

What is Disturbance?

Cornwall's marine and coastal wildlife is spectacular and we want to keep it that way!

Disturbance is when interaction with people changes the behaviour of an animal or its environment, affecting its well-being or survival prospects. Always keep an eye out for signs that you may be disturbing wildlife.

Signs of Disturbance



- Heads up or bobbing
- Bunching together
- Alarm calls and agitation
- Taking flight, circling, mobbing or dive bombing



- Heads up and looking at you
- Moving or stampeding into the sea
- Hissing or snarling
- Crash or splash dives



- Increased swimming speed
- Sudden or erratic movements
- Repeated tail or head slaps
- Changes to diving/surfacing patterns.

Did you know...

Disturbance of protected species and habitats can be a crime. Check out our online sensitivity maps to find out more www.cornwallmarinelife.org.uk

Photographs by Kat Brown, Adrian Langdon, Abby Crosby, Paul Naylor, Sarah McCartney, Sue Sayer, Caz Waddell, Caroline Wier and RSPB.

Who we are

Cornwall's Marine and Coastal Code Group was formed in 2011 in order to respond to concerns over increased pressure on marine wildlife resulting from recreational use of our coasts and seas. Membership of the Group include:



How you can help

If you are out-and-about by the coast you can help by letting us know what you see.

Sightings of marine life can be reported online at:

www.ORKS.org.uk

Please tell us about any disturbance of marine wildlife by using our 24-hour hotline:

0345 201 2626

Find out more

For more information and to download our full Coastal Code Guidelines check out:

www.cornwallmarinelife.org.uk



Production of this leaflet is funded by:



Responsible wildlife watching

Making marine encounters great for wildlife and great for you!



Cornwall Marine & Coastal Code Group



Putting wildlife first

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AT THE COAST

- Use binoculars or a telescope so you can keep your distance.

- Be careful where you are putting your feet. Avoid trampling animals or plants.

- Let animals move away. Don't chase, feed or touch wild animals.

Aim to watch wildlife unseen; be cautious, stealthy and quiet!

- Take all litter home.
- Keep pets under control. Remember they can also cause disturbance.

Look for signs wildlife has spotted you. Be prepared to back off or take an alternative route.



ON THE SEA

- Keep away from large groups of animals, hauled seals and sensitive areas such as breeding sites.

- Make sure your craft's movements are constant, steady and predictable.

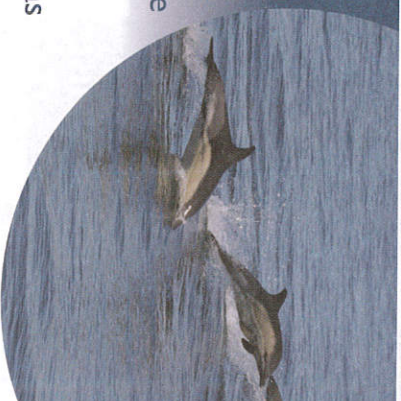
- Stay a good distance away. Choose indirect, side-on approaches and departures.

Surprisingly, quiet unexpected approaches may startle wildlife most!

- Make sure animals have a clear escape route.

Let the animals decide how close they want to be to you.

Never follow, chase or feed marine life.



IN THE SEA

- Take care with your feet or fins.

- Keep good control of your buoyancy.

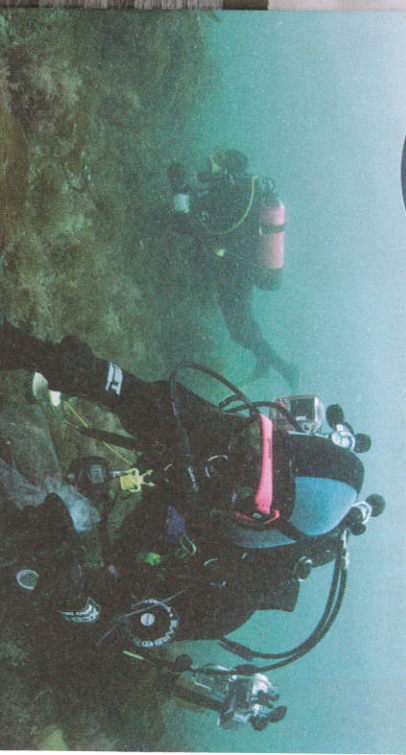
- Move away at the first signs of disturbance.

- Always leave wildlife a clear escape route.

Let any wildlife encounter be on their terms. Never touch or feed wild animals.

- Limit flash photography. Use the edge of a light beam rather than shining light directly at an animal.

Purposely snorkeling, diving or swimming with large marine mammals and basking sharks is not recommended.



Aim to leave all marine life as you found it