## Cornwall's marine and coastal wildlife, so essential to our economy, is under pressure.

**It needs our help and respect! The Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code helps you to understand how to act responsibly during encounters with marine life.**

**Minimising your impact makes your marine and coastal encounter great for you and for marine life!**

**Key messages:**

- **Learn**: find out first. Learn as much as you can about what wildlife you might see, where and know the best way to act around it. This will help you improve your chances of great sightings
- **See**: be alert whilst out and about
- **Respect**: act responsibly and aim to leave wildlife as you found it. Understand that our marine life has numerous encounters with people every day
- **Tell us** about your sighting and any disturbance you see.



**What YOU can do to help:**

- Give the animals SPACE and TIME
- Check for sensitive wildlife sites using our online map
- Expect the unexpected – be alert and get prepared
- Observe from a distance – use binoculars if you can
- Look for signs you've been spotted by wildlife and avoid actions that scare, startle or panic them
- Large groups, hauled seals and mothers with young are best avoided completely
- If you decide to move closer, approach side on making sure the animal/s have a clear escape route
- Be patient and wait downwind, move predictably, steadily and slowly
- Be calm and quiet while you enjoy your encounter
- Be considerate, back off and move on to keep your encounter brief
- Leave wildlife and the environment as you found it
- Report sightings www.ORKS.org.uk or disturbance incidents to the hotline 0345 201 26 26.

Ensure disturbance of marine life doesn't threaten our shared economic future. For more information when planning an outing check our website sections:
At the coast; On the sea; In the sea. Please note this is work in progress and is regularly reviewed in the light of feedback received.



Images taken by Andy Hay RSPB-images.com; Tony Sutton and Sue Sayer www.cornwallsealgroup.co.uk