

# Report what you see



## Report a sighting: MWDW

Report any sighting of a whale, dolphin, porpoise or basking shark to Manx Whale & Dolphin Watch, noting date, time, location, species and behaviour, by visiting: [www.mwdw.net/sightings](http://www.mwdw.net/sightings)

## Report a seal sighting: MWT

Report any sightings of seals to Manx Wildlife Trust noting date, time, location, species and behaviour by visiting: [www.mwt.im/citizen-science/seal-sightings-and-sitters](http://www.mwt.im/citizen-science/seal-sightings-and-sitters)



## Report a dead stranding: MWT

All dead strandings of whales, dolphins, porpoises, basking sharks and seals are recorded by Manx Wildlife Trust volunteers. Stranded animals may carry diseases so do not touch and keep dogs away. Visit: [www.mwt.im/strandings](http://www.mwt.im/strandings)

## Report a wildlife crime: DEFA

It is a crime to recklessly disturb any of the species mentioned in this leaflet. If you are concerned about any behaviour you witness, take as many details as possible including photos or videos, and send them to: [fisheries@gov.im](mailto:fisheries@gov.im)



## Who to contact



01624 610 131  
[www.mwdw.net](http://www.mwdw.net)  
[info@mwdw.net](mailto:info@mwdw.net)



01624 844 432  
[www.mwt.im](http://www.mwt.im)  
[enquiries@mwt.im](mailto:enquiries@mwt.im)



DEFA

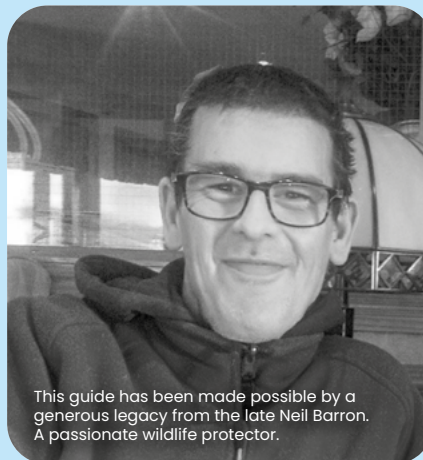
01624 685 884  
[www.gov.im/defa](http://www.gov.im/defa)  
[fisheries@gov.im](mailto:fisheries@gov.im)

A users guide to marine wildlife is for all recreational and commercial sea-users and gives guidance on how to safely behave around whales, dolphins, porpoises, basking sharks, seals, and seabirds.

The information provided in this booklet brings together separate Codes of Conduct for the above species in a format that is illustrative and easy to follow. It has been developed by Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch (MWDW), Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT) and the Isle of Man Government Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA).



MWDW | Eleanor Stone



This guide has been made possible by a generous legacy from the late Neil Barron. A passionate wildlife protector.

## A Users Guide to Manx Marine Wildlife



Lara Howe



Nikki Clear



MWDW



Brian Liggins

## How to observe and enjoy marine wildlife safely



Manx Wildlife Trust  
Treisht Bea-Feie Vannin



Isle of Man Government  
Rialtaer Ellen Vannin

DEFA



MWDW  
Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch

# What, When & Where:

A users guide to key sensitive areas and how to behave around marine species

## SEALS

**Seasonality:** Year-round, pupping in autumn  
**Locations:** Island-wide  
**Hotspots:** The Sound/Calf of Man, Point of Ayre, Langness, Maughold Head

## MOONLIGHT & STARLIGHT (Resident 'solitary' pair of bottlenose dolphins)

**Seasonality:** Year-round  
**Locations:** Coastal, island-wide  
**Hotspots:** Anywhere within 1 km of the coastline (particularly Peel, Port Erin, Ramsey/shallow sandy bays)

See also the Moonlight and Starlight Code of Conduct, visit:  
[mwdw.net/moonlight-starlight](http://mwdw.net/moonlight-starlight)



## SHORT-BEAKED COMMON DOLPHIN

**Seasonality:** Year-round, predominantly summer  
**Locations:** All around the coast  
**Hotspots:** Peel to Calf of Man

## BASKING SHARK

**Seasonality:** May to August  
**Locations:** Predominantly south and west coast  
**Hotspots:** Peel, Niarbyl, Port Erin and The Sound/Calf of Man

## RISSO'S DOLPHIN

**Seasonality:** March to October  
**Locations:** Southern coast between Douglas and Niarbyl  
**Hotspots:** The Sound/Calf of Man and Marine Drive

## BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

**Seasonality:** October to March, occasionally in summer  
**Locations:** Predominantly east coast  
**Hotspots:** East coast Ramsey to Langness especially Laxey

## MINKE WHALE

**Seasonality:** May to October  
**Locations:** Spring/summer: west and south, autumn: east  
**Hotspots:** Marine Drive in autumn

## HARBOUR PORPOISE

**Seasonality:** Year-round  
**Locations:** All around the coast  
**Hotspots:** Port St Mary/Baleny Carrikey and The Sound

## Key Sensitive Areas

	Whole and Dolphin		Nesting Seabirds
	Seals		Basking Shark
			Harbour Porpoise

For information on the Manx Marine Nature reserves, visit:  
[www.gov.im/mnr](http://www.gov.im/mnr)



## NESTING SEABIRDS

**Seasonality:** Late spring to late summer  
**Locations:** All around the island  
**Hotspots:** Sugarloaf, Point of Ayre, Langness, Peel, Maughold and Calf of Man

For a PDF version of the leaflet and further information, visit:  
[www.mwt.im/MarineGuide](http://www.mwt.im/MarineGuide)



Avoid committing a Wildlife Crime, anchor away from sensitive habitats. Find out more about sensitive seabed such as sea grass and maerl by visiting: [www.gov.im/mnr](http://www.gov.im/mnr)



Touching or feeding wildlife is dangerous and prohibited



Slow down, no wake within 300m. Boats, jetskis and yachts stay at least 100m away and keep parallel

When flying drones maintain minimum height and distance of 50m

# Observe, respect & enjoy



Maintain a 50m distance from nesting sea birds

Spend no longer than 15 minutes around wild animals

10m

50m

100m



BUS SCALE 10m

Report Wildlife Crime  
to DEFA on  
01624 685 884



Avoid nesting sea and shore birds, look out for agitated adult birds, watch where you step and keep dogs on a lead between April and July

Sea

Land