

TBMP April Reports 2026

Inquirer I.D.	Type	Date	Concern type	Area	Comments	Referred to	Date	Response from Business
ID-000003	Email	4/7/2026	Whale Watching	N/A	Email stated that in a social media video for a whale watching tour, the owner "launched a sea star into the air to feed an eagle" The individual wanted the information kept private but wanted the concern passed along to the company.	Whales & Lunch	04/08/2026	Hello, Thank you for reaching out and for sharing the community comment through the TBMP hotline. I appreciate the program's role in facilitating open communication between locals, visitors, and operators. There is indeed a video from one of our tours. For context: we were well outside Ketchikan city limits while fishing. We caught a herring and a starfish, and eagles came in to investigate (something every local charter captain sees regularly). I tossed the herring, and an eagle caught and ate it mid-air. When the eagle showed interest in the starfish, I tossed that as well. The eagle flew over, decided mid-air it wasn't interested, and the starfish dropped straight back into the water where it was safely released unharmed. Feeding eagles is legal outside city limits — there is no federal prohibition, and we were well clear of the local ordinance. Starfish do not have a centralized brain or the capacity to feel pain or stress in the same way mammals do, so the interaction caused no unnecessary harm. I'm glad for this opportunity to provide context. Many people aren't aware of the exact laws around wildlife interactions in Alaska, so if this can serve as an educational moment about responsible practices and the realities of life here, that's a positive outcome. I think people should take a moment to consider the difference between a hummingbird feeder (or any normal bird feeder) and us actively feeding an eagle in a safe manner. Eagles are wild creatures, and we do not control their flights or what they choose to eat. As a local operator (my wife is Tlingit and we incorporate authentic Native-harvested furs and cultural elements into the experience), our goal is to give guests the real Alaska they came for — close wildlife encounters, local stories, and the unfiltered beauty of the place. We feed herring to eagles on tours because it creates once-in-a-lifetime photos and memories, and we do it in different locations so we're not habituating any specific birds. Our boat's range lets us go farther than most, and we also have seal vests and sea-otter headbands made from sustainably harvested furs for guests to see and touch. We're proud to show visitors a genuine slice of Alaskan life rather than a sanitized version. If you or the commenter would like any additional details or the full unedited video for context, I'm happy to provide it. Thank you again for the opportunity to respond. Please feel free to reach out anytime.