

The Sea Dragon Documentary:

We are filming a Documentary on Sea Dragons, and even though it's main focus is on Sea Dragons we are showcasing the entire southern coast of Australia, Above and Underwater and the different species as well.

Showing the Sea Dragons habitat, and the other species that inhabit those habitats.

This is to paint the picture of just how special the southern ocean is and how these species are endemic to here and are found no where else on earth.

We will be collecting B-Roll of Orcas, Dolphins, Whales for the purpose of this story telling.

Vessel Details:We will be using our Expedition Vessel
Sailing Vessel SYLFIA Reg
23m Steel Ketch Sailboat
We sleep 16

Drone Operator Experience and Qualifications

Tom Du Toit is a Registered Drone Pilot in Australia 1077848 (ARN)

He has used drones to film wildlife and has used them in his career as a commercial surveyor.

Nate Porter has hundreds of flights with drones over 7 years.

Has used drones to film wildlife for commercials and film making.

Mike Lee has 50 flights with drones over 2 years.

Team Experience and Qualifications:

As a crew we are professional underwater videographers and film makers.

We've made content for Tourism Boards

A couple of our partners that we make content are PADI, Cressi, Ocean Technology Systems, Highfield.

Justification for Close Approach of Cetaceans:

We will be filming Cetaceans for the purpose of showcasing them in a positive light with the goal of promoting the protection and expansion of their protective habitats.

A big part of our documentary will focus on this key point:

Background on the Documentary we will be collecting footage for:

The Sea Dragon Documentary will dive into the lives of Sea Dragons from Birth, Growth, Reproduction and Death. It will showcase their uniqueness and their habitats across the southern ocean.

It will highlight quickly other species in these habitats, including sharks, whales, orcas, dolphins, seals, etc.

Even though the Dragons are so small.

You can't paint a picture of the grandness of the southern ocean without also showing the larger species in the habitats.

Showing that everyone has an important role in the eco system from the Blue Whale to the Leafy Sea Dragon.

External Team assisting with Locating Cetaceans in Bremer Canyon.

David Briggs: Documentary Film Maker, Esperance, Currently holds a Drone permit for cetaceans currently. And is the lead film maker and photographer for the Bremer Canyon Cetaceans.

Naturalist Charters: A commercial company out of Bremer that does Orca Tours.

Justification for close approach to cetaceans: Education

Drone: We will not fly lower than 100m within a 100m radius of a whale or dolphin. We are aware of the 300m Normal guidelines, with our crew of professional operators we will assess the interaction on a case by case basis depending on the species and if we can tell that the drone is interfering. We will never get closer than that 100m radius however, as we believe in 4k we can crop in the image and get the quality shots needed at this distance.

We will not approach a whale or dolphin from head on

Swimmers: We will be conducting filming via swimming and scuba staying within the Guidelines for Whale & Dolphin Watching.

Our Vessel will keep the appropriate distances as outlined in the Guidelines for Whale & Dolphin Watching for these drops and never head on or in front. 100m from a whale, 50m from a dolphin, and will not approach closer than 15m of a cetacean. We will allow the cetacean to bridge the gap and approach, if they do not we will abort and bring the divers back.

We are aware of the guideline of 30m, We are professional divers, and videographers and have experience swimming with Sharks, Cetaceans of all kinds.

We will use this experience and will judge whether the cetacean is aggravated by our presence and will never chase and abort the dive/snorkel if needed.

We will not have more than Three (3) Crew in the water at a time.

We will not enter the water with southern right whales on scuba.

We will not feed, or bait the cetaceans in any way.

Vessel: The vessel will stay within the recommended Guidelines for Whales & Dolphins and will only come to within 100m for swimmer drops and then immediately fall back to 200m

Time: Maximum time spent with each cetacean will be 10 minutes with at least a 30 minute break in between interactions if the cetacean appears to be unfazed by our presence. Maximum time in total will be three such sessions.