

**Whale Conservation and Protection Study Act**

**Agencies:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**Citation:** [16 U.S.C. §§ 917 et seq.](#)

**Enacted as:** the “Whale Conservation and Protection Study Act”, on October 17, 1976

**Summary:**

Under the [Whale Conservation and Protection Study Act \(Act\)](#), the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Marine Mammal Commission and coastal states, is required to undertake comprehensive studies of all whales found in waters subject to U.S. jurisdiction. The studies shall consider all relevant factors regarding the conservation and protection of all such whales; the distribution, migration patterns, and population dynamics of whales; and the effects on all such whales of habitat destruction, disease, pesticides and other chemicals, disruption of migration patterns, and food shortages for purpose of developing adequate and effective measures, including appropriate laws and regulations, to conserve and protect such mammals. The Act requires other federal agencies to cooperate with the Secretary in preparing the study and recommendations. The Secretary also is required, through the Secretary of State, to initiate negotiations with Mexico and Canada for the protection and conservation of whales.

**Source:** [16 U.S.C. §§ 917 et seq.](#)

**Information last updated:** September 20, 2012