

Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners

Environmental policy and operating principles

Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners (NARC) is a pioneering underwater rubbish, debris and litter clean-up registered charity.

Environmental policy

We will:

- carry out our activities in an environmentally responsible manner, with awareness of our potential to impact the environment and commitments to minimise our impact and deliver a net environmental benefit;
- maintain awareness of and follow all relevant current environmental legislation;
- ensure all volunteers and participants are fully aware of NARC's environmental policy;
- carry out education, training and awareness-raising to help others understand the importance of reducing their impact on the marine environment.

Environmental operating principles

We will minimise our environmental impact and strive to deliver net environmental benefit by:

- fostering a caring, guardianship approach to nature and the natural environment through our volunteer activities, educational projects and training;
- carrying out our clean-up diving activities with the fullest care to marine habitats and wildlife they support;
- maintaining awareness of habitats and wildlife that may be at risk from activities to remove anthropogenic rubbish, debris and litter, and of features designated for protection within statutory Marine Protected Areas, taking full account of the relevant aspects of MPA conservation objectives and European Marine Site "Regulation 36 advice", and ensuring that they are safeguarded from damage or disturbance;
- ensuring full, focussed, liaison with relevant marine environmental managers including, but not limited to: Natural Resources Wales marine staff, Pembrokeshire Marine SAC officer, Skomer MCZ officers and Port of Milford Haven Environment Manager;
- following contemporary, relevant, best practice principles and guidelines;
- releasing trapped or entangled marine organisms where possible, and recording numbers and species released or disentangled;
- ensuring that rubbish, debris or litter entangled in natural features or living organisms is cut using suitable cutting tools, that the forces applied to the features or organisms be kept to a minimum to avoid damage

We will also:

- adhere to a strict fish and shellfish no-take policy when carrying out any NARC activities;
- sort and recycle all recovered debris where possible;
- carry out education, training and awareness-raising through presentations, the media, leaflets and website in the most environmentally benign manner possible.

All volunteers are expected to participate in the NARC project responsibly and to carry out activities in a way that reflects the aims and policies of the charity. To this end, a commitment to acceptance and adhering to this policy is a requirement of participation in NARC activities.

Reviewed and agreed by Trustees 18 November 2018