to collect video footage of whale watching tours and analyze the footage simultaneously. This data will be taken over a five year period at multiple whale watching sites along the coast of Mo'orea, French Polynesia.

IMAGE ATTRIBUTION

Live Science: <https://www.livescience.com/50498-curious-sperm-whale-rov-video.html>

GUIDELINES

- Be sure you are 300 feet away from whale watching site, otherwise you would be violating federal rules
- Be sure to get proper training on operation of ROV, including deployment and retrieval

MATERIALS

- Field notebook
- Laptop
- ROV
- Tether
- Ship
- Cameras
- Lights

SAFETY WARNINGS



- Operate ROV safely to avoid entanglements

OPEN ACCESS

DOI:
dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.e6nvwjrpwlmk/v1

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Protocol status: Working
We use this protocol and it's working

Created: Apr 18, 2023

Last Modified: Apr 18, 2023

PROTOCOL integer ID:
80662

BEFORE START INSTRUCTIONS

- Verify all permits have been obtained
- Attempt to speak with whale watching agencies about project

Remotely Operated Underwater Vehicle Set Up and Deployment

- 1 Drive ship to 300 feet distance from whale watching tour site
- 2 Equip the ROV with four video cameras and lights
- 3 Connect the ROV to ship with a tether
- 4 Deploy ROV to site carefully, make sure to stop at 10 feet deep
- 5 Follow general direction of where whale watching tours go from 5am to 7pm
 - 5.1 5am to 7pm as this is within the business hours of whale watching tour agencies

Observation Methods

- 6 For 14 hours that ROV is underwater, monitor video footage carefully

7 Make sure that are multiple observers on shift observing footage from different cameras/angles

8 If you observe a whale watching tour, record it on field notebook

8.1 Include the following data: Date, Time, Agency

9 If you observe a collision, record it on field notebook

9.1 Include the following data: Date, Time, Agency, Approximate Speed, Injuries (if visible), Deaths (visible through whale fall)

ROV Retrieval and Closing Steps

10 Retrieve tether and ROV from under water carefully

11 Be sure to transfer data from field notebook onto Google Spreadsheet