



# Boating

Dinghies, Yachts, Personal Watercraft (“Jet-Skis”) and Motor Boats



There are several important seabird breeding colonies along the coast, including St Abbs Head (NTS), the Farne Islands (National Trust) and Coquet Island (RSPB). Please be aware of any additional measures to protect wildlife in these areas (e.g. restrictions or permissions needed prior to landing).



Due to the diversity of water sports available, the National Water Safety Forum recommends you seek advice specific to the activity you'll be undertaking, and that you take into consideration the conditions and location in which you will be doing it. There are several sailing clubs and schools in the area that cater for all levels. These can offer training and/or advice.



## Respect

- Abide by the Scottish **Outdoor Access Code**<sup>1</sup> (Scotland) or **The Countryside Code**<sup>2</sup> (England) when visiting the coast. These give invaluable guidance on how to respect those living, working or enjoying the coast and countryside.
- Launch from designated ramps and, after doing so, move your vehicle from the launch area.
- Abide by speed restrictions and other local rules and restrictions set by harbour or port authorities.
- Always give way and stay clear of larger, less manoeuvrable, craft.
- Be aware of legislation or other local measures in place to protect birds, seals or cetaceans. Remember that marine mammals and many birds are protected by law from reckless disturbance or harassment. Further advice on boating near wildlife is available from **The Green Blue**<sup>3</sup>.

## Protect

- Give space to birds and marine mammals when on water and let them decide how close they want to be. A distance of at least 50 metres from rafting birds or from cliff nesting seabirds, and 300m from mammal is usually sufficient but be watchful for signs of disturbance and modify this if necessary.
- If you see seals and/or rafts of birds, reduce to a no-wake speed.
- Don't travel through rafting birds or groups of marine mammals.
- Keep a consistent course when you spot wildlife in or on the water to avoid collisions.
- Never approach wildlife from directly behind or in front as this is interpreted as predatory or aggressive, causing stress to wildlife.
- Be careful not to stir up the seabed when anchoring.
- Be aware of your wash and keep it to a minimum near the shoreline, to prevent erosion of banks and disturbance to wildlife.
- Follow the **Check Clean Dry**<sup>4</sup> approach to reduce the possible spread of damaging invasive species.
- If you are taking part in organised boating activity, such as wildlife watching trips, through a local company then look for businesses which are accredited with **the WiSE Scheme**<sup>5</sup>, the UK's national training scheme for minimising disturbance to marine wildlife.

## Enjoy

Boating is a great way to explore the Berwickshire, Northumberland and North Tyneside coast. Whether you're a novice or an expert, there are a variety of boating activities on offer, to help you enjoy the water. There are also boat trips available should you wish to relax and enjoy the local sights and sounds.

1. [www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot)

2. [www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code)

3. [www.thegreenblue.org.uk/you-your-boat/info-advice/wildlife-habitats/boating-around-wildlife](http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/you-your-boat/info-advice/wildlife-habitats/boating-around-wildlife)

4. [www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/index.cfm](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/index.cfm)

5. [www.wisescheme.org/](http://www.wisescheme.org/)