



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CRUISE PASSENGER REPORTS WHALE STRIKE  
UNDER GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE  
Bluewater Network calls for investigation**

San Francisco, CA – A cruise ship passenger called a San Francisco television station yesterday to report that the Coral Princess struck a whale near the Golden Gate Bridge when leaving the Bay. The station KNTV-11 reported on the 11 o'clock news that the passenger said they felt the cruise ship hit something and then saw a fin and blood in the water next to the ship.

The reported whale strike occurred early evening as it departed for Vancouver, B.C. The newsroom was apparently not able to reach the ship's captain to confirm the strike. The U.S. Coast Guard said it was not going to investigate because it had no formal complaint.

“With more cruise ships speeding through whale territory every year, we are saddened but not surprised that one may have been run down near the Golden Gate,” said Teri Shore of Bluewater Network. “This week 8 ships visited San Francisco Bay in seven days, the biggest cruise week ever.”

Bluewater Network is calling for an investigation of the possible whale strike by the U.S. Coast Guard and National Marine Fisheries Service.

In the past two years, whales have been struck and killed by ships in Southern California, Glacier Bay, AK, Vancouver and other locations along the West Coast of North America.

To prevent whale strikes, Bluewater Network advocates that cruise ships slow down in whale habitat and install fish-finder type devices that can detect the presence of whale in the water. The group also calls for environmental impact reports to be conducted when cruise or other vessel traffic increase in whale habitat or migratory routes.

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