

# Marine Creatures of St Ives Bay

The Bay is host to a wealth of large marine creatures. Respect them and follow the code.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000) it is an offence to kill or injure cetaceans (dolphins, porpoises and whales) or to disturb cetaceans and basking sharks. To do so intentionally or recklessly may result in a prison sentence.

## GREY SEAL

The most commonly seen of the large marine creatures living in our waters. Grey seals use remote islands and caves for breeding. Seal pups spend their first 3 weeks on land. It is natural for them to be left alone by their mothers who keep watch from the sea. Seals can be easily disturbed when on land as they rest, moult and breed. The first sign of disturbance are the seals looking up in response to movement or sounds and moving towards the sea. Never approach, touch or feed seals of any age.



## BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

At over 3 metres, bottlenose are one of the largest dolphins commonly seen in UK waters, easily recognisable with their tall dorsal fin, short snout, bulbous head and pale grey colouring. They live close to shore, in small family groups and are often seen leaping in the waves. They like shallow sandy bays where they can rest and nurse their young.



## BASKING SHARK

These gentle giants, which can grow up to 11 metres long, feed on the smallest of creatures, called plankton. The basking shark swims along the surface of the water with mouth agape, filtering the plankton out of the water passing through their mouth and gills. They are the World's second largest fish and are usually seen during the warmer months.



## HARBOUR PORPOISE

This small porpoise (1.5 metres), has a compact body, no beak, and distinctive short dorsal fin. They are rarely acrobatic, shy of boats and often difficult to see. They occur in small groups, except at good feeding sites such as the strong tidal streams around some headlands. Prone to being caught in fishing nets, their numbers are declining around our coast.



## ATTENTION Marine Creatures Protection Scheme

Marine creatures are regular visitors to the southwest. They are highly intelligent animals, sensitive to disturbance but can easily be hit.

If dolphins approach your craft or bowride, maintain a slow speed and course until clear. Dolphins should never be chased or harassed in an attempt to make them bowride.

If you are going out on the water, please follow these simple guidelines:-

### CODE OF CONDUCT

- **KEEP** your distance (see diagram below).
- **NEVER** drive head on, or move between, scatter or separate marine animals
- **PLEASE** spend no longer than 15 minutes near the animals
- **AVOID** groups with mothers and young
- **MAINTAIN** a steady direction and no wake speed.
- **NEVER** dispose of any rubbish or contaminants into the sea
- **NEVER** swim with marine animals for your safety & theirs.
- **NEVER** attempt to feed any marine creature. They are wild animals.



MAXIMUM TIME 15 MINUTES



- **ALWAYS** keep at least 100m from red no go zones shown on the map: sensitive wildlife areas
- **NO** crossing between mainland and Godrevy Island
- **NO** landing on Godrevy Island or coves in the red no go zone

For details of marine wildlife watching, training and accreditation scheme, please visit the WiSE website [www.wisescheme.co.uk](http://www.wisescheme.co.uk)



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY  
[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)



ENGLISH NATURE  
[www.english-nature.org.uk](http://www.english-nature.org.uk)



WHALE & DOLPHIN CONSERVATION SOCIETY  
[www.wdcs.org](http://www.wdcs.org)



CORNWALL COUNTY COUNCIL  
[www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)

If you witness any harassment, please report the boat (its type, colour, name and any registration number) and the details to the Police on 08452 777444. Please report any sightings or strandings to the Environmental Records Centre on 01872 240777. Thank you for your help.