

Berwickshire MARINE RESERVE

Scotland's first voluntary marine reserve

Berwickshire Marine Reserve (BMR)

The Berwickshire Marine Reserve has been working to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and sustainability of these unique coastal waters since 1984.

TODAY it is still the only Voluntary Marine Reserve in Scotland and is the second oldest marine reserve in the UK.

We aim to:

- Conserve the biodiversity of the coastal waters
- Raise awareness of the marine environment through education and research
- Promote responsible recreational use alongside a sustainable fishery to the mutual benefit of all

Working Together to Conserve our Reserve

A hotspot for recreational users, the BMR treads a balancing act between supporting local businesses and tourism and sitting within the statutory network of 355 Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) and the statutory designations of a coastal SSSI, a European Marine Site and a Scottish Government managed Static Gear Reserve.

Our voluntary Codes of Conduct were established to protect the things that make the BMR such a special place - an internationally important marine reserve.

Please adhere to these agreed codes, appropriate for each of your activities. Further advice is available from www.berwickshiremarinereserve.org.uk

Contact Us: Tel: 01890 752509 Email: info@berwickshiremarinereserve.org.uk
www.berwickshiremarinereserve.org.uk

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Code of Conduct - Respect & Protect

In order to conserve the Berwickshire Marine Reserve, we need to respect other users and protect the environment and biodiversity of the organisms that live within it:



- Stay safe - always check local conditions and inform someone of your location



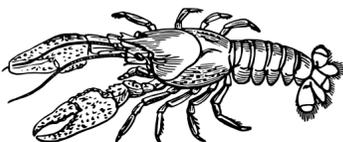
- Respect wildlife- Leave animals and plants where you find them, taking care not to damage them



- Use marine friendly equipment and products to avoid pollution and entrapment



- Give nesting seabirds the space they need to breed successfully (March to September)



- Do not tamper with lobster pots - it is illegal and dangerous



- Do not approach wildlife - especially seals hauled out on the beach or rocks - If concerned, call British Divers Marine Life Rescue: 01825 765546



- Always take all rubbish away with you, and pick up any litter you see if it is safe to do so



*Leave nothing behind but ripples on the water
and footprints in the sand*



www.berwickshiremarinereserve.org.uk



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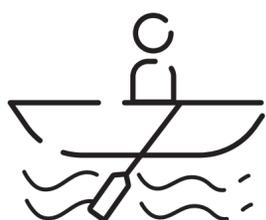
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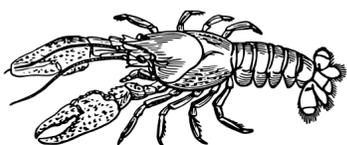
Code of Conduct - Divers



- **Stay safe - ensure someone knows where you are diving & dive with a buddy unless trained to dive solo**



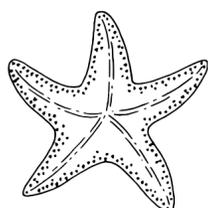
- **Be aware of the tide and weather conditions and other users of the Marine Reserve**



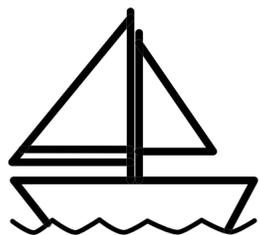
- **No take zone for divers. Do not tamper with lobster pots - it is illegal and dangerous**



- **Be respectful of breeding seabirds - stay away from the cliffs during the breeding season (March- September)**



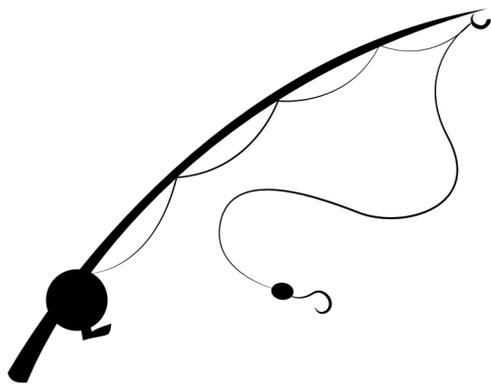
- **Control your buoyancy to protect marine life on rock surfaces**



- **Please use a delayed surface marker buoy (DSMB) in the Reserve - there are often strong currents and you may surface away from the boat**

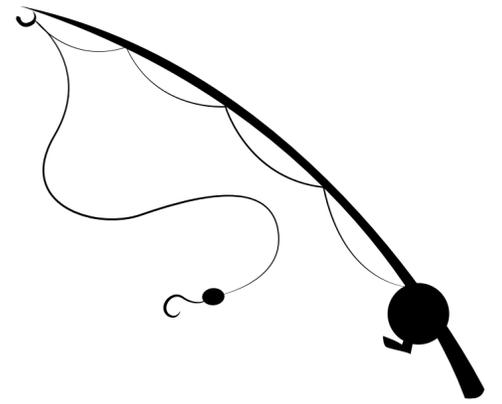


- **Always take all rubbish away with you, and if safe, please remove disgarded fishing gear**



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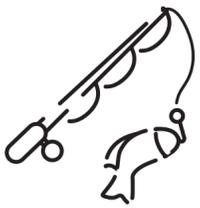
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Code of Conduct - Anglers



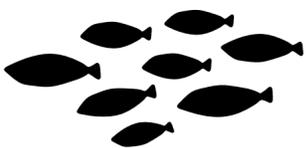
- **Stay Safe - check the tides and keep back from the cliff edge and steep terrain**



- **Avoid losing fishing tackle by using an appropriate rig design and suitable tackle**



- **Be aware of buoys within the Reserve -stay 20 metres away as line and tackle may become snagged on rope and lobster creels**



- **Please take care when handling fish - be aware of the length of time catch is out of the water and how they are released**



- **Do not tamper with lobster pots - it is illegal and dangerous**



- **Always adhere to minimum landing sizes and take home limits as set by Marine Scotland**



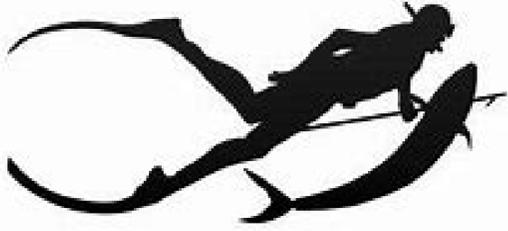
- **Please be aware of other users within the Reserve, especially divers that there may be underneath you.**



- **Keep away from nesting seabird sites during the breeding season (March - September)**

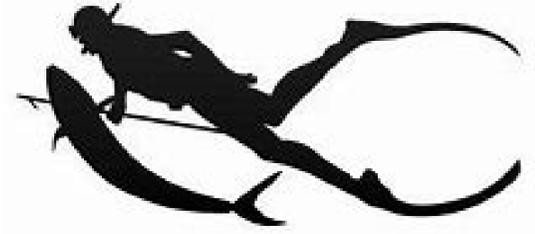


- **Always take all rubbish away with you, and if safe, please remove discarded fishing gear**



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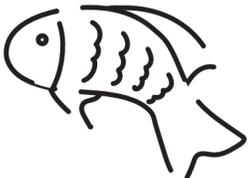
Code of Conduct - Spearfishers



- Please be aware of other users of the Reserve, especially near popular dive and snorkel sites to avoid potential accidents



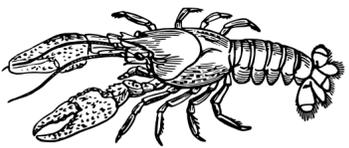
- Always ensure you use safe entry and exit access points for spear fishing and avoid conflict with other users



- Always adhere to bag limits and minimum landing sizes



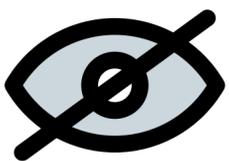
- No breathing apparatus other than a snorkel is permissible when spearfishing.



- Do not tamper with lobster pots - it is illegal and dangerous



- Please use a surface marker buoy (SMB) when in the Reserve



- Please only load spear guns in the water and safely away from other users



- Always take all rubbish away with you, and pick up any litter you see if it is safe to do so



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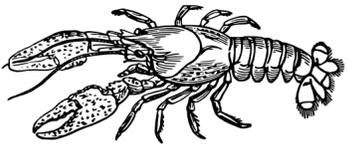
Code of Conduct - Boat Operators



- Please be aware of other users of the BMR - watch out for dive flags and surface marker buoys



- Slow down - Respect other users and wildlife in by keeping to a low speed



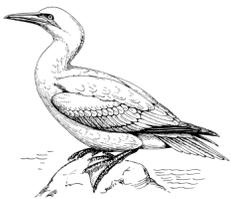
- Do not tamper with lobster pots - it is illegal and dangerous



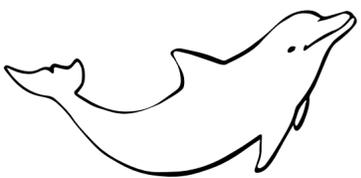
- Be sure to communicate with other boat operators - use the local channel '6'



- Please ensure all waste generated on board is returned to shore waste management facilities



- Avoid disturbing seabirds, especially during the nesting season (March to September)



- Respect marine mammals - do not approach, let them engage with you



- Ensure that you have safety equipment on board - a working radio, life jackets, flares and first aid kit and ensure regular engine maintenance



- Always take all rubbish away with you, and pick up any litter you see if it is safe to do so