

# *Monachus monachus*

## The Mediterranean Monk Seal



Adult male specimen

**Length:** 0.8-2.5 m



Adult female specimen

**Weight:** 15-300 kg

**Habitat:** secluded and protected beaches (caves) for resting and caring for young, coastal and pelagic marine environment.



Subadult specimen

**Anatomical features:**

Cylindrical body tapered tapered at the extremities; round head with eyes placed frontally; flattened snout flattened with long whiskers (vibrissae), above the upper lip. Two fins hind fins and two pectoral fins.



Young specimen

**Morphological characteristics:**

short grey hair on the back and abdomen; possible spots or streaks. Adult males and pups: black fur with a distinctive white spot distinctive spot on the abdomen.



One-year-old puppy

**Feeding:**

cephalopods, crustaceans and bony and cartilaginous fish.



Newborn puppy

**Maximum diving capacity:**

approximately 200 metres.

**Maximum travel capacity:**

about 40 km/day; about 300 km in three months.



# Watching the monk seal

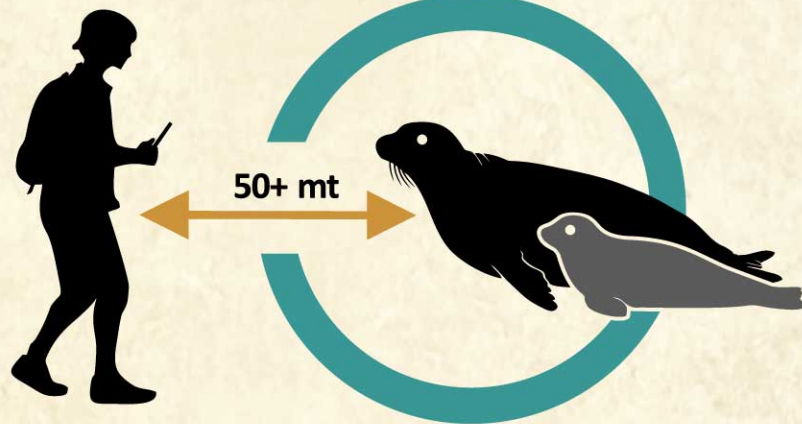


## Good practices in case of sighting of a specimen

If a monk seal is sighted, it is important to immediately reduce any potential disturbance caused by human proximity. Alert the Harbour Master's Office (tel. no. 1530).

### Sighting on the ground:

Maintain a distance of at least 50 m, a greater distance in the presence of puppies.



### Sighting at sea:

Immediately switch off the boat's engine or reduce speed, and avoid obstructing the animal's path. Under no circumstances should it be disturbed harassed or chased.

During a swim or dive, move slowly away from the animal.



The monk seal is a protected species under Italian law, which prohibits not only its killing and capture, but also its simple disturbance.

Tell us the details of the sighting:

[focamonaca@isprambiente.it](mailto:focamonaca@isprambiente.it)/Facebook: Foca monaca ISPRA

