



Help protect marine wildlife



Wildlife disturbance

All turtles, dolphins, porpoises, whales and seals are protected by wildlife legislation. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly approach them. All water users from boaters to swimmers, kayakers and paddle boarders have a responsibility to keep your distance for your own safety and to avoid disturbing these animals in their natural habitat.

How to behave around marine wildlife

Stay at least 100 metres away and slowly move further away if you notice signs of disturbance.

Keep your distance if there are already more than two boats or watercraft in the vicinity.

Slow down and keep speed below six knots (no-wake speed).



Never try to swim with, touch or feed them.



Never encircle or chase animals.



Sometimes they may choose to approach you, in this situation you should maintain your speed and direction and let the animals leave when they choose.

Marine and coastal wildlife code: advice for visitors

If you see a wildlife crime in action, call 999 and quote Operation Seabird.

To report a wildlife incident that's already happened, call 101 and again quote Operation Seabird or contact your local MMO office. Alternatively email conservation@marinemanagement.org.uk.

Follow the QR code to learn more about behaving responsibly on the coast.

