

Swanage Pier

Responsible Crabbing- Code of Conduct



When done responsibly, crabbing is an excellent way to introduce children to marine ecology. In order to protect the welfare of the crabs we ask everyone to adhere to our code of conduct.

- No hooks! Please use bait bags or crab nets instead. You can buy these from the Dive Shop on the pier.
- Keep your bucket out of the sun
- Add rocks to the bucket to help replicate the crab's natural environment, and reduce stress
- Only keep the crabs in sea water and top up regularly because low oxygen levels can lead to fatigue.
- Do not overcrowd the bucket. Crowded conditions can result in fights between crabs which can lead to the loss of limbs. Some limbs may grow back, others will remain stumps.
- Always return the crabs to the same spot where you caught them
- It is illegal to sell your catch unless you hold a commercial fishing license