Important coast for cetaceans

Map to show IMMA’s around coastal Scotland ©marine mammal protected areas task force

Map to show MPA’s around coastal Scotland ©gov.scot

- Marine protected areas
- Other area-based measures
- Demonstration & research MPA
- Historic MPAs
Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code

Although the code is not a law or regulation, it does help people stay within the law.

A Guide to Best Practice for Watching Marine Wildlife
Aberdeen case study
Challenges faced

- Code has no legal weight
- Disturbance definition not fit for purpose
- 101 Call handlers long wait time
- Enforcement
- Hard to evidence
- Fatigue in reporters
- Police cuts moving staff
- Definition of harassment
Solutions

- Partnership with Police Scotland
- Identify hotspots for surveillance
- Standardised data collection
- Support reporting

Police Scotland North East
15 July 2022

Operation Seabird aims to engage and educate the public about the sensitivities of the coastline, and how simple changes in their behaviour could reduce pressure on our unique wildlife, throughout the UK.

On Thursday, 14 July officers carried out a day of action in Aberdeen in a bid to raise awareness of the impact recreational activities can have on local wildlife.

The local day of action followed a number of reports made to Police Scotland and Whale and Dolphin Conservation... See more

Katie Dyke Shorewatch
3 July 2023

We are working with Police Scotland to raise awareness of possible impacts and disturbance to #whales and #dolphins when folks are out enjoying the sea this summer to keep us and wildlife safe #RudeToIntrude Whale and Dolphin Conservation & WDC Scottish Dolphin Centre

PC Sutherland
Wildlife Crime Officer

Police Scotland
3 July 2023
Empowering communities
Chanonry Point case study
Challenges

Lack of Awareness

Misguided Reporting

Behaviour change takes a long time

Are we part of the problem???
WDC’s #RudeToIntrude Campaign

NEW GUEST BLOG: @whales.org Katie Dyke explains why it's #RudeToIntrude on marine wildlife and how to observe whales and dolphins responsibly. Read the blog: bit.ly/38MoY7D

1-3 Charlie Phillips WDC
4 Al Dennis
Solutions

- Prevention
- Education
- Targeted audiences
- Scottish vessel project
Recommendations

• Power to the community
• Prevention
• Push Policy
Thank you
Whales.org/disturbance
Whales.org/shorewatch
katie.dyke@whales.org