

Marine Mammal Disturbance: Challenges, Recommendations & Solutions

ECS/ASCOBANS Workshop: Recreational activities and their impact on cetaceans



Aula Darwin Room, University of Catania, Via Empedocle, 58, Catania, Sicily, Italy

9th April 2024

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WHALE AND
DOLPHIN
CONSERVATION



WDC { Shorewatch



WHALE AND
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CONSERVATION

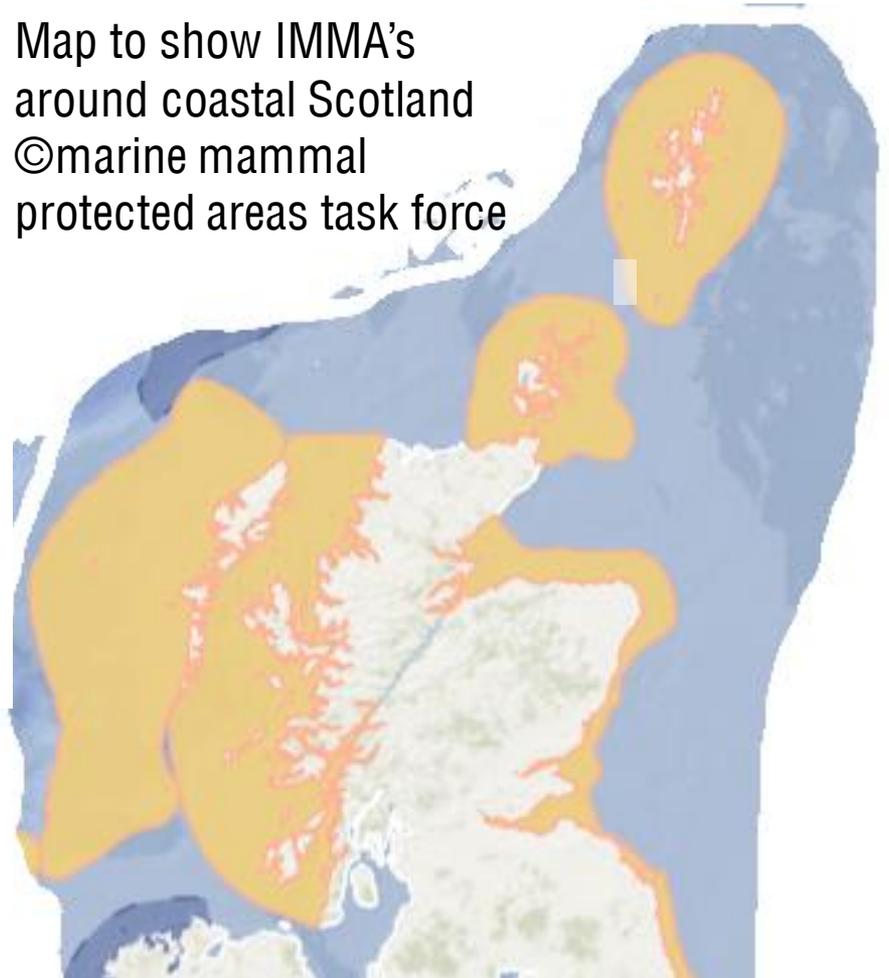
WDC {

Important coast for cetaceans



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

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

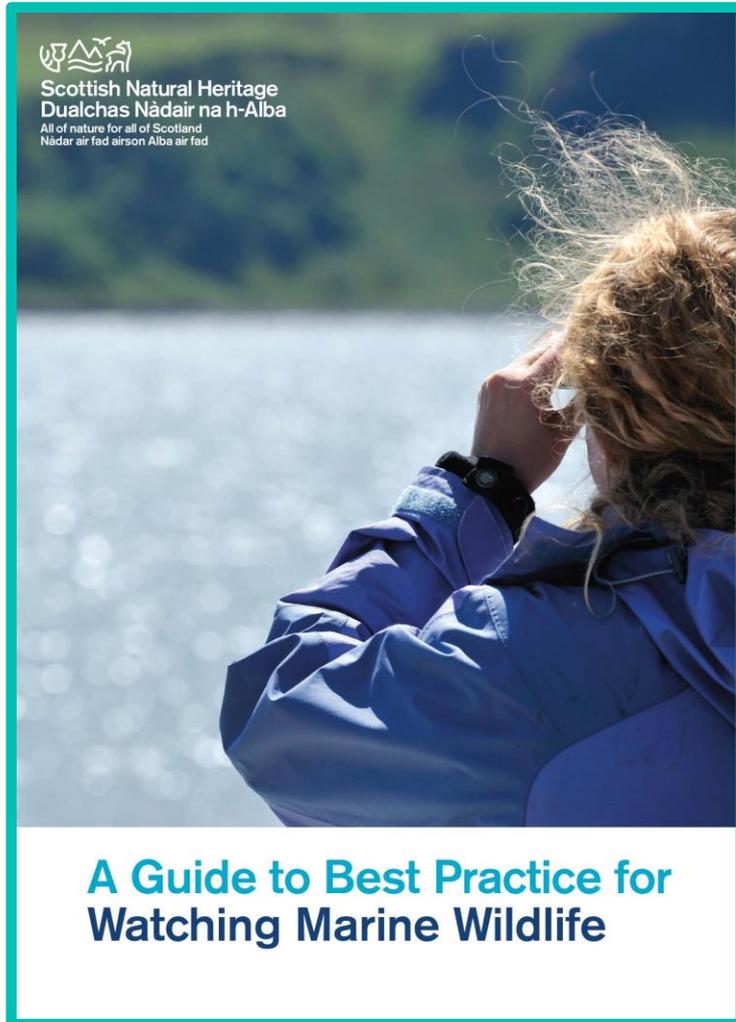




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Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code



ALTHOUGH THE CODE IS NOT A LAW OR REGULATION, IT DOES HELP PEOPLE STAY WITHIN THE LAW.

Aberdeen case study



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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 Conservati... [See more](#)



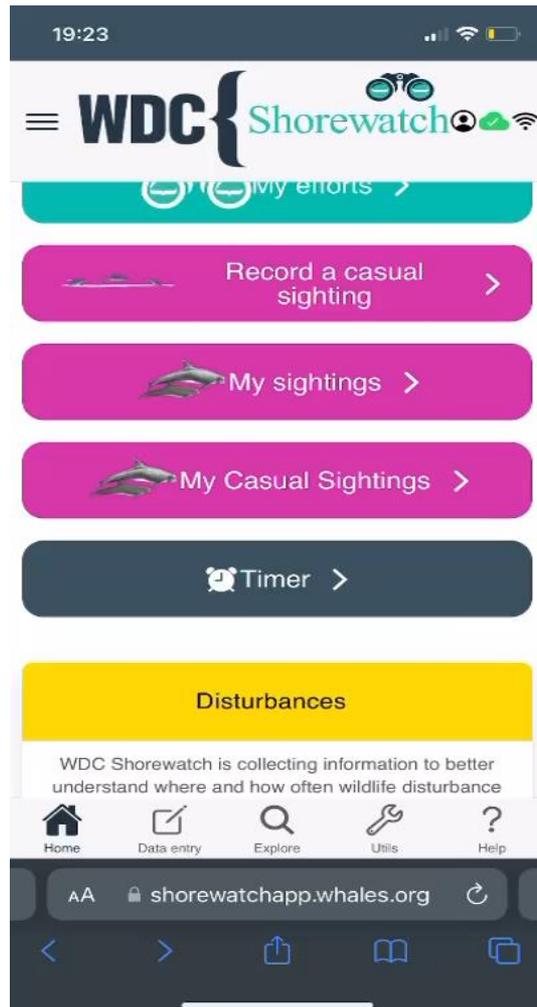
 Katie Dyke Shorewatch
3 July 2023 · 🌐

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



 Police Scotland
3 July 2023 · 🌐

Empowering communities



Chanonry Point case study



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Media Mania case study



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Challenges



**LACK OF
AWARENESS**

**MISGUIDED
REPORTING**

**BEHAVIOUR
CHANGE
TAKES A
LONG TIME**

**ARE WE PART
OF THE
PROBLEM???**

WDC's #RudeToIntrude Campaign



 Save Scottish Seas @SaveScotsSeas · May 25, 2022 ...
NEW GUEST BLOG: @whalesorg Katie Dyke explains why it's **#RudeToIntrude** on marine wildlife and how to observe whales and dolphins responsibly.   
Read the blog: bit.ly/38MpY7D
 1-3 Charlie Phillips WDC
 4 Al Dennis



Solutions



- Prevention
- Education
- Targeted audiences
- Scottish vessel project

Recommendations

- Power to the community
- Prevention
- Push Policy

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Thank you

[Whales.org/disturbance](https://whales.org/disturbance)

[Whales.org/shorewatch](https://whales.org/shorewatch)

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