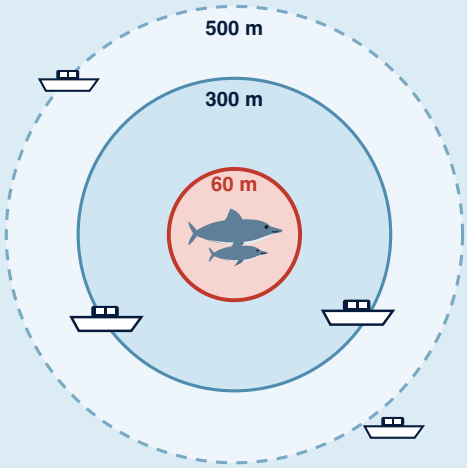
Why don't we get any closer to the dolphins?

HOW DOLPHINS MUST BE WATCHED IN SPAIN, BY LAW

In the Alboran Sea, dolphins live in the wild. To protect them, Spanish law (Royal Decree 1727/2007) sets out how a boat may approach them. Our captain holds a dolphin-watching licence and always follows it: the distance, the speed and the time are not our choice, they are set by law.



The 3 zones around the dolphins

Under 60 m NO ENTRY
No boat may enter. If the dolphins come closer on their own, we put the engine in neutral and wait until they move away.

60 to 300 m WATCHING
No more than 2 boats at a time. If there are calves, boats may not enter.

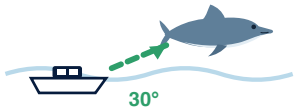
300 to 500 m WAITING
Other boats wait here for their turn.

How we approach them



Slowly

No faster than 4 knots (about 7 km/h), and never faster than the slowest dolphin.



Alongside, never head-on

Parallel to them, at an angle of about 30°. Never head-on, from behind or cutting across their path.



It is forbidden to

- ✕ Swim or dive with them
- ✕ Feed them or throw anything at them
- ✕ Surround them or circle around them
- ✕ Touch them or split up the group



Are there calves?

Then the law asks us to keep even more distance: we may not enter the watching zone. Mothers and their calves come first.



They are wild animals

They show up when they want to. We are lucky most of the time, but nobody can guarantee 100% that we will see them.

Thank you for helping us look after them, so we can keep enjoying them for many years to come.

Spanish Royal Decree 1727/2007 of 21 December on cetacean protection measures (Official State Gazette, 12-01-2008): art. 2.d, art. 4 and Annex II.
Full text (Spanish): boe.es/eli/es/rd/2007/12/21/1727

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