



Please contact the Dolphin Conservation Center Education Department to find out more about marine animals and the conservation of their habitats: [education@marineland.net](mailto:education@marineland.net)

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# MARINE CONSERVATION

## What Can I Do To Save The Oceans?

**REDUCE.**  
**REUSE.**  
**RECYCLE.**

Each year, thousands of plastic bags, bottles, cups, cans, balloons and other trash wind up in the world's oceans. Many species of whales and other marine mammals, birds and fish mistakenly think this trash is food and eat it. A plastic garbage bag or balloon can look just like a jellyfish to a whale. If eaten, the trash can block the digestive tract and can eventually kill the animal. Also, when toxic chemicals wash into streams, rivers and lakes, they

eventually find their way to oceans where they can poison ocean life.

- Remember to cut apart plastic beverage rings and properly dispose of all waste.
- Use non-toxic household products to prevent harmful chemicals from getting into the water.
- Properly dispose of toxic wastes, such as oil from automobile engines or lawnmowers. Never dump waste chemicals down a sewer which can pollute water sources.

- Limit your use of disposable products.
- Use kitchen towels and cloth napkins instead of paper products. Carry a mug or cup with you and use it when you purchase a beverage, such as soda or coffee.
- Take a canvas bag with you when you shop instead of using paper and plastic ones from stores.
- If you participate in recreational fishing, follow regulations that limit the type, size and amount of fish you can catch.

**Dolphin Fun Facts:**

- Bottlenose dolphins have 80-100 teeth...but never chew their food!
- Dolphins don't make any noises with their mouth. They don't even have vocal cords. All vocalizations come through the dolphin's blowhole!
- Echolocation allows dolphins to use sound to "see" underwater!
- Rings in a dolphin's teeth show age, just like the rings in a tree!

## Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Viewing Guidelines

When you are lucky enough to see sea turtles and marine mammals in the wild, please remember the following guidelines for viewing them safely:

**Minimum Viewing Distances**

- Dolphins, Porpoises, Sea Turtles and Seals: **50 yards**
- Whales: **100 yards**
- Right Whales: **500 yards**

**Wildlife Watching Laws**

Time spent observing marine mammals and turtles should be limited to ½ an hour.

Marine mammals and sea turtles should not be encircled or trapped between watercraft, or watercraft and shore.

If approached by a marine mammal or sea turtle, put your watercraft's engine in neutral and allow the animal to pass. Any

vessel movement should be from the rear of the animal

Pursuit of marine mammals and sea turtles is prohibited by federal law.

**Never feed or attempt to feed wild marine mammals or sea turtles**

Federal law prohibits feeding or attempting to feed marine mammals.

Credit: NMFS



# What Can I Do To Help The Planet?

<p>The next time you buy tuna, buy albacore. Your purchase helps support sound fishing practices and dolphin conservation.</p> <p>Don't buy products made from animals or plants illegally taken from the wild. Always ask the merchant where the product came from.</p> <p>Recycle everything you can: glass, aluminum, paper, plastic, even motor oil!</p> <p>Dispose of hazardous waste properly. Don't throw it down your drain, into your garbage or into the sewers.</p> <p>Use washable rags instead of paper towels when possible.</p> <p>Use cloth instead of paper napkins.</p> <p>Compost!</p> <p>Reuse grocery store bags.</p> <p>Turn off lights when not in use.</p> <p>Operate dishwashers and washing machines with full loads only.</p> <p>Turn off the water when you're not using it.</p> <p>Carpool!</p>	<p>Use Tupperware instead of aluminum foil or plastic wrap.</p> <p>Avoid products with an abundance of non-recyclable packaging.</p> <p>Reuse ziplock bags.</p> <p>Get off junk mail lists.</p> <p>Use water saving shower heads and toilet tanks.</p> <p>Use native plants in your garden that don't require more water than will naturally come with rainfall.</p> <p>Keep your car tuned up.</p> <p>Ride a bike.</p> <p>Walk! Attract birds and butterflies to your garden with appropriate flowers and plants.</p> <p>Place a bat house in your garden.</p> <p>Start a recycling program at your office.</p> <p>Let the wildlife be wild.</p> <p>Use recycled paper products.</p>	<p>Make wise seafood choices. Learn about which species are endangered and which fishing practices harm the ocean.</p> <p>Don't keep exotic pets or pets you do not intend to take care of for their entire life.</p> <p>Observe wildlife from a respectful distance.</p> <p>Think about the long term effects of your actions.</p> <p>Keep your home at a moderate temperature.</p> <p>Avoid purchasing tropical hardwoods from the rainforests.</p> <p>Volunteer for environmental and educational organizations.</p> <p>Plant some trees.</p> <p>Support the lives of the native peoples in rainforests.</p> <p>Photocopy on both sides.</p> <p>Support merchants who follow all these same practices.</p> <p>Cut up plastic six pack rings.</p>
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## Why We Shouldn't Feed Wild Dolphins...and lions and tigers and bears!

<p>Wildlife fed by people can get <b>"hooked" on handouts</b>. They can lose their ability to find and catch their own food. For example, dolphins that become dependent on humans have been known to abandon their young, leaving calves alone to starve and fight off predators. Young dolphins that have not been taught to forage naturally are at the greatest risk.</p> <p>Wildlife fed by people often <b>associate people with food and</b></p>	<p><b>lose their natural fear of humans</b>. Wild marine mammals that are unafraid of people are more likely to endanger themselves by approaching boats or spending time in areas with high vessel traffic.</p> <p>Wildlife fed by people can <b>destroy the environment or cause property destruction</b>. Wild sea lions that have been fed by people have hauled out on docks and into boats, doing</p>	<p>damage as they search for food.</p> <p>Wildlife fed by people may even <b>become aggressive towards people</b>. Feeding causes wild animals to change their natural behavior. Wild dolphins and sea lions that have become accustomed to being fed have charged, bitten, and otherwise injured people.</p> <p>Wildlife fed by people may</p>	<p><b>become more likely to eat trash and debris</b>. Eating plastic wrappers or other litter can harm an animal's digestive tract or lead to its death.</p> <p><i>Promote the passive observation of wild animals from a safe distance. It's the best thing for the safety of wild animals and for us!</i></p> <p><small>Credit: Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums www.ammpa.org</small></p>
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## What Career Can I Choose To Help Protect Animals?

<p><u>VETERINARY MEDICINE</u> Veterinary medicine involves rehabilitating or caring for stranded or orphaned animals. Veterinarians diagnose medical conditions, perform surgery, and prescribe and administer medication.</p> 	<p><u>REGULATORY CAREERS</u> Environmental issues have become a major focus of interest to the public, government and industry in recent years. Within the marine sciences, there are many careers that deal with the regulatory aspects of the field. The agencies may study animal populations, protection of animal environments and populations, or permit regulation. This aspect of animal preservation is an essential part of ensuring species survival.</p>	<p><u>MARINE MAMMAL TRAINING</u> Marine mammal training is a conditioning process through which animals receive mental stimulation, physical exercise and husbandry care. Animal trainers are responsible for the total mental and physical health of the animals in their care. This includes the hands on work with the animals as well as pool maintenance, water quality, and diet preparation.</p>	<p><u>ECOLOGY</u> Ecology is the study of relationships between organisms, their environment and how their communities are affected by human activities such as pollution and development.</p> 
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