



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

Greater Atlantic Region

# SEAL VIEWING GUIDELINES



Seals are federally protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Under this law it is illegal to harass, harm, or disturb a seal's natural behaviors. Seals bite so getting too close can be dangerous as well. If you see a seal, follow NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Seal Viewing Guidelines to keep yourself and the seal safe.

Stay at least 150 feet away.

Leave seal pups alone- their mothers may return soon and human interference can cause them to be abandoned.

Seals bite. Never attempt to touch them and keep pets on leashes when seals are near.

Keep the area quiet and limit disturbance.

Do not pour water on or attempt to cover seals.

Never feed seals- this is illegal and can make the animals sick or dependent on people.

Do not push seals back into the water, follow seals into the water, or attempt to swim with seals.

Kayakers and paddleboarders- keep your distance from animals resting on shore. Your quiet vessels may scare the seals and make them return to the water.

Call for help if seal appears injured or sick.

**IN NEW JERSEY CALL MARINE MAMMAL STRANDING CENTER**

**(609) 266- 0538**

**24 HOURS/DAY 7 DAYS/WEEK**