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What's New?

Dolphin SMART

Proud Supporters of Dolphin SMART raise public awareness for the program and its mission to promote responsible viewing of wild dolphins by increasing awareness of the program, educating the public about why responsible viewing of dolphins in the wild encourages conservation of the animals, and inspiring the public to become better stewards of our environment.

Dolphin SMART is a unique voluntary recognition and education program encouraging responsible viewing of wild dolphins. Program participation is for commercial businesses conducting and booking wild dolphin tours, or any commercial vessel that may opportunistically view wild dolphins. The Dolphin SMART program offers participation incentives for businesses that follow the program criteria and educate their customers about the importance of minimizing wild dolphin harassment. It also includes an important research component that provides insight about the daily lives of the local, wild dolphin populations.

Dolphin SMART is a partnership program developed by the U.S. Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and National Marine Fisheries Service, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, and the Dolphin Ecology Project.

The Dolphin SMART program advocates:

- Minimizing the potential of wild dolphin harassment caused by commercial viewing activities,
- Reducing expectations of close interaction with wild dolphins in a manner that may cause harassment,
- Eliminating advertising that creates expectations of engaging in activities that may cause harassment, and
- Promoting stewardship of local coastal waterways.

Related Materials:

Dolphin SMART brochure

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdf/DolphinSMART2008-G.pdf>

Dolphin SMART Kids Activity Guide

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/mm/dolphins/documents/DSKidsGuide_FINAL_000.pd

Alliance *Watchable Wildlife Guidelines*, focusing on marine mammals

www.ammpa.org/doc_watchablewildlife.html

Alliance *Ocean Literacy Reference Guide*, a guide to the challenges of marine mammals in our oceans and how you can help keep the animals and their homes safe

www.ammpa.org/doc_literacy.html

Visit www.dolphinSMART.org to learn how to responsibly view dolphins in the wild or book a dolphin excursion with a recognized U.S. Dolphin SMART business.

For information on the Marine Mammal Protection Act, go to www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/laws/mmpa/

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The Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums is an international association of marine life parks, aquariums, zoos, research facilities, and professional organizations dedicated to the highest standards of care for marine mammals and to their conservation in the wild through public education, scientific study, and wildlife presentations. Collectively, the Alliance and its membership represent the greatest body of experience and knowledge about marine mammal husbandry. ammmpa@aol.com

Disclaimer

The Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums reminds all patrons that the close interactions with, and feeding of, dolphins depicted on our website are legally permissible only because these animals are in human care under a federal permit. Attempting the same behavior in the wild is illegal under the Marine Mammal Protection Act www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/laws/mmpa/ and can result in serious harm to both humans and animals. Visit www.dolphinmart.org to learn how to responsibly view dolphins in the wild or book a dolphin excursion with a recognized Dolphin SMART business.
