

MEETING DOLPHINS



CODE OF CONDUCT

An encounter with a wild dolphin or a pod of dolphins is an experience relished by sailors and land lubbers alike. Many people are now swimming with dolphins. If you behave sensibly you can safely have the absolutely wonderful experience of meeting wild animals that have been called 'man's cousins in the sea' because of their brain size and intelligent behaviour. Dolphins can easily kill sharks with a blow from their beaks - please respect their power.

WILD DOLPHINS ARE NOT CUDDLY TOYS OR PETS

Here are some common sense guidelines to ensure that your meeting is enjoyed with the minimum of risk for all concerned.

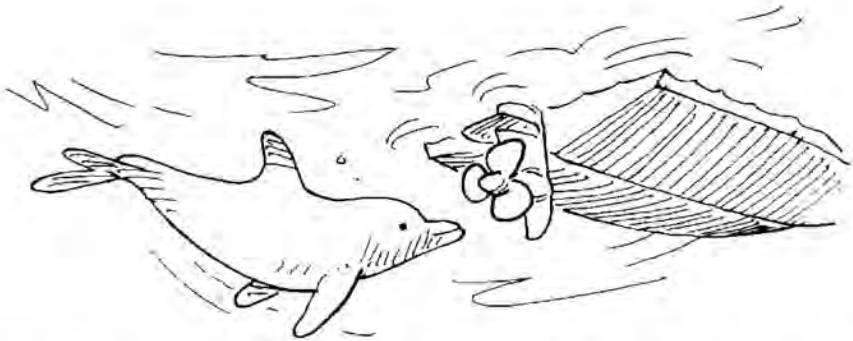
NEVER CHASE OR HARASS DOLPHINS especially when they have young



BOAT USERS

Dolphins are naturally curious. Whenever possible let them approach you.

Sometimes a dolphin will swim behind a boat close to the propeller. This is quite safe provided the boat maintains a constant speed.



Users of twin screw boats **DO NOT manoeuvre using the screws in opposition** as this creates violent and confusing water movements.

Dolphins may be out of sight under your boat. **DO NOT** make sudden bursts of speed or violent changes of direction. Also **DO NOT** stop or slow down suddenly, this can confuse and alarm dolphins as much as sudden acceleration.

When dolphins are feeding stand off and observe quietly.

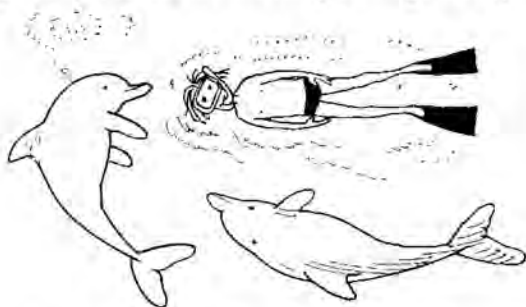


FISHERMEN

DO NOT cast lines or leave them set when there are dolphins close by.

SWIMMERS

Wear a buoyancy aid if you are not a strong swimmer. **DO NOT** wear or carry sharp objects that could accidentally damage a dolphin's skin.



Be aware of the local situation. The strength and direction of currents can vary dramatically with the state of the tide. If the sea is rough remember it is easy to get in but difficult to get out.

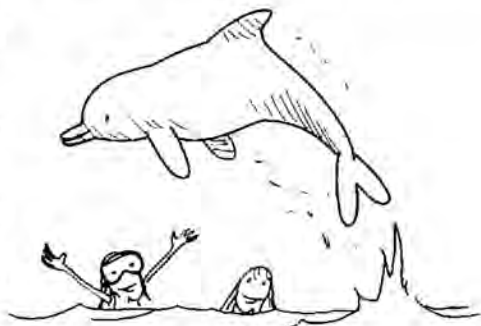
DO NOT stray too far from the boat or land.

Slip quietly into the water. Until a close relationship has been established **DO NOT** attempt to touch the dolphins - let them take the initiative! Remember they are not there to perform. Establish trust and accept what comes.

DO NOT touch a dolphin's blow hole.

Make sure you can be seen by boat users.

If a dolphin become boisterous and you feel frightened try not to panic, stay still and it will usually calm down.



Dolphins are rumbustious and often have physical contact with one another.

If a dolphin biffs or nips you keep your arms by your side and swim quietly away.