



Advice for water users in boats, jet skis and other craft

Watch Out for Marine Mammals!

Whales, dolphins, porpoises and seals are wonderful to watch, but must not be disturbed or you risk breaking the law.

If you see activity by others that is causing disturbance report it, dial :- **101**

Cornwall only - disturbance hotline 0345 201 26 26

Tell operator you are reporting a possible wildlife crime, providing:

- Date, time and location
- Behaviour of any vessel and animals before, during and after event
- Species involved (if known)
- Duration of interaction
- Identifying feature of person or vessel (boat names, car registrations, descriptions of persons including clothing worn and any logos etc. displayed)

If possible take photographs and / or video and retain as evidence.

DO

- Keep your distance. Avoid getting too close, especially if calves or pups are present.
- Avoid actions that can scare or panic animals (sudden noise or shouts). Be calm and quiet.
- Maintain steady direction and slow “no wake” speed.
- Keep the interaction short - no longer than 15 minutes.
- If dolphins or whales approach your craft, maintain slow speed and steady course.
- Observe any local codes of conduct or restrictions in sensitive areas.

DO NOT

- Make sudden changes to speed and direction.
- Approach from directly in front or behind.
- Drive between or scatter groups.
- Chase or repeatedly approach animals.
- Box animals in - take care not to trap them between your vessel and other vessels or the shore.
- Swim with, try to touch or feed the animals.

Following this advice will help you to remain within the law.

The advice reduces the risk of you disturbing marine mammals, enabling everyone to enjoy our waters and safeguard the environment.