



# Diving and Snorkelling

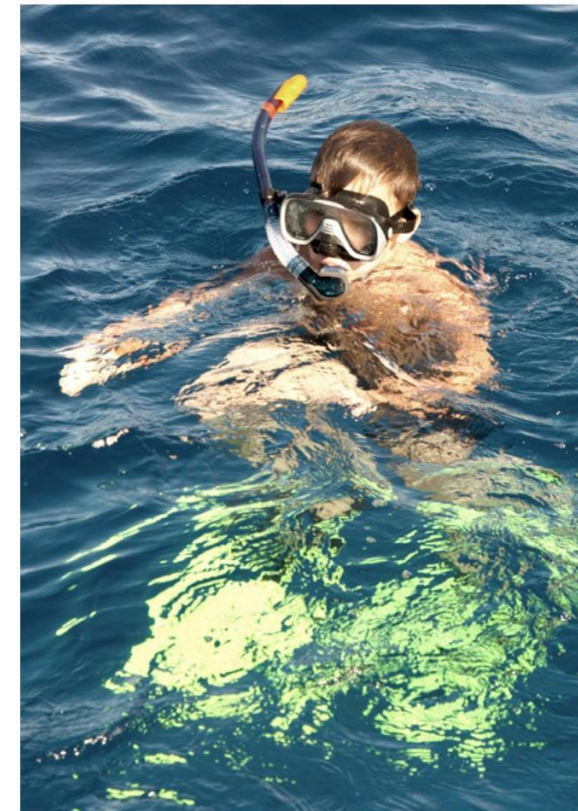


## Respect

- Please follow the [BSAC Diver's Code of Conduct](#)<sup>1</sup> and any local Codes of Conduct such as those for the [Northumberland Coast AONB](#)<sup>2</sup> and the [Berwickshire Marine Reserve](#)<sup>3</sup>. These will help you to enjoy your dive in a way that doesn't impact on the local environment.
- Be aware of local fishing activity and don't interfere with buoys, pots, and pot markers.
- Select a safe launch site and adhere to any local byelaws and rules.
- Mark your boats, fly the diving flag while diving, never leave boats unattended. Whenever possible use a surface marker buoy.
- Be aware of local fisheries byelaws and catch limits.
- Respect marine archaeology - don't dive on a designated wreck site without a license, disturb military wrecks, or remove items (including from the debris field).
- 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.

## Protect

- Take photographs and notes - not specimens.
- Ascertain and comply with seasonal access restrictions established to protect seabirds and seals from disturbance.
- During the seabird breeding season (1st March-1st August) reduce noise and boat speed near seabird breeding sites and stay at least 50m away from cliffs with nesting birds, increasing this if you see behaviour that suggests the birds are reacting to your presence.
- Do not seek out encounters with marine mammals and keep your distance from any that you come across in the water. A distance of at least 300m from mammal is usually sufficient. If animals react to your presence by becoming watchful or moving away, then you're too close.
- Do not approach seal breeding or haul-out sites and never land on a beach where there are seals or in protected wildlife sanctuary areas such as Coquet Island or the Farne Islands.
- Anchor in the right place and avoid sensitive habitats such as rocky reefs.
- Never use a speargun.
- Take rubbish away with you and, if safe, please remove discarded fishing gear.



## Enjoy

The Berwickshire and Northumberland coast offers some of the best diving and snorkelling in the country with an array of marine life to be seen at famous dive sites such as the Farne Islands and St Abbs.

The waters may be chilly, but this underwater world won't disappoint!

For general diving information, including underwater safety, visit: [www.bsac.com](http://www.bsac.com)

To join a global force of conservation divers, visit: [www.projectaware.org](http://www.projectaware.org)

1. [www.bsac.com/safety/safe-diving-guide/the-divers-code-of-conduct/](http://www.bsac.com/safety/safe-diving-guide/the-divers-code-of-conduct/)
2. [www.northumberlandcoastaonb.org/diving/](http://www.northumberlandcoastaonb.org/diving/)
3. [www.berwickshiremarinereserve.uk](http://www.berwickshiremarinereserve.uk)
4. For Northumberland/North Tyneside these are available at [www.nifca.gov.uk/byelaws/](http://www.nifca.gov.uk/byelaws/) And for Scotland at [www.gov.scot/publications/unlicensed-hobby-fishermen/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/unlicensed-hobby-fishermen/)