

**WHEN VIEWING MARINE WILDLIFE
PLEASE REMEMBER:**



ENJOY FROM A SAFE DISTANCE



AVOID SURPRISING MARINE WILDLIFE



**NEVER FEED OR ATTEMPT TO
FEED MARINE WILDLIFE**



DISPOSE OF TRASH PROPERLY

**IT IS ILLEGAL TO HARASS, PURSUE, FEED, HUNT,
CAPTURE OR KILL WILD WHALES, DOLPHINS, SEALS
AND SEA TURTLES IN THE U.S.**

- **Please report violations of federal laws to NOAA Fisheries Enforcement at:** (800) 853-1964
- **Please report all seal sightings or interactions to the NOAA Fisheries monk seal hotline at:** (808) 220-7802 or email PIFSC.monksealighting@noaa.gov
- **Please report entangled or injured seals, whales, or dolphins at:** (888) 256-9840
- **Please report sick, injured or dead sea turtles at:** (808) 983-5730 Mon-Fri, 7am-4pm
(808) 288- 5685 on weekends, holidays and after hours

HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL

ilio-o-ke-kai, 'ilio-holo-i-ka-uaua, mea hulu, and others

Protect the Hawaiian monk seal; let sleeping seals lie; enjoy them from a distance



- It is natural for monk seals to come ashore or haul out on the beach for long periods of time. Please give them the space they need to rest and do not attempt to push them back into the water or wake them up by approaching too closely.
- Roped off areas on the beach are for your safety and their protection – please do not cross these barriers.
- If you are approached by a seal, move away to avoid interaction. If you are in the ocean, cautiously exit the water.
- Pets, especially dogs, can pose a significant risk to monk seals. Please keep them on a leash when in the presence of monk seals to avoid injury or disease transmission for both seals and pets.
- In the ocean, monk seals may exhibit inquisitive behavior. Approaching or attempting to play or swim with them may alter their behavior and their ability to fend for themselves in the wild.
- If you encounter a seal while fishing, take a short break or change locations. Fish with a barbless circle hook to minimize hooking injuries.

Cautiously move away if you observe the following monk seal behaviors indicating it has been disturbed:

- **Female attempting to shield a pup** with her body or by her movements.
- **Vocalization (growling) or rapid movement** away from the disturbance.
- **Sudden awakening** from sleep on the beach.

HAWAIIAN GREEN & HAWKSBILL SEA TURTLES

Honu

Honu'ea

Protect wild Hawaiian green and hawksbill sea turtles; enjoy them from a distance



- Sea turtles frequent shallow nearshore areas. Please give them space to feed and rest.
- Drive boats and jet skis slowly near harbors and in shallow reef habitats to avoid collisions.
- Sea turtles require air to breathe and will periodically surface for air. Never prevent one from surfacing to breathe.
- Sea turtles use Hawaii's beaches to rest or to nest. Never try to push a sea turtle back into the water or pour water on it. Allow them a clear path, and never block their access to land or water.
- Feeding, touching or attempting to interact with sea turtles can cause stress, change their natural behavior, and is prohibited by law.
- When fishing, watch your gear to help reduce the potential for hooking or entanglement. Use "turtle friendly" gear such as barbless circle hooks, fish at night and use bait that is less attractive to turtles such as live fish bait. If you accidentally hook or entangle a turtle – IT'S OK TO HELP remove gear and line if safe for you to do so.

HAWAIIAN SPINNER DOLPHIN

Nai'a

Protect wild Hawaiian spinner dolphins; enjoy them from a distance



- Spinner dolphins use certain bays and areas close to shore to avoid predators, care for their young and rest. Swimmers and boaters that approach wild spinner dolphins could potentially disturb a critical period of rest that will affect their long-term survival.
- Dolphins may be disturbed by direct pursuit or from sounds produced by vessel engines and propellers.
- Never attempt to swim with a wild dolphin. Leave the water if approached by one.
- Do not encircle or trap dolphins between boats or the shore.
- If approached by dolphins while boating, put the engine in neutral and allow them to pass.
- Do not place your vessel in the predictable path of the dolphins (also known as leapfrogging).

A dolphin or dolphin pod that has been disturbed will:

- **Swim erratically with rapid changes** in direction or speed.
- **Protect their young** and may place themselves in the path of the boat.
- **Display aerial behaviors** such as leaps, spins, head slaps or tail slaps.
- **Stop important breeding, nursing, feeding or resting activities.**



**MARINE WILDLIFE
VIEWING GUIDELINES**
for Hawaii

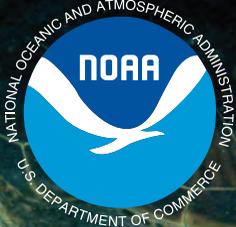
**NOAA Fisheries
Pacific Islands Region**

Pacific Islands Regional Office
www.fpir.noaa.gov
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
www.pifsc.noaa.gov



Watch from a distance...

for your safety and their protection



We're lucky to be in Hawaii where sea turtles, monk seals, whales and dolphins occur in our nearshore waters. It's not uncommon to share the surf or beach with marine wildlife. However, it is a privilege that comes with responsibility. Responsible wildlife viewing helps to ensure your safety and their protection and long term survival in the wild.



Marine animals such as **monk seals, sea turtles** and **dolphins** are part of the **identity** of the islands and **hold a special place** in the minds and hearts of the people of Hawaii.

TIPS FOR MAXIMIZING YOUR VIEWING EXPERIENCE

ENJOY FROM A SAFE DISTANCE

- Do not harass, feed, hunt, capture, kill, pursue, approach, surround, swim with or attempt to touch protected marine wildlife. Never entice protected marine wildlife to approach you.
- Keep a safe distance – we recommend 150 feet for most marine mammals. It is illegal to approach within 300 feet of a humpback whale.
- Disturbing wildlife interrupts their ability to perform critical functions such as feeding, breeding, nursing, resting, and socializing.
- Use binoculars to view animals from a distance to prevent disturbing them.

AVOID SURPRISING MARINE WILDLIFE

- Wildlife may be startled or stressed by loud noises and abrupt movements, potentially causing them to react unpredictably and harm themselves or you.
- Mothers will defend their young. Please use extra caution in the vicinity of mothers and their young when they are feeding, nursing, breeding or resting.

NEVER FEED OR ATTEMPT TO FEED MARINE WILDLIFE

Feeding or attempting to feed marine wildlife is prohibited under Federal law. This can:

- alter their natural behavior, make them dependent on humans, cause them to act aggressively or bite.
- deprive young animals from learning important survival skills.
- habituate them to humans and vessels, placing them at risk of injury.
- cause them to become sick or die from ingesting unnatural, toxic, or indigestible food items.

DISPOSE OF TRASH PROPERLY

- Improperly discarded debris or manmade items can entangle and kill marine wildlife.

FEDERAL LAWS PROTECTING WILDLIFE

MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT (MMPA)

All marine mammals are protected under the MMPA. This law prohibits actions such as feeding, hunting, harassing, killing, capturing, injuring, disturbing or changing the behavior of a marine mammal.

Hawaiian monk seals, dolphins and whales are **protected by the MMPA.**

For more information please visit:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/laws/mmpa>

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA)

The ESA protects all plant and animal species in danger of extinction. This law prohibits actions such as feeding, harassing, harming, pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, trapping, capturing, collecting an endangered species or attempting to engage in any such conduct.

All species of **sea turtles, Hawaiian monk seals and some dolphin and whale species** are **protected by the ESA.**

For more information please visit:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/laws/esa>



Watch from a distance...

for your safety and their protection



NOAA's viewing guidelines are intended to help you enjoy watching marine wildlife without causing them harm or placing you at risk. Please ensure that your actions do not disturb the animals you are observing. Enjoy watching marine wildlife from a distance and please leave the vicinity if you see possible signs of stress or disturbance.

For additional information please visit:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/education/hawaii>



**NOAA Fisheries
Pacific Islands Region**

Pacific Islands Regional Office
www.fpir.noaa.gov

Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
www.pifsc.noaa.gov