

BASKING SHARK CODE OF CONDUCT



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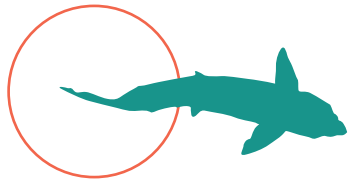
Guidelines to help water-users reduce the risk of injuring or harassing basking sharks.

GENERAL ADVICE

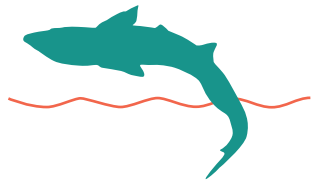
Do not approach within 100m.

If you encounter basking sharks be aware:

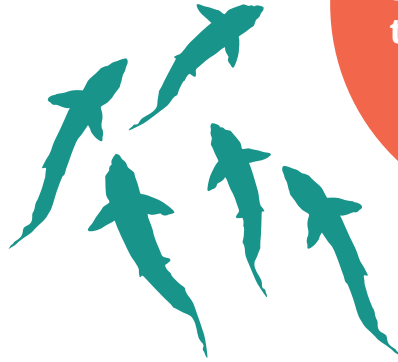
REMEMBER!
For every shark visible on the surface there are likely to be more hidden below.



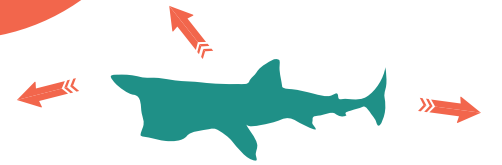
✓ Although mostly placid, basking sharks can startle if disturbed, often **thrashing their tail** with enormous power.



✓ Be extremely cautious in areas where basking sharks have been seen **breaching**.



✓ Avoid pairs or **large numbers** of sharks following each other closely. This may be courting behaviour and they should not be disturbed. Maintain a distance of at least 500m.



✓ **Observe which direction they're swimming.** Then quietly position yourself alongside their anticipated course for a safe and enjoyable view. Wait for them to come to you.

SWIMMERS, DIVERS & SURFERS:

4m

- Maintain a distance of at least 4m and be wary of the tail
- Do not touch the sharks
- Do not swim towards them if they are near you
- Ideally, swimmers should remain on the surface – stay in a group, rather than spreading out around the sharks
- No more than 4 people in the water within 100m of a shark at any time

KAYAKS & SUP'S:

- Never paddle directly towards the sharks or allow several kayakers to surround them – this could make them dive or act unpredictably
- Remain calm and quiet – avoid sudden movements which will disturb the sharks
- Stay in a group, rather than spreading out around the sharks
- Try not to cross their path so the sharks can maintain their course without changing direction or speed
- Never use your paddle or kayak to touch a shark

BOAT USERS:

6 knots

- Never chase a shark or direct a vessel towards them – this could make them dive or act unpredictably
- When sharks are sighted, restrict speed to below 6 knots and/or operate under sail
- When closer than 100m, switch the engine to neutral to avoid injuring sharks
- Avoid sudden changes in speed
- Do not allow several vessels to surround the shark(s)
- Jet-skis should not approach basking sharks

Don't forget to take pictures and report your sighting. ➡



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