

FULL CODE

JERSEY MARINE AND COASTAL WILDLIFE WATCHING CODE



Safe for Wildlife - Safe for You



Jersey 

States 
of Jersey



PREFACE

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This document is also available on the States of Jersey website www.gov.je/planningenvironment and www.eco-active.je.

Email : environmentenquiries@gov.je

A leaflet providing a summary of the Code is available in print from the Environment Department.

The need for this Code was identified within Jersey's Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy (2008).

D3ii. Develop a Jersey Marine and Coastal Wildlife Watching Code of Conduct, setting out recommendations, advice and information relating to commercial and leisure activities involving the watching of marine and coastal wildlife.

The Code contains information on:

- activities which are likely to disturb marine wildlife;
- circumstances in which marine and coastal wildlife may be approached and
- the manner in which marine and coastal wildlife may best be viewed with minimal disturbance.

This Code was developed in consultation with local scientists, wildlife watching tourist guides and people with an interest in Jersey's marine and coastal environment. It draws on extensive research of existing guidance and provides an opportunity to pull together, in one place, locally-relevant information relating to best practice on watching all species of marine and coastal wildlife in and around Jersey.

This Code will enhance the protection of marine species found within Jersey's territorial waters by supporting the laws, conventions and policies listed in Appendix I.

With its vast tidal range and strong currents, Jersey's coastal waters can be a dangerous place. The Code places strong emphasis on ensuring personal safety. By following the guidelines within the Code, marine and coastal users will be sure that they are acting safely, within the law and also helping to protect Jersey's marine and coastal environment and the species which live there.



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INTRODUCTION

Jersey's marine and coastal environment is unique in many respects; the incredible tidal range and warm sea temperatures provide an environment in which a huge diversity of marine organisms flourishes. Marine mammals are commonly sighted in Jersey's territorial waters; species include bottlenose dolphins and grey seals. More occasional marine animals include basking sharks, leatherback turtles, harbour porpoises and sunfish. There are also a large number of marine birds such as shags, black-backed gulls and herring gulls, which tend to be found on cliffs. Wader species, for example oystercatchers and plover, favour Jersey's extensive sand and mud environments. Less common bird species which inhabit Jersey's coastal environment include peregrine falcon, razorbills, fulmars and puffins.

Jersey's coastline and offshore reefs are semi-wild habitats, providing small wildlife havens which should be respected by residents and visitors alike. What appear to be small human pressures by individual visitors, when added together, can become significant causing irreversible damage to the environment and the species that live there.

Water-based pursuits are becoming more popular with the fantastic health and social benefits they provide. Jersey's marine environment is also an important tourism resource, with a number of local tour operators providing outings specifically to observe Jersey's diversity of wildlife. This enables people to visit otherwise inaccessible places to watch wildlife and experience the marine environment. Those who own boats also venture to these wildlife rich areas either purposely to experience the wildlife or encounter it incidentally.

It may be that the natural world can cope with the majority of human activities without causing

irreversible damage. However, there is evidence that with the increase in popularity of water-based activities human presence is having a marked impact on the natural environment and their inhabitants. Due to the increase in human pressures we now need to consider the individual impacts of our actions if we wish to preserve the natural environment now and for future generations.

The increase in human activities has the potential to impact the marine environment in a number of ways, for example, disturbances such as noise and human interaction, feeding of wildlife and an increase in sporting activities. The intensity of these activities may stress the marine animals which can result in a negative effect on their health. In extreme cases, animals will move away from an area for fear of the threat from human activities, for example,

- Chasing dolphins when in a boat.
- Trying to get too close to seals resting on the seashore.
- Disturbing areas where wildlife breed, nest, feed, roost and raft.
- Allowing a dog to chase birds on the beach.

These activities may result in the demise of sensitive species as often the places where these animals are found are the very areas that are optimum for breeding, nesting and feeding. Altering the way in which we interact with marine wildlife will keep disturbance to a minimum, whilst visitor experience is enhanced. If all visitors follow this basic Code it will ensure the continuation of the exhilarating experience of encountering marine wildlife at first hand for generations to come, as well as developing our knowledge of and enthusiasm for the marine environment.

Ramsar sites

One tool which enables the preservation of sensitive marine habitats and their species is through the designation of Ramsar sites. A Ramsar site is protected under The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. It is an International Treaty which provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

Jersey has four areas currently designated as Ramsar sites, covering 18,756 hectares. These are:

- South East Coast of Jersey
- Les Minquiers
- Les Écréhous and Les Dirouilles
- Les Pierres de Lecq

These areas are important marine habitats because of their significance in supporting important local and international wildlife.

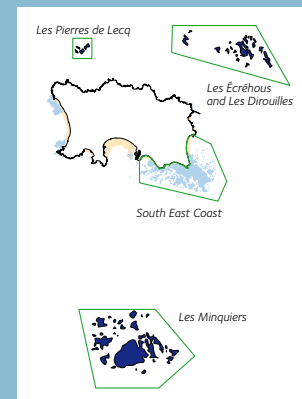


Figure 1: Areas currently designated as Ramsar sites within Jersey territorial seas (highlighted with a green border).

SSI – Sites of Special Interest

A total of 132.25 hectares of Jersey's land has been designated ecological Sites of Special Interest (SSI). A number of these SSIs are in coastal locations, but currently no marine SSIs exist in Jersey. Jersey's Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy (2008) proposes the establishment of marine SSIs, based on a set of criteria which takes into account all factors relating to the importance of a site. The Planning and Environment Department have pledged to safeguard and help manage the most valuable marine environments by designating them as marine Sites of Special Interest. Designation would only occur in consultation with other departments, agencies and stakeholders.

Designation of marine SSIs would also contribute towards our commitments under various International Conventions to which Jersey is a signatory including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.



Figure 2: Designated ecological Sites of Special Interest (marked in red) and proposed ecological Sites of Special Interest (marked in blue).

AIMS OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL WILDLIFE WATCHING CODE

Due to the complexity of the marine environment there are a number of laws and regulations, often overlapping, which encourage safety at sea and the protection of marine wildlife, see Appendix 1. Although not a legal document itself this Code aims to raise awareness by providing practical guidelines to prevent and minimize pressures on the marine environment and its inhabitants.

This Code contains information on the following:

- Sensitive marine areas and their wildlife.
- Watching and interacting with individual species.
- Local laws and regulations related to Jersey's marine wildlife.
- Specific water/ seashore based activities.

Jersey's Marine Wildlife Watching Code has been designed to ensure that wildlife is protected, whilst human safety and enjoyment is maintained now and for future generations.

It will:

- Help visitors enjoy watching marine and coastal wildlife.
- Improve the chances of encountering the wildlife.
- Minimise disturbance to marine and coastal wildlife from encounters with people.
- Provide a standard for the wildlife watching industry.
- Help marine and coastal visitors stay within the law.
- Provide a framework against which more detailed user Codes or management measures may be developed to address specific issues (e.g. Kite-surfing in Grouville Bay, visitors to Les Écréhous).



MAIN PRINCIPLES FOR INTERACTING WITH MARINE WILDLIFE

There is no reason why people and wildlife cannot co-exist if care is taken to follow this Code. There are some basic principles, which will help us all to enjoy the marine and coastal environment safely without causing any unnecessary disturbance to wildlife.

Knowledge

When venturing out into the marine environment ensure that you have researched the local area and the species that you may encounter. Obtain a good understanding of how your actions will affect the marine environment and behaviours which the wildlife may perceive as threatening. In the presence of wildlife be alert, patient and observant to ensure that the wildlife's best interests come first.

Responsibility

Be responsible for your actions when interacting with marine wildlife, use the knowledge you have obtained to ensure your actions do not interfere with or disturb the animals.

Acknowledgement

Take note of the warning signs that animals show when distressed and move away. Be sensitive to the amount of time you spend interacting with the animals, the presence of humans will disturb them.

Respect

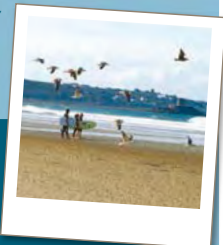
Ensure that you respect the marine environment, its inhabitants and other users. Abide by the local rules and regulations to ensure that your

behaviour is appropriate, see Appendix 1. Keep a safe distance from wildlife, if in any doubt stay away from it. Always leave the marine environment as you found it.

Safety

Safety of yourself and your companions is paramount. All marine environments have the potential to be dangerous. Jersey's can be particularly challenging due to the large 12 metre tidal range, fast currents and rocky coastline. Human safety must always take precedence when following the advice given within the Code, but it is equally important not to put yourself in danger in the first place. Further information about safety is provided on p12.

This Code provides some basic information on species you may encounter around Jersey, see p30. Further information can be found at local visitor centres, Discovery Pier, Kempt Tower and the Maritime Museum, or on local websites and in locally relevant books.



Discovery Pier is a marine environmental visitor centre located at the end of Gorey Pier. Open daily from 1st May – 30th September, it provides a wealth of information about Jersey's marine and coastal environment. (www.eco-active.je) **Tel: 01534 617704**

Kempt Tower located in St Ouen's Bay, is an environmental visitor centre open daily from 1st May – 30th September. It covers a broad spectrum of environmental issues, some of which relate to the marine environment, for example, offshore wind energy and recreation within St Ouen's Bay. (www.eco-active.je) **Tel: 01534 483651**

The Maritime Museum in St Helier, is open from Easter until the end of October. It is another invaluable source of information focusing on Jersey's maritime heritage and the experiences of Islanders, both contemporary and historic. (www.jerseyheritagetrust.org) **Tel: 01534 811043**

POINTS OF CONTACT AND INFORMATION

ACTION	CONTACT
To report disturbance to wildlife:	Environment Department: (01534) 441600 Harbour Office: (01534) 497788 Meteorological Office: (01534) 745550 (24 hour emergency)
To report wildlife sightings:	Environment Department: (01534) 441600 To record your wildlife sightings online visit: www.eco-active.je
To report live stranding, oiled birds, or any marine animals which appear to be distressed:	Jersey Animal Shelter: (01534) 724331 (office hours) 07797 720331 (24 hour emergency)
To report dead marine animals:	Environment Department: (01534) 441600 (office hours) or Meteorological Office: (01534) 745550 (24 hour emergency)
To report a water pollution incident:	Pollution Hotline: (01534) 709535
If using VHF radio:	St Helier Port Control – VHF CH14 Jersey Coast Guard – VHF 25, 82 or 16
For further information on the Code:	Environment Department: (01534) 441600 Howard Davis Farm, La Route de la Trinité, Trinity, Jersey, JE3 5JP T: +44(0)1534 441600 F: +44(0)1534 441601 www.gov.je/planningenvironment
To find out more about Marine Wildlife:	Kempton Tower Discovery Pier Maritime Museum More information can be found online, by visiting www.eco-active.je

WiSe (Wildlife Safe) accredited operators

Using local operators familiar with the area for your diving and wildlife expeditions should increase the value of your experience and ensure that no offences are committed.

The WiSe (Wildlife Safe) scheme offers nationally recognised training and accreditation to charter operators wishing to become involved in sustainable marine ecotourism. WiSe training is suitable for operators who both specifically set out to view wildlife and those who have chance encounters. The course sets out the best code of practise when interacting with marine wildlife and specific information about wildlife in Jersey, which can be used to educate customers.

There are a number of WiSe accredited tour operators in Jersey who have undergone the appropriate training and are recommended by

the States of Jersey's Environment Department and Jersey Tourism. A full list of locally accredited operators can be found at www.wisescheme.org.

WiSe has recently expanded its awareness programme with the production of a DVD entitled 'The WiSe way to watch wildlife' to advise boat owners on the best ways to minimise disturbance of marine life through careful and considerate boat handling. This DVD is available free from the Environment Department.

If you wish to know more about WiSe, please contact: WiSe - Wave Action on: (01326) 313886 or visit www.wisescheme.org



SAFETY IN JERSEY'S MARINE AND COASTAL AREAS



Jersey has a 12 metre tidal range, which is one of the largest in the world. The speed at which the tide alters can often catch people unaware if they have not researched Jersey's marine environment. To minimise the potential risks associated with Jersey's marine environment please take appropriate precautions. Before venturing into or on Jersey waters ensure that you have:

- A well maintained vessel.
- Dressed appropriately for the activity you are pursuing.
- The appropriate safety equipment.
- Good knowledge of local waters.
- An up-to-date weather forecast.

- A good compass, charts of the local area and a GPS if you have one.
- Adequate training from a reputable organisation such as the RYA.

For more information on courses and information about boating in Jersey waters please contact the St Helier or Royal Channel Yacht Clubs.

It is good practice to radio into Jersey Coast Guard (VHF Channel 25 or 82) as you leave Jersey to inform them of your departure and intended destination. Then radio again when you arrive at your destination or are back in Jersey. If you are going offshore you should also keep a proper log of where you are and of any incidents which are important to navigational safety.

Safety note – boat users

Ensuring the safety of vessels and their passengers takes priority at all times. Actions taken to prevent injury or loss of life or to save a vessel are generally exempt from special speed limits or other restrictions.

To aid the safety of a vessel and its passengers always:

- Avoid conflict with other users by knowing and abiding by the collision regulations.
- Understand your local marine environment.
- Carry the appropriate safety equipment.
- Be safe at sea by following the appropriate guidelines.



Speed note – boat users

An appropriate speed within sensitive marine areas is a maximum of **5 knots over ground, but preferably a 'no-wake speed' of around 3 knots**. A speed of 5 knots should not be exceeded unless tidal conditions dictate that a higher speed is needed in order to stay in control of your vessel and for boat manoeuvrability.

Currently, it is an offence for a boat to exceed a speed of 5 knots when in a harbour or within 200 yards of the shoreline unless a special permit has been issued or when starting a ski tow. This regulation shall not apply to any boat while it is being used on any life-saving operation. It is also an offence to drive a speed boat recklessly or at a speed or in a manner which is dangerous to other persons in or on the sea.

The 5 knot speed limit also applies to all jet skis in the larger Island bays as well as in the vicinity of the offshore reefs of Les Minquiers and Les Ecréhous.

St Helier Port Control
VHF CH14

Jersey Coast Guard
VHF 25 or 82

Use Channel 16 if the call is a distress or urgency call

Jersey Harbours
Tel: (01534) 447788

WHAT IS DISTURBANCE?



Photo courtesy of Andrew Syvret

In common with many similar Codes, the Jersey Marine and Coastal Wildlife Watching Code is primarily concerned with minimising disturbance. This can be interpreted differently by different people and different user groups.

We have taken this working definition from the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code as follows:

'The result of direct or indirect interaction with people that changes the behaviour of an animal or changes the environment, which in turn affects the well-being or survival of an animal in the short, medium or long term.'

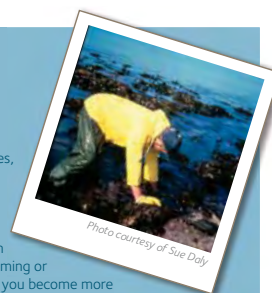
This might include, for example:

- Direct injury (collisions, propeller damage).
- Changes in distribution.
- Disruption of communication, migration, breathing, breeding, nursing, feeding or resting.
- Excessive use of energy and eventually loss of condition caused by continual or repeated avoidance or flight.
- Increased vulnerability of an individual or population to predators or physical stress.
- Damage to habitat.

Indicators of disturbance and stress can vary with each species, but in general, include signs of being startled (heads up, freezing, sudden diving and swimming or flying away). As you become more familiar with each species, it is important to learn the 'tripwire moment' i.e. the point at which an animal goes from just being aware you are there, to actually being disturbed.

There is now a substantial body of evidence to show that disturbance can have serious long term impacts – to the detriment of the animals themselves, to the wildlife watching business, and to future generations. (adapted from A Guide to Best Practice for Watching Marine Wildlife).

Many forms of disturbance can be tolerated by marine wildlife. However, several factors, such as repeated disturbance, caused by large numbers of watchers and at sensitive times or locations can transform what you may think to be minor into major disturbance.



Seals	Birds	Cetaceans
Rapid swimming to and fro.	Appear aggressive and agitated.	Attempts to leave the area or moves away from the vessel.
Head erect and whiskers bristling.	Head craning or turning.	Hasty dives.
Nervous movement.	Head bobbing.	Changes in breathing patterns.
Sudden panic diving.	Wings flapping in situ.	Erratic changes in speed and direction.
Shuffling or milling if on rock/beach.	Making loud calling noises.	Lengthy periods underwater.
Stampede into the sea or if already in sea crash diving.	Swooping and dive bombing observers.	Aggressive behaviours, such as, tail slaps and trumpet blows.

Table 1: Behaviours which indicate signs of disturbance or distress in marine wildlife.

ON THE COAST

Jersey's coast is a wonderful place to start to discover our varied marine wildlife. Whether viewing colonies of cliff-nesting birds, exploring rock pools or spotting dolphins from headlands, interactions with wildlife in its natural habitat can be an exhilarating experience.

If you are on land and are watching marine wildlife then you should follow this part of the Code. Even if you encounter wildlife incidentally you should also observe the guidance provided below as far as practicable and so long as it is safe for you to do so.

The first points refer to general use and for walking in inter-tidal areas, following that are specific points for recreational fishermen and climbers.

General Code

- **Respect the peace and quiet of the natural habitats and avoid disturbing others.** Being aware of the Countryside Code and following a common sense approach of 'take only photographs, leave only footprints' will help people and wildlife enjoy the coast together; this includes taking all litter home with you, from cigarette butts, barbeques and dog mess to more general forms of rubbish. Remember that under the Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000, it is an offence to disturb bird's nests or remove eggs and to pick wild plants.
- **Keep to footpaths, particularly on the cliffs.** Deviating from cliffpaths can cause damage and disturbance to plants and wildlife and may be dangerous. It is also important to remember that some of the cliffpaths in Jersey cross private property.

- **Keep a good lookout for wildlife and don't get too close.** Use binoculars to get a better view.
- If you are lucky enough to spot wildlife, **stop and assess what the animals are doing, where they are going and what you can do to avoid disturbing them.** If they move away, let them move away.
- **If you do choose to approach wildlife, follow these basic guidelines:**
 - approach slowly and cautiously;
 - make sure that your movements are steady and predictable;
 - approach at an oblique angle – a direct approach can be perceived as a threat;
 - do not cut off an animal or group of animals or approach them from behind and
 - make sure that animals are not surrounded.
- **Let animals decide how close they want you to be.** If you see signs of disturbance (p15) you should move away, and if possible to do so safely, take an alternative route. Disturbance is likely to increase as the number of people watching increases.
- **Never feed or touch wildlife.** Wild animals can cause personal injury and there is the potential for contracting diseases from wild animals, and passing on human diseases to them.
- Photographing wild animals can be a very rewarding experience. **To minimise disturbance try to keep your distance by using a telephoto lens and avoid using flash photography** – make sure this is not the default setting on your camera.
- **Do not ride bicycles or motor cycles on cliff paths.**
- Take extra care at particularly **sensitive times of year** in places where animals may be feeding, resting, breeding or with their young. For example, at high tide when space is limited for birds rafting and feeding.

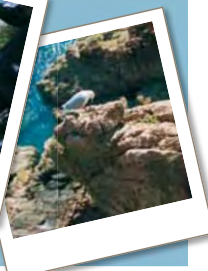
Additional guidance for walking along inter-tidal areas

- **Be aware of your environment,** the sea can rise very quickly in Jersey so be aware of the tides and avoid becoming stranded.
- **Check the weather** before your trip and let someone know where you are going.
- **Take care when climbing on rocks and on seaweed,** it is easy to misplace your step or slip over.
- **Do not trample through rock pools.** Take care where you step, you may not see creatures which are attached to the rocks. **If you lift rocks, be sure to put them back the same way up and in the same place.**
- **Collection of souvenirs** such as shells, pebbles or marine creatures should be kept to a minimum.
- **Look but refrain from touching marine life.** It can be sensitive to rough handling, which may result in injury or death. If you do touch or pick up small animals from rock pools, handle them with great care and put them back where you found them.
- **Do not allow your dog(s) to chase birds** as they can cause great disturbance. Particular conflicts arise on beaches between dogs and feeding birds at low water. Allowing your dog to chase through large flocks of feeding or roosting birds can cause them to use valuable energy to fly away and even stop them feeding altogether.

Additional guidance for recreational fishermen

As well as the general guidance, please note the following:

- **Keep up to date with minimum sizes.**
The latest leaflets and guides are available from the Environment Department.
- **Take care in handling fish which are below the minimum size** and those you do not intend to keep.
- **Please return all fish that you do not intend to keep alive** into the sea to help conserve stocks.
- **Place discarded tackle and all other rubbish in the bins provided** or take it home for disposal.
- Catch fish for personal and family consumption and **not for sale or financial gain.**
- Advise the Fisheries and Marine Resources Section of **any fishing activities that appear to contravene the regulations.**
- **If you overturn rocks please carefully replace them as you found them,** they are the homes of intertidal species which rely on them for shelter whilst the tide is out.
- For some species **circle hooks can reduce the incidence of deep hooking.** Consider using them as a conservation measure.
- **If you catch or see an unusual species let Fisheries and Marine Resources know,** as it will increase our understanding of the marine environment.



Additional guidance for climbers

As well as the general guidance, please note the following:

- **Try to avoid climbing near known nesting sites,** this may cause nesting birds to fly away, leaving eggs or chicks exposed to predators.
- **If you find a nesting site by accident move away carefully** – try not to disturb the eggs, chicks or nesting birds and find another route.
- Details of specific areas which are best avoided during the nesting season are available from the Société Jersiaise Bird Section Tel. (01534) **758314** or the Environment Department on Tel. (01534) **441600.**
- **When cleaning pitches,** do not disturb plants, vegetation, wildlife, nests, chip or alter the rock face.
- **Do not leave fixed protection, or permanent anchors,** of any kind.
- Remember it is climbers' responsibility to ensure that the cliffs remain open for access to all of the many species that inhabit Jersey.
- Act responsibly and enjoy your climbing.

ON THE SEA

Without jeopardising the safety of passengers and vessel we should conduct ourselves in a manner which does not alter the natural behaviour of marine wildlife and their safety.



We share Jersey's marine and coastal waters with a large diversity of marine wildlife. Wildlife is an important feature of a boat trip of any kind. As well as viewing wildlife from their own boats, increasing numbers of people are taking advantage of the wide variety of dedicated wildlife watching tours offered in Jersey from kayaks, RIBs and sailing boats. Bottlenose dolphins and seals are regularly sighted, even from great distances.

If you are out on a boat of any kind watching marine wildlife then you should follow this Code. If you encounter wildlife incidentally you should also observe the guidance provided below as far as practicable and so long as it is safe for you to do so.

The first points refer to general boat users, followed by specific points for jet-skis and those under sail, paddling or rowing. Please see Appendix II for the wildlife watching Codes developed by the Jersey Kitesurfing Association and the Jersey Canoe Club.

This Code of Conduct applies to both recreational and commercial users of the marine environment.



General Code

- All wild animals and their habitats are sensitive to disturbance and need to be treated with respect and understanding. A number of marine species are protected by law and it is an offence to intentionally kill or injure protected marine wildlife (unless you hold a permit).
- Before visiting a site **research the area** to get an understanding of the wildlife and any restrictions which may be applicable to visitors.
- **Respect the rights of others to also enjoy Jersey's marine and coastal environment.** Avoid conflict with other marine and coastal users by adhering to the relevant Fisheries and Harbours' regulations.
- If you are lucky enough to spot wildlife, **stop and assess what the animals are doing, where they are going and what you can do to avoid disturbing them.**
- Photographing wild animals can be a very rewarding experience. To minimise disturbance try to **keep your distance by using a**

telephoto lens and avoid using flash photography – make sure this is not the default setting on your camera.

- **If you do choose to approach wildlife, follow these basic guidelines:**
 - reduce your speed to the minimum consistent with safety;
 - approach slowly and cautiously;
 - make sure that your movements are steady and predictable;
 - approach at an oblique angle – a direct approach can be perceived as a threat;
 - do not cut off an animal or group of animals;
 - do not approach them from behind and
 - make sure that animals are not surrounded or boxed in within enclosed bays.
- **Let animals decide how close they want you to be.** As a general guide, keep a distance of 100 metres from a marine animal, unless it approaches you – they can be very curious if unstressed. If you see signs of disturbance,



Photo courtesy of Stephen Westcott

then you should move away and, if possible to do so safely, take an alternative route.

- **Avoid areas** which are known for nesting, breeding, resting and feeding of marine wildlife.
- **Do not disturb dense populations of marine animals or birds** as they may be courting or feeding.
- Keep a good lookout for wildlife and don't get too close. **Use binoculars** to get a better view.
- **Disturbance is likely to increase as the number of people watching increases.** Therefore, avoid overcrowding and refrain from alerting other vessels about the location of marine animals. If the area becomes over crowded you should move away.
- **Limit observation time** – when in the presence of marine animals, observe them for a **maximum of 15 minutes.**
- If marine animals decide to approach you, for example to bow ride, **maintain a steady speed and course where possible.** Try not to present propellers to approaching animals.
- **Do not chase marine wildlife.** If they move away, let them move away.
- **If safe, switch off your sonar equipment when near cetaceans** as this can affect their communication and navigation.
- **Interactions with marine wildlife can tame them resulting in the loss of their natural instinct of fear.** Subsequently they may need managing to prevent injury, disturbance or death.
- For your safety and the health of marine wildlife, **never attempt to swim with, touch or feed the animals.** Wild animals can cause personal injury and there is the potential for contracting diseases such as brucellosis from wild animals, and passing on human diseases to them.
- When exploring the marine environment, **it is advisable that you go with an accredited and experienced guide** from a reputable company or organisation or that you and your party are suitably experienced or trained.
- **Take all litter home** – plastic and glass are dangerous to wildlife and other people.
- It is an offence, under the Water Pollution (Jersey) Law 2000, **to spill fuel, oil and other hazardous substances at sea.**
- It is an offence, under the Food and Environmental Protection Act (Jersey Order) to dump any waste, liquid or solid into the sea. **All waste should be retained and disposed of in the appropriate facilities on shore.**
- **If you see anyone recklessly disturbing or harassing wildlife please report it to Jersey Harbours or the Environment Department.**
- **Do not attempt to rescue wildlife that appears abandoned or injured** – please call the Animal Shelter – Tel: (01534) 724331.

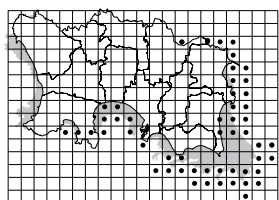
We would like to develop our knowledge of all of our marine species, particularly marine mammals. To help us please report your sightings via www.eco-active.je.

- Why not get involved in activities that protect marine life and support marine conservation groups?
- Ensure you follow safety Codes of Conduct for your specific sport – get in touch with local clubs, who may have useful, locally based Codes for you to follow.



Additional good practice guidance for all boat users

- Anchor away from sensitive areas, such as, seagrass beds and breeding, nesting and feeding sites. This map shows areas where seagrass grows in Jersey waters.



- Personal moorings should not be used without prior permission from the owner or Harbour authorities.
- Anti-fouling paint is very toxic to the marine environment and wildlife. Remove old paint inshore and dispose of it in the correct manner.



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Additional guidance if using an engine

- Avoid sudden unpredictable changes in speed, direction and engine noise.
- Keep your engine and propeller well maintained to minimise noise.
- In areas of intense marine animal activity consider fitting a propeller-guard to avoid causing injury.



Additional guidance if you are paddling, rowing or under sail (including kite-surfing or paragliding)

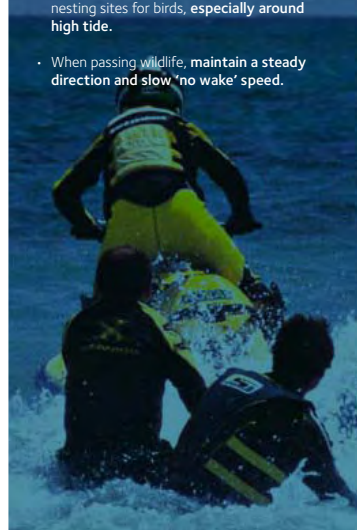
- Care should be taken when using non-motorised vessels. **Vessels with low or no engine noise are less likely to be heard by marine wildlife**, which may result in wildlife being startled or even collision.
- Be aware of any wildlife close to your craft to ensure that action to minimise disturbance can be taken as soon as possible.
- Remember that you may be vulnerable in a small craft. Marine animals can be unpredictable and may put you at risk.
- If you are under sail, **minimise tacking, jibing and flapping sails** close to marine wildlife, as long as it does not compromise your safety.

Please see Appendix I for the Codes of Conduct for kitesurfing and kayaking.

Additional guidance for personal watercraft ('jet skis')

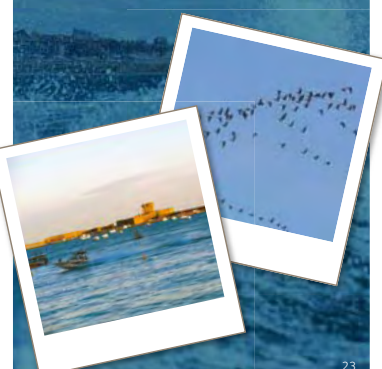
Jet-skis are not recommended for viewing wildlife. They are fast, noisy, low down in the water and vulnerable. Their speed and limited range of visibility means that collisions may occur that could be serious for both parties.

- Keep a good lookout at all times and keep away from marine wildlife, where possible.
- If you unexpectedly come across marine wildlife, **slow down and withdraw steadily to 100 metres or more**.
- Be aware of local regulations that may restrict jet-ski use, especially speed in and around Jersey's bays and offshore reefs.
- Avoid sensitive areas and stay clear of islands, sand banks and offshore reefs.
- Do not launch or approach roosting or nesting sites for birds, especially around high tide.
- When passing wildlife, maintain a steady direction and slow 'no wake' speed.



Additional guidance for water skiing / wake boarding

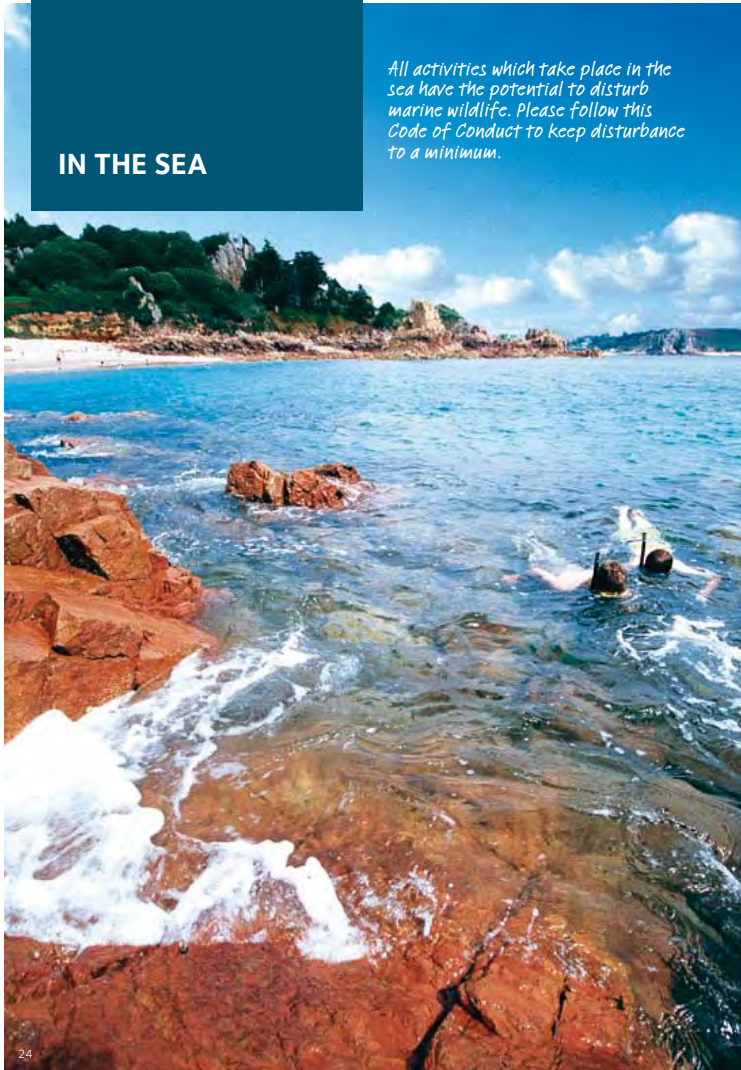
- Be aware of **site specific regulations** that may restrict water skiing / wake boarding use.
- Keep a good lookout for wildlife, if you do encounter wildlife ensure you give it a wide berth and avoid driving through groups of birds.
- Avoid creating **excessive wash** when passing wildlife.



23

IN THE SEA

All activities which take place in the sea have the potential to disturb marine wildlife. Please follow this Code of Conduct to keep disturbance to a minimum.



GENERAL CODE



Photo courtesy of Sue Doly

Dividing and snorkelling around Jersey with its abundant marine life can be a very rewarding experience both offshore and in the more sheltered areas such as Bouley Bay. The privilege afforded to divers of exploring otherwise inaccessible places comes with a particular

responsibility to avoid disturbance. Most divers, and some snorkellers, start out on a boat and should therefore also observe the On The Sea Code.

Swimmers should also be aware of and enjoy the marine life all around them, and follow the parts of this Code where possible and appropriate.

- Keep a **good lookout** on the surface and underwater.
- **If you approach marine wildlife**, follow these guidelines:
 - approach slowly and cautiously;
 - make sure that your movements are steady and predictable;
 - let animals decide how close they want to be; and
 - if you see signs of disturbance, stop and gently move away.
- **It is not advisable to swim with large marine animals.** However, if you find yourself in the water with a large marine animal, stay **at least 4 metres away**, be wary of the tail and refrain from touching or feeding them.
- If diving, ensure you can control your **movements and buoyancy** and that your gauges, octopus regulators, torches and other **equipment are secure**. This will help to avoid damaging animals and plants attached to the seabed or smothering them in clouds of sand

or mud. **Take care not to cause damage with your fins.** Some species are particularly vulnerable to physical damage.

- Wait until you have become a **competent diver** with precise control of your movements and buoyancy before taking **underwater pictures**. A flash is usually required, so avoid taking multiple pictures of the same animal.
- If you touch or pick up small animals, **handle with care** and put them back where you found them.
- If using a **torch**, be careful not to **dazzle and disturb fish**. Use the edge of a beam rather than shining it directly at marine wildlife.



Photo courtesy of Sue Doly



Photo courtesy of Sue Doly

CODES OF CONDUCT FOR INDIVIDUAL MARINE SPECIES

The safety and well-being of all marine wildlife is important and should be respected at all times. If you encounter wildlife not specifically mentioned, please follow the Marine Code of Conduct most relevant to that species.



St Helier Port Control VHF CH14
Jersey Coast Guard VHF 25 or 82
Use Channel 16 if the call is a distress or urgency call
Jersey Harbours Tel: (01534) 447788

CODE OF CONDUCT

for sea birds

- When observing wild birds ensure that you do not alter their natural behaviour. This can be achieved by:
 - keeping noise to a minimum;
 - avoid approaching bird colonies, roosts, rafts, nest and feeding sites closer than 100 metres; and
 - observing the birds using binoculars.
- The following behaviours indicate preparedness to fly:
 - head craning, head turning;
 - head bobbing; and
 - wing flapping in situ.
- If you observe any of the above move away and allow the birds to settle.
- Other signs of disturbance include:
 - swooping and dive bombing observers;
 - making loud calling noises; and
 - appearing aggressive and agitated.
- Be aware that birds may feel threatened by human presence, this may cause them to display behaviour resulting in personal injury.
- Avoid disturbing the birds by only using recognised landing areas.
- When in a vessel under motor, be sensitive to wind direction and engine fumes choking nesting birds.
- Never walk through a nesting site or feeding flocks, this may have a devastating effect on the birds and may cause irreversible damage to nests or nesting birds.
- Areas where birds breed, nest and feed include isolated shingle banks, enclosed bays, gullies and cliffs, it is recommended that people are sensitive to birds in these areas from 1st December to the 31st July.



Photo courtesy of Stephen Westcott

CODE OF CONDUCT

for seals

- Seals should be approached slowly and from a sideways angle to reduce stress.
- If a seal shows signs of distress immediately move away slowly, the first signs are called the 'tripwire moment', which include:
 - head erect and whiskers bristling;
 - nervous movement; and
 - shuffling or milling if on rock/beach.
- Signs of major disturbance include:
 - rapid swimming to and fro;
 - sudden panic diving; and
 - stampede into the sea or, if already in sea, crash diving.
- Observe seals from a distance of 100 metres using binoculars. Avoid staring or pointing at seals, they will find this behaviour intimidating.
- Care should be taken when using non-motorised vessels. Vessels with low or no engine noise are less likely to be heard, which may result in seals being startled or even collision.
- When in shallow waters be aware of submerged seals and never creep up on seals.
- Never place yourself between a mother and pup, particularly young pups left on beaches. Adult females generally rest underwater 10-30 metres from the shore.
- Hauling out or mooring close to young animals may distress nearby parent animals and prevent them feeding or approaching their young.

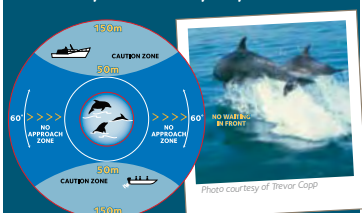


Photo courtesy of Pete Double

Main photo courtesy of Stephen Westcott

CODE OF CONDUCT

for cetaceans (dolphins and porpoises)



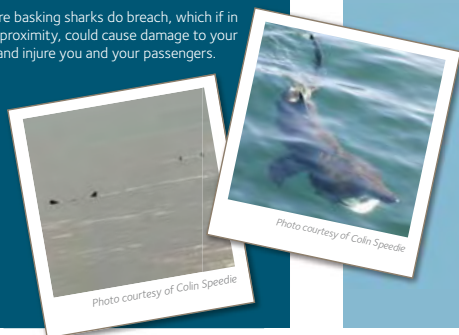
- On sighting cetaceans, vessels should **gradually slow down** to a speed no greater than **5 knots** (or no wake speed) and keep a distance of **100 metres** from the cetaceans.
- When encountering cetaceans whilst moving or if they choose to bow-ride, **continue on your intended course**, avoiding any unpredictable or erratic movements.
- Move away slowly if you notice signs of disturbance, such as:**
 - hasty dives;
 - changes in breathing patterns;
 - attempts to leave the area or move away from the vessel;
 - erratic changes in speed and direction;
 - lengthy periods underwater; and
 - aggressive behaviours, such as tail slaps and trumpet blows.
- Avoid groups of cetaceans with young and **never come between a mother and her calf.**
- Never drive deliberately between groups of cetaceans**, allow them to remain together.
- If safe, switch off all sonar equipment** when near cetaceans as this can affect their communication and navigation.
- If you discover a solitary dolphin, try to avoid interacting** with the animal by maintaining a steady speed in the direction intended. If you are followed into a harbour or marina by a dolphin contact the Harbour authorities (see Contacts list).

CODE OF CONDUCT

for basking sharks

Basking sharks are not common in Jersey waters, but are occasionally seen, if you encounter a basking shark please follow this Code.

- Basking sharks are commonly sighted in calm areas known as 'fronts'** as they feed on the plankton which is found in these areas (see photo below).
- They generally feed in a zig zag pattern**, therefore it is important to be aware of the basking shark's movement at all times. **Avoid erratic movements around the animals or sudden changes in speed.**
- On sighting a basking shark in vessels moving quickly it is **important to gradually slow down to a speed of 5 knots within 100 metres.**
- Let basking sharks approach you.** If basking sharks do choose to approach the vessel, maintain a steady speed without changing course.
- Be aware that basking sharks have **poor eyesight** and **may NOT move out of your way.**
- Allow groups of basking sharks to remain together.** Avoid deliberately driving through, or between, groups of basking sharks.
- Leave pairs of basking shark alone**, they may be courting.
- Beware basking sharks do breach, which if in close proximity, could cause damage to your boat and injure you and your passengers.



IDENTIFYING SPECIES IN JERSEY WATERS

How you can help?

Reporting your sightings of marine wildlife plays a valuable role in marine research. The information collected will contribute to Jersey's sightings database, increasing our knowledge and future protection of these species.

Please inform us of your sightings via www.eco-active.je, your reports will be

acknowledged and the Environment Department will issue an annual report summarising your sightings.

Information needed to record species includes: Date, time, observation platform, distance from observation, latitude and longitude, species, numbers of animals, direction of travel and distinguishing features.

Dolphin or Shark?



Sharks swim parallel to the surface, with their dorsal fins showing at the surface of the water.



Dolphins frequently rise to the surface in a curved movement to breathe through their blow holes.



Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) –
Average length: 1.5 metres
Rounded face without a snout. Small triangular dorsal fin. Dark back, light tummy.



Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) –
Average length: 3 metres
Short and thick snout. Grey coloration becoming clearer near the tummy.



Basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) –
Average length: 9 metres
Not common in Jersey waters and are harmless. They swim at the surface (dorsal fin and tip of tail visible) with their mouths wide open to collect plankton.



Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) –
Average length: 1.5 metres
This species is very rarely seen in Jersey waters. It is the biggest of the sea's turtles and feeds on jellyfish.

Grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) –
Average length: 2 metres
Grey in colour, with a straight snout (as a horse's head) and parallel nostrils.

Copy and diagrams © GECC.

SPECIES FOUND IN JERSEY'S COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS

This is not an exhaustive list but provides information on species you may see and be able to identify.

Bottlenosed Dolphin

Tursiops truncatus

Broad Habitat: Shallow seas

Bottlenosed dolphins are common in Jersey waters. They are pale to dark grey in colour and reach a size of 3-4 metres. Dolphins breathe at the surface through their blow holes and swim in pods of 2-25 individuals. The bottlenosed dolphin hunts for mackerel and cuttlefish using echo-location. It is thought that approximately 100 individuals inhabit Jersey waters.



Basking Shark

Cetorhinus maximus

Broad Habitat: Deep water

The basking shark is a highly migratory species and is occasionally sighted in Jersey waters. They are one of the largest known sharks reaching 6-8 metres long. There are a number of distinctive features of the basking shark, including its very large mouth which contains gill slits to filter feed on zooplankton. They have a pointed snout and are either dark brown, black or blue in colour. These sharks are slow moving creatures, which are harmless to humans if left to their own devices.

Grey Seal

Halichoerus grypus

Broad Habitat: Shallow seas



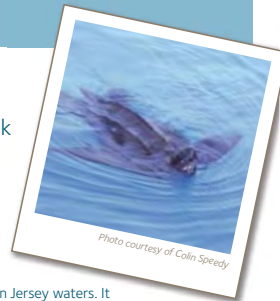
Grey seals are commonly seen on Jersey's offshore reefs. They are pale to dark grey or white, with various patterns. Grey seals can reach a length of 1.5 to 3.0 metres and a weight of between 100 and 150 kg. They feed on flatfish, skate and sandeels.

Leatherback Turtle

Dermochelys coriacea

Broad Habitat: Open ocean

The leatherback turtle is not commonly seen in Jersey waters. It is the largest species of turtle measuring from 1 to 2 metres in length and weighing between 250 and 700 kgs. They are easily identified because of their size and their black leathery (rather than a bony) carapace. They migrate large distances between their feeding grounds in deep, colder waters where they feed primarily on jellyfish. The female leatherback turtles return to the area of birth to nest.



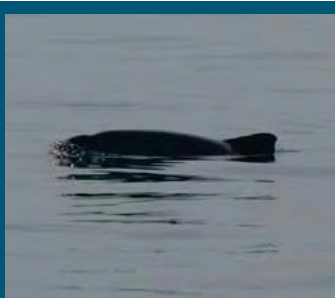


Photo courtesy of Colin Speedy

Harbour porpoise
Phocoena phocoena
Broad Habitat: Deep water

Although not a common species to Jersey waters harbour porpoises have been sighted here. They generally grow from between 1.4 to 1.9 metres in length and weigh between 61 and 76 kgs. They are dark grey in colour, with speckled sides. Harbour porpoises feed mainly on small fish, including herring and sprat.

Brent Goose
Branta bernicla
Broad Habitat: Seashore

Brent geese visit Jersey annually in numbers of between 8 and 1500. They can be found on sandy seashores and mud flats where they feed. In appearance the head, neck and breast are black separating the dark brown back and lighter belly quite distinctly. There is a white flash on the neck (this is missing on first winter birds) and both undertail coverts and rump are white.



Photo courtesy of Mick Dryden

Common Tern
Sterna hirundo
Broad Habitat: Shallow seas

The common tern is a summer visitor arriving in mid April and leaving again in early autumn for the West African coast. Common terns are pale grey above with a darkening towards the wing tips, they have a distinctly forked tail, with a black head and nape. The black tipped bill is red and so are the legs. They eat small fish, which they catch by hovering and diving. The diet also includes marine worms, insects, molluscs and crustaceans. They nest in colonies of varying sizes, on sand, pebbles or rock.



Photo courtesy of Sue Daly

Shag
Phalacrocorax aristotelis
Broad Habitat: Cliffs and shallow waters – never inland

The shag is a common resident in Jersey. Shags can be distinguished from the cormorant by the fact that they never have white feathers, where as cormorants do. Shags are, however, members of the cormorant family, they appear black, but they are in fact a dark, glossy metallic green. Their feet are black, fully webbed and large. The shag is a superb swimmer and hunts flatfish and pollack. They breed from March to June.



Photo courtesy of Mick Dryden

Great Black-Backed Gull
Larus marinus
Broad Habitat: Cliffs

The great black-backed gull has a rather slow heavy flight. Its wings are black with a white head, neck and tail, and a yellow bill. The great black-backed gull feeds on nestlings and occasionally adult birds during the breeding season. At other times of the year its diet includes fish, worms and shellfish.

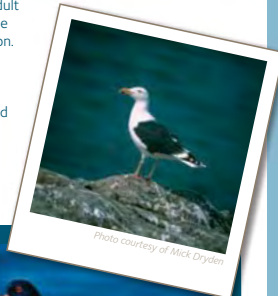


Photo courtesy of Mick Dryden



Photo courtesy of Mick Dryden

Oystercatcher
Haematopus ostralegus
Broad Habitat: Seashore

The oystercatcher is one of our most distinctive coastal birds with bold contrasts of black and white plumage, an orange bill and pale pink legs. This rather stocky bird is a purposeful flyer and the prominent snow white wing bar makes him immediately recognisable. Oystercatchers feed mainly on mussels, cockles, ragworm and lugworm. Over a million birds winter each year in Britain and Jersey's resident population is expanded during the winter months by birds from Scandinavia. Single pairs are the norm in Jersey and their nesting habitat is usually a small rocky ledge or depression on the Island's lower cliff areas and offshore islets.

Puffin
Fratercula arctica
Broad Habitat: Cliffs

Jersey's small colony of puffins breed each year on the North West coast. Numbers vary from year to year and it is thought that the birds are at the southern-most edge of their range here in the Channel Islands. They arrive in March and spend the spring and summer months rearing their young in deep burrows on grassy ledges. They can be best seen as they commute to and from their offshore feeding grounds where they hunt sandeels at depths of up to 15 metres. Occasionally they can be seen just offshore gathered in small rafts. In winter puffins spend their time far out to sea and are rarely seen from the shore.



Photo courtesy of Stephen Westcott

Herring Gull
Larus argentatus
Broad Habitat: Seashore

Herring gulls are a familiar bird to Jersey with their pale grey-blue wings and mantle. The wing tips are black with a circular white patch near the tip, often referred to as the mirror. The legs are pink and the yellow bill is slightly hooked at the tip with a red spot on the lower mandible. The head, neck and underparts are white. The herring gull is a colonial species both in and out of the breeding season and can be found around the whole of Jersey's coastline and in town settings. Fish, molluscs, worms and carrion make up their diet.



Photo courtesy of Mick Dryden

APPENDIX I JERSEY'S LAWS, INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND POLICY

Jersey is constitutionally a dependency of the British Crown. The Island is not part of the United Kingdom but forms part of the British Isles. The States of Jersey rent the foreshore from the Crown Estate at a cost of £4,500 per annum. The purpose of this rent payable lease is to give the Island control over our environment and the public full enjoyment of the foreshore. A purpose stated within the lease is:

"... to ensure the protection and the preservation of the environment and of the ecology both of the coast of the Island and of each part of the entire archipelago of the Bailiwick."

It agrees that the foreshore should be maintained and preserved for all to enjoy. The lease is renewed every 25 years.

In order to protect the species diversity that inhabits Jersey's territorial waters, coasts and offshore reefs the States of Jersey has signed up to international multi-lateral environmental protection agreements and adopted various local laws and policies.



Photo courtesy of Sue Dohy



International Law

- The **Convention of Biological Diversity**, 1992.
- The **Ramsar Convention** on Wetlands of International Importance as Waterfowl Habitat, 1971.



European Law

Jersey has an obligation to monitor relevant species under the:

- **Bonn Convention 82/461/EEC** on the Conservation of Migratory Species and Wild Animals (CMS).
- **Bern Convention, 1976**. The aim of this convention is to ensure the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats.
- **Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Sea (ASCOBANS), 1991**. Jersey is required to monitor the ASCOBANS listed species found in local waters to ensure they maintain a favourable conservation status as well as retrieving and reporting on by-catches.
- **International Convention for the Protection of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR), 1992**. Annex V relates specifically to the protection and conservation of the ecosystems and biological diversity of the maritime area.
- **African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), 1995**. The AEWA covers 235 species ecologically dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle.

Local Law

Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law, 2000. This law provides protection and conservation of Jersey's wild animals. Protected wild animal status extends protection to dolphins, porpoises and whales (*Cetacea*) seals (*Pennipedia*) and marine turtles (*Cheloniidae* and *Dermochelyidae*). All wild birds are protected except the crow, magpie, feral pigeon, wood pigeon and starling.

The Planning and Building (Jersey) Law, 2002. This law gives protection to sites designated as ecological or geological Sites of Special Interest (SSI) using criteria that include diversity, naturalness, fragility, typical-ness and potential value.

Water Pollution (Jersey) Law, 2000. This law provides the control and prevention of pollution in Island waters (internal and coastal) and implements the provisions of the **OSPAR Convention**. This law embodies current thinking on pollution protection based on best available techniques, the precautionary principle, and the 'polluter pays' principle. It is a statutory offence to pollute 'controlled waters' under this law.

The Environmental Protection Section of the Planning and Environment Department is responsible for the protection of Jersey's 'controlled waters' i.e. the territorial sea up to the 12-mile limit and coastal waters, including bays and inlets.

Boats and Surf-Riding (Control) (Jersey) Regulations, 1969. The aim of this law is to provide guidelines for safe use of all vessels in Jersey waters.





Food and Environmental Protection Act, 1987. This law prohibits the disposal of any substance into the sea. An exception order was introduced in 2007 which allows the deposit of certain items into the sea.

UK Rules of the Air, 1996. This law restricts the height that aircraft can fly from the ground. This is important in areas where birds are nesting. The law states that an aircraft shall not be flown closer than 500 feet to any person, vessel, vehicle or structure, except with permission in writing of the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority). Structures include buildings on both Les Écréhous and Les Minquiers.

Flying Code of Conduct – Jersey Airport are currently working towards the development of a Code of Conduct for aircraft. Within this Code consideration will be given to exclusion zones over sensitive areas, for example Les Écréhous, at particular times of the year i.e. breeding and nesting seasons.

Sea Fisheries (Jersey) Law, 1994. The Fisheries and Marine Resources Section of the Planning and Environment Department has the power to enforce all main EU and UK legislation regarding landing of catch. They also provided legislative measures and regulate fishing activity under the **Sea Fisheries (Jersey) Law, 1994** as amended.

For information on current regulations on catching fish please contact the Fisheries and Marine Resource Section on **(01534) 441600** or see web address:

<http://www.gov.je/PlanningEnvironment/Environment/Marine+Management/Fisheries+and+Marine+Resources/Fisheries+Regulation/>

Please note that laws, regulations and international agreements are continuously being modified, updated and changed. For more information please visit: www.gov.je/planningenvironment or contact the **Environment Department** on **(01534) 441600**.

Copies of local legislation can also be found on www.jerseylaw.je

Local Policy

Island Plan 2000. This document is currently under review and will be updated during 2008/9. The current version sets out a marine protection zone which extends to the edge of Jersey's territorial waters and provides general protection of the marine environment from development.

Biodiversity Strategy for Jersey, 2000. Aims to conserve and enhance Jersey's biological diversity and where appropriate contribute towards conserving global biodiversity.

Biodiversity Action Plans, 2006. There are obligations to develop biodiversity action plans for species within Jersey's waters, under the following:

- Article 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- The Biodiversity Strategy for Jersey (2000).
- The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy (2008).

The action plans aim to better understand species which inhabit marine and terrestrial environments. The action plans are there to highlight problems which these species face, for example, human disturbance, and what action can be taken to reduce negative impacts and sustain population numbers and their habitats. Biodiversity action plans which have been produced for marine and coastal species include:

- Ormer
- Basking shark
- Eel grass

Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy, 2008. The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy aims to identify the key factors affecting Jersey's coast and put in place a series of widely supported aims, objectives and actions, which will promote a co-ordinated and sustainable approach to the future management of Jersey's coastal zone.

The Strategy introduces measures that will:

- **Recover and conserve** the wildlife, habitats, geodiversity and cultural heritage of Jersey's coast and sea, their supporting ecological processes and overall resilience.
- **Increase understanding** of marine and coastal environments, their natural processes, the impact that human activities have upon them, how to minimise those that have an adverse effect and improve the quality of decision-making.
- **Promote and encourage** the use of natural resources in a sensitive manner to ensure long-term environmental, social and economic benefits.
- **Work with stakeholders** to promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of the value of marine and coastal environments and seek wider involvement in adapting to change and in developing new policies.



APPENDIX II CODES OF CONDUCT DEVELOPED FOR INDIVIDUAL SPORTING ACTIVITIES IN JERSEY



CODE OF CONDUCT for Kitesurfing

This voluntary Code of Conduct for kitesurfing at Royal Bay, Grouville was written by the Jersey Kitesurfing Association (JKSA), after consultation with the Société Jersiaise and the Environment Department.

Please kite within the area marked on the map. This is the area that lies between Fort William and Fort Henry.



Keeping within this designated section of the Bay throughout the year will ensure that the wildlife has an ability to seek refuge either side of the kitesurfer whilst kitesurfing, assembling equipment and landing kites.

Use your common sense. If there is a large flock of geese or other bird life on the beach or sea within this designated area please try and avoid disturbing them.

For more information about the Jersey Kitesurfing Association and for safety and environmental Code of Conducts, please refer to the JKA website: www.jerseykitesurfing.co.uk.

Setting up kitesurfing Equipment

- It is suggested kites are inflated at the top of the beach but not on the sand dune banks or in the car park.
- Kites are then to be walked down to the area of the shoreline and lines etc. set-up.

Launching of kites

- Kites are to be launched near the shoreline to ensure that bird life has adequate space up the beach and to the side of the voluntary designated kitesurfing area to rest and 'escape' a kite.
- Always keep your lines away from people, animals and craft on land.
- This area should only be used to launch/land and never to practise land-based flying skills, especially jumping.

Kitesurfing

- Before flying your kite, check your immediate kitesurfing area for wildlife to ensure that you are not creating an unnecessary disturbance the minute you are up and riding.
- Make a mental note of your location in respect to the designated kitesurfing area and ensure you remain within this area.
- If you are more than 200 metres from the shore, it does mean that you can kitesurf out of the designated area.

Landing of kites

- Kites are to be landed near the shoreline and not flown up the beach. This is for your safety, the safety of bystanders and will ensure minimal disturbance of wildlife in the area.
- As with launching, this area should only be used to land and never to practise land-based flying skills, especially jumping.

Carrying kites

- If possible kites should be deflated near the shoreline and carried up the beach. If this is not practical then kites may be safely carried up the beach but deflated before being taken off the designated kite surfing area.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Jersey Canoe Club

Developed by Jersey Canoe Club
Code of Conduct for Wildlife Encounters

Whilst paddling around the coast of Jersey and its adjacent reef areas, several wildlife species may be encountered. These include cetaceans (dolphins and whales), pinnipeds (seals) and various seabirds. To avoid disturbance to any of these animals and to comply with the Jersey Marine and Coastal Wildlife Code, the following information is offered.



General Information

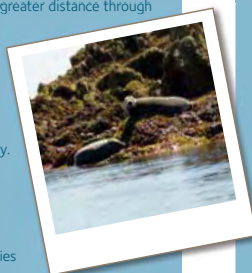
There is no reason why kayakers and marine wildlife cannot co-exist if care is taken to follow these Codes of Conduct.

Wildlife encounters are one of the many reasons we paddle and care taken will enhance the experience and preserve that experience for future generations.

Get to know and understand the area in which you are paddling or intend to paddle and the possible impact that your presence may have on any wildlife present. Learn to recognise signs of disturbance and thus avoid conflict.

There will always be a chance surprise encounter which will alarm paddler and animal alike, in this event back away slowly and give the animal(s) room to recover and return to normal. Viewing distances are advisory, the critical factor is that when viewing wildlife you do not cause distress or disturbance to the animals. In the event of any signs of disturbance back away slowly and quietly and view from a greater distance through binoculars if necessary.

The only exception to the following advice is in the event of a rescue intervention or danger to life situation. This action then takes priority.



Seals

The most common species around Jersey is the Atlantic grey seal. The most likely locations for encountering seals are amongst the reefs and gutters of the South East coast, the North coast, and also the reef areas known as Les Écréhous off the North East coast of Jersey and Les Minquiers off the South coast. The largest concentration and therefore likelihood of an encounter is likely to be at Les Écréhous. To avoid disturbance it is advised not to approach any animals closer than fifty (50) metres, especially if they are hauled out on the many rocks which uncover at low water. The WiSe (Wildlife Safe) Code lists types of behaviour that indicate disturbance as follows:-

- 1) At rest (obviously relaxed or sleeping).
- 2) Casually aware of your presence but attention unfocused.
- 3) Alert and staring at you ("The Tripwire Moment") animals will show signs of concern at your proximity such as head erect, whiskers bristling, nervous movement etc.
- 4) Shuffling or milling if on rocks.
- 5) Stampede into the sea or if already in sea crash diving.



encountered. Regardless of group size, do not attempt to get closer than fifty (50) metres and in any event approach slowly and quietly from as far away as one hundred (100) metres to allow the animals to become aware of your presence and adjust to it.

Animals, especially from family groups with young, may approach closely and then veer away and this should be taken as a warning of unhappiness with your presence or proximity.

If any signs are noticed indicating that they are becoming uneasy you should stop forward paddling and slowly back away and then resume paddling but at a distance which does not cause further disturbance or distress. Be careful not to encircle animals either deliberately or accidentally if paddling with a number of fellow paddlers, cetaceans require "sea room" relative to their size and no attempt should be made to restrict their passage or behaviour. In any event only remain in the area for a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes in order to avoid pressuring the animals which might lead to disturbance.

Learn to recognise different types of behaviour, tracking (maintaining a steady speed, surfacing rate and direction), playing or play fighting within the group (obvious interaction between individuals, some jumping or leaping), feeding (usually indicated by a group holding position within the tide flow and diving or turning rapidly, some signs of fish may be seen and also some seabird activity), signs of sexual activity (one or more animals closely interacting with another individual). If reporting obvious activity describe the details that you see when submitting your report.



Seabirds

Many species of seabirds are likely to be encountered around the coastal

Cetaceans

Various species of cetaceans have been recorded around our coastal waters from the smallest, the harbour porpoise to very rare sightings of large baleen whales. The most likely species which will be encountered is the bottle-nosed dolphin. These can occur in groups of varying sizes but in summer will probably be in "family" groups of up to ten (10) individuals. In the Spring and Autumn, larger groups of up to thirty (30) animals may be

areas and offshore reefs. All can be sensitive to disturbance and it is recommended that no approach closer than fifty (50) metres is attempted and if near known breeding sites no closer than two hundred (200) metres. When paddling in any of these areas it is advised that a quiet approach is adopted which will enable a better view without disturbance and that the use of binoculars for closer observation is adopted rather than a close physical approach. If birds are disturbed they may abandon a site and particularly in the breeding season be triggered into panic flight from ledges resulting in abandoned eggs or young which then become vulnerable to predators. In the event that groups of birds are encountered whilst paddling offshore, alter course to give a wide berth until safely clear and then resume your course. Close approaches or attempts to pass through a group of birds may cause them to drop food intended for young or disturb them whilst in the course of feeding with consequent loss to the adult birds themselves and the young which are reliant upon them.

Basking Sharks, Turtles and Sunfish

We do have visits by basking sharks although these are infrequent. Basking sharks are large animals up to ten (10) metres in length and are very powerful although normally docile. They have poor eyesight and can become preoccupied when feeding on plankton at the surface which is the most likely time of an encounter. At these times they can be unpredictable, making sudden and rapid changes of direction in pursuit of their prey. When feeding it is often possible to see the tip of the snout and also tips of dorsal and tail fins and a close pass by the shark will reveal the white inside of the large open mouth and gill rakers which trap the plankton as the animal swims. Periodically the animal closes the mouth to swallow accumulated food particles. Basking

sharks are most likely to be encountered when undertaking paddles offshore. It is quite likely that if an animal is seen on the surface that more are in the vicinity and care should be taken not to encircle or surprise them when feeding as an adverse reaction is likely. The presence of seabirds or oily slicks on the surface could well indicate basking sharks presence and close approach if these signs are observed should be avoided.

Occasional sightings of leatherback turtles have been recorded. These are large animals up to two (2) metres in length which primarily feed on jellyfish and which may also be encountered in areas of plankton where basking sharks may appear. They will come to the surface to breathe and can easily be mistaken for large surface debris as is encountered at any time when making open water passage. Care should be taken to maintain a safe distance as an animal could panic and crash dive and as a consequence quite easily overturn a kayak.

In the same conditions as basking sharks and leatherback turtles might be encountered, there is also the possibility of seeing a sunfish. Again these are large and from a distance could resemble discarded white plastic but with splashing on the surface being caused by their large fins. They tend to drift with the tidal current but if disturbed can dive with some speed and again should be treated with care if encountered. In the case of all of these species, viewing should be limited to fifteen (15) minutes and if any signs of disturbance are observed then move away slowly and resume your course when at a safe distance of one hundred (100) metres or more.

APPENDIX III USEFUL REFERENCES

NAME	CONTACT
National Trust for Jersey	01534 483193 www.nationaltrustjersey.org.je
Action for Wildlife	01534 855342
Société Jersiaise	01534 758314 www.societe-jersiaise.org
WiSe	www.wisescheme.org
Pembrokeshire County Council	www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk
The Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code	www.marinecode.org/scottish-marine-code-g.asp
Jersey Environmental Protection	01534 441600 www.gov.je/PlanningEnvironment
Jersey Fisheries and Marine Resources	01534 441600 www.gov.je/PlanningEnvironment
Jersey Canoe Club	www.jerseycanoeclub.co.uk
Jersey Climbing Club	www.jerseyclimbs.com
Jersey Kitesurfing Association	www.jerseykitesurfing.co.uk
GECC (Groupe D'Etude des Cétacés du Cotentin - France)	http://pagesperso-orange.fr/gecc
Kempt Tower	01534 483651
Discovery Pier	01534 617704
Maritime Museum	01534 811043



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