What is disturbance?

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

Disturbance is when people change an animal's behaviour 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
- Crash or splash dives
- Hissing or snarling.



- 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.cornwallmarinelifecode.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 aims to reduce the impact of ever increasing pressure on marine and coastal wildlife from recreational use of our coast and seas. Membership of the group include:

Cornwall Wildlife Trust · Natural England · rspb giving nature a home · National Trust · Marine Management Organisation · Cornwall Council · wise · Devon & Cornwall Constabulary · Cornwall SEAL Group Research Trust · British Divers Marine Life Rescue

How you can help

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

Wildlife sightings can be reported online at:

www.ORKS.org.uk

Please tell us about any disturbance of marine wildlife. Call our 24-hour hotline.

0345 201 2626

Find out more

For more information and to download our full marine and coastal guidelines check out:

www.cornwallmarinelifecode.org.uk

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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 to avoid trampling animals or plants.
- Let animals move away. Don't chase, feed or touch wild animals.
- Take all litter home.
- Keep pets under control, as they can cause disturbance too.

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

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.
- Make sure animals have a clear escape route.

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

Be aware a sudden, close appearance can startle wildlife.

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.

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

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

- Limit flash photography.



Aim to leave all marine life as you found it