

TOOL 6: EXAMPLE CODES OF CONDUCT

Each shark and ray operation is unique. It's important to develop a code of conduct that reflects this uniqueness, while also considering the latest science and best practice. **The following are examples only, but they can help you create a tailored code of conduct.** We've also included examples of how a poster can be used to illustrate key points and some icons which may be useful for display material (p60).

WHALE SHARKS INTERACTION GUIDELINES

The following code of conduct is based on existing codes of conduct for swimming with whale sharks in Ningaloo Reef, Western Australia, as well as research studies.

This poster features a central illustration of a whale shark with a 30M ZONE (3 METERS FROM HEAD) and a 200 METER EXCLUSIVE ZONE (4 METERS FROM TAIL). To the left, a grid of icons lists rules: CODE OF CONDUCT, DISPLAY SIGNAGE, INTRODUCTORY BRIEF, ENFORCEMENT, NUMBER OF VESSELS, NO SCUBA, EXCLUSIVE CONTACT, NO ACCESSORIES, SPEED (8 KNOTS), NO FEEDING, NO HARASSING OR CHASING, NO SUNSCREEN, TIME IN PROXIMITY (90 MINS), NO SCOOTERS OR JET SKIS, NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY, PHOTOGRAPHY, MAX GROUP SIZE 10, NO TOUCHING OR REINING, and NO SELFIES WITH ANIMALS.

BASKING SHARKS INTERACTION GUIDELINES

The following code of conduct is based on existing codes of conduct for boat users, kayakers, swimmers, divers and surfers interacting with basking sharks created by The Shark Trust (www.baskingsharks.org) and Fisheries and Oceans, Canada.

This poster features a central illustration of a basking shark with a 100 METERS EXCLUSIVE ZONE (4 METERS). To the left, a grid of icons lists rules: CODE OF CONDUCT, DISPLAY SIGNAGE, INTRODUCTORY BRIEF, ENFORCEMENT, NUMBER OF VESSELS, NO SCUBA, EXCLUSIVE CONTACT, NO ACCESSORIES, SPEED (6 KNOTS), NO FEEDING, NO HARASSING OR CHASING, NO SUNSCREEN, TIME IN PROXIMITY (90 MINS), NO TOUCHING OR REINING, and PHOTOGRAPHY.

SHARK CAGE DIVING INTERACTION GUIDELINES

The following code of conduct is based on existing codes of conduct for commercial great white shark cage diving in New Zealand, as well as the latest research.

This poster features a central illustration of a shark cage with a 100 METERS EXCLUSIVE ZONE. To the left, a grid of icons lists rules: CODE OF CONDUCT, DISPLAY SIGNAGE, INTRODUCTORY BRIEF, ENFORCEMENT, NO TOUCHING OR REINING, SCUBA, NO FEEDING, NO ACCESSORIES, SPEED (6 KNOTS), LURES AND ATTRACTANTS, NO SWIMMING, NO SUNSCREEN, TIME IN PROXIMITY (90 MINS), CAGE RESTRICTIONS, SHARK BEHAVIOR, and NO DECOYS.

REEF AND PELAGIC SHARKS INTERACTION GUIDELINES

The following Code of Conduct is based on an existing Code of Conduct for interacting with Grey Nurse Sharks off the eastern coast of Australia and research studies.†

This poster features a central illustration of a shark with a 3 METERS EXCLUSIVE ZONE. To the left, a grid of icons lists rules: CODE OF CONDUCT, DISPLAY SIGNAGE, INTRODUCTORY BRIEF, ENFORCEMENT, NUMBER OF VESSELS, NO ACCESSORIES, EXCLUSIVE CONTACT, NO ACCESSORIES, NO HARASSING OR CHASING, SCUBA, NO UNDERWATER SCOOTER, NO SUNSCREEN, TIME IN PROXIMITY (90 MINS), NO TOUCHING OR REINING, NO FEEDING, and MAX GROUP SIZE 10.

STINGRAYS INTERACTION GUIDELINES

The following code of conduct is based on data and studies of wild stingray populations and how to best minimize tourist-related impacts.

This poster features a central illustration of a stingray with a 30 METERS EXCLUSIVE ZONE (3 METERS). To the left, a grid of icons lists rules: CODE OF CONDUCT, DISPLAY SIGNAGE, INTRODUCTORY BRIEF, ENFORCEMENT, NUMBER OF VESSELS, NO SCUBA, EXCLUSIVE CONTACT, NO ACCESSORIES, SPEED (8 KNOTS), NO FEEDING, NO TOUCHING OR REINING, NO SUNSCREEN, TIME IN PROXIMITY (90 MINS), NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY, and NO SELFIES WITH ANIMALS.

MOBULID RAYS (MANTA AND DEVIL RAYS) INTERACTION GUIDELINES

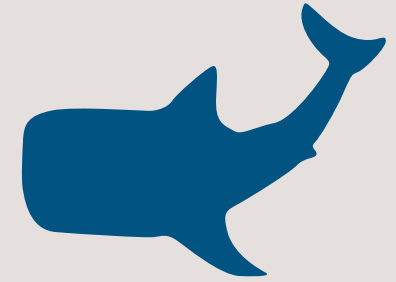
The following code of conduct is based on the Manta Interaction Guidelines by the Manta Trust. It also reflects recent research studies.

This poster features a central illustration of a manta ray with a 10 METERS EXCLUSIVE ZONE (3 METERS). To the left, a grid of icons lists rules: CODE OF CONDUCT, DISPLAY SIGNAGE, INTRODUCTORY BRIEF, ENFORCEMENT, NUMBER OF VESSELS, NO SCUBA, EXCLUSIVE CONTACT, NO ACCESSORIES, SPEED (8 KNOTS), SPEED (5 KNOTS), NO TOWING, NO SUNSCREEN, TIME IN PROXIMITY (90 MINS), NO TOUCHING OR REINING, NO FEEDING, and MAX GROUP SIZE 10.

TOOL 6: SAMPLE ICONS

You may find the following icons useful in creating your own display material





TOOL 6: WHALE SHARKS example code of conduct

WHALE SHARKS					
The following code of conduct is based on existing codes of conduct for swimming with whale sharks in Ningaloo Reef, Western Australia, as well as research studies ⁷⁷					
VESSEL OPERATIONS		HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTION		DIVE OPERATORS	
DISTANCE	Must not approach closer than 30m to a shark Approach from ahead of the shark's direction of travel when dropping swimmers into the water.	GROUP SIZE	Maximum 10 people in the water at any one time, including guides and videographer/photographer.	INTRODUCTORY BRIEF	Inform all snorkelers of the biology of and threats to whale sharks. Clearly explain code of conduct and reasons for rules.
SPEED	Less than 8 knots, no boat propellers used <100m from whale shark.	DISTANCE	> 3m from head of shark, > 4m from tail.		
TIME IN PROXIMITY	Maximum 90 minutes in a 250m radius contact zone.	TOUCHING/RIDING	Do not touch or ride.	SIGNAGE	Provide signs and infographics in dive shops and on boats Display both whale shark and dive flags when divers are in the water.
OTHER VESSELS	An exclusive contact zone of 250m radius applies around any whale shark. Only one vessel at a time may operate within the zone. The first vessel within that zone is considered to be 'in contact'. A second vessel to arrive must keep a distance of 250m from the shark. Any other vessels must be 400m from the shark. No scooters or jet skis.	FEEDING	Do not feed.		
		SWIMMING	Do not chase, harass, interrupt swimming path or attempt to trap.		
EXCLUSIVE CONTACT	Each individual shark should only be interacted with by one group of tourists per day, not passed from group to group. Operators need to communicate with each other to facilitate this.	PHOTOGRAPHY	No flash photography. No selfies.	CODE OF CONDUCT	Display code of conduct in dive shops and on boats.
		SCUBA	No scuba.		
		ACCESSORIES	Do not wear or use any apparatus that produces noise or that could disturb the sharks (e.g. electronic shark-repelling devices).	ENFORCEMENT	Inform snorkelers that non-compliance will not be tolerated. Use a two-strike system: one warning followed by a swimming ban. Have a member of staff on board to monitor compliance.
SUNSCREEN	Suntan lotion may cause irritation to the animals and damage some habitats. See marinesafe.org for information on non-marine-toxic products.				



WHALE SHARKS INTERACTION GUIDELINES

The following code of conduct is based on existing codes of conduct for swimming with whale sharks in Ningaloo Reef, Western Australia, as well as research studies⁷⁷



CODE OF CONDUCT



DISPLAY SIGNAGE



INTRODUCTORY BRIEF



ENFORCEMENT



NUMBER OF VESSELS



NO SCUBA



EXCLUSIVE CONTACT



NO ACCESSORIES



8 KNOTS
SPEED



NO FEEDING



NO HARASSING OR CHASING



NO SUNSCREEN



90 MINS
TIME IN PROXIMITY



NO SCOOTERS OR JET SKIS



NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTOGRAPHY



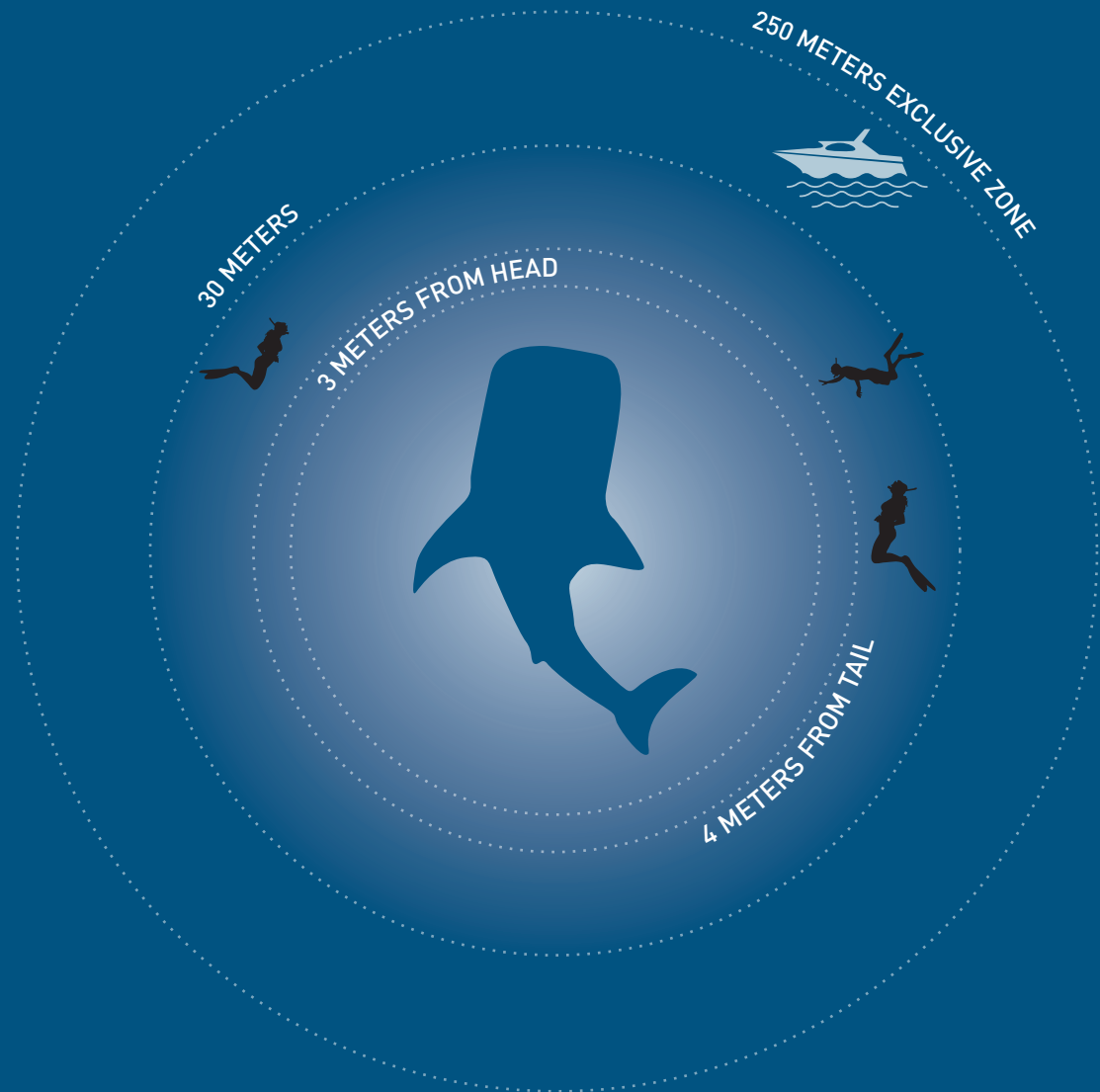
MAX GROUP SIZE 10

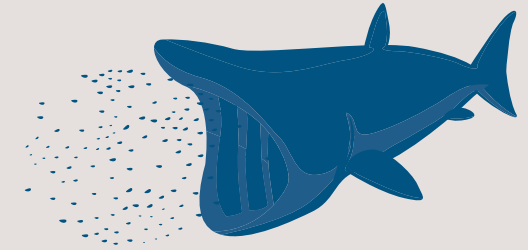


NO TOUCHING OR RIDING



NO SELFIES WITH ANIMALS





TOOL 6: BASKING SHARKS example code of conduct

BASKING SHARKS

The following code of conduct is based on existing codes of conduct for boat users, kayakers, swimmers, divers and surfers interacting with basking sharks created by The Shark Trust (www.baskingsharks.org) and Fisheries and Oceans, Canada ⁷⁸

BOAT/VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS		HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTION		DIVE OPERATORS	
DISTANCE	Do not approach within 100m. Maintain a distance of at least 500m where there are pairs or large numbers of sharks following each other closely. This may be courting behavior and they should not be disturbed. Caution when sharks have been seen breaching.	GROUP SIZE	Maximum 4 people within 100 metre of a shark.	INTRODUCTORY BRIEF	Inform all snorkelers of the biology and threats to basking sharks. Clearly explain code of conduct and reasons for rules. Inform all snorkelers risks of injury to diver and shark.
		DISTANCE	> 4m from the shark and be wary of the tail		
		TOUCHING/RIDING	Do not touch or ride.		
		FEEDING	Do not feed.		
SPEED	< 6 knots when approaching area, no boat propellers in use < 100 meters. Avoid sudden changes in speed.	SWIMMING	Do not chase, harass, interrupt swimming path or attempt to trap. Stay in group, do not string around sharks.	SIGNAGE	Provide signs and infographics in dive shops and on boats.
		PHOTOGRAPHY	Photography allowed.		
TIME IN PROXIMITY	Maximum 90 minutes.	SCUBA	No Scuba.	CODE OF CONDUCT	Display code of conduct in dive shops and on boats.
OTHER VESSELS	Do not allow several vessels to surround the shark. No jet skies.	ACCESSORIES	Do not wear or use any apparatus that produces noise or that could disturb the sharks (e.g. electronic shark-repelling devices).		
EXCLUSIVE CONTACT	Each individual shark should only be interacted with one group of tourists per day. Not continuously passed from group to group.	SUNSCREEN	Suntan lotion may cause irritation to the animals and damage some habitats. See marinesafe.org for information on non-marine-toxic products.	ENFORCEMENT	Inform snorkelers that non-compliance will not be tolerated. Use a two-strike system: one warning followed by a swimming ban. Have a member of staff on board to monitor compliance.



BASKING SHARKS INTERACTION GUIDELINES

The following code of conduct is based on existing codes of conduct for boat users, kayakers, swimmers, divers and surfers interacting with basking sharks created by The Shark Trust (www.baskingsharks.org) and Fisheries and Oceans, Canada⁷⁸



CODE OF CONDUCT



DISPLAY SIGNAGE



INTRODUCTORY BRIEF



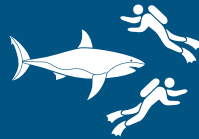
ENFORCEMENT



NUMBER OF VESSELS



NO SCUBA



EXCLUSIVE CONTACT



NO ACCESSORIES



SPEED



NO FEEDING



NO HARASSING OR CHASING



NO SUNSCREEN



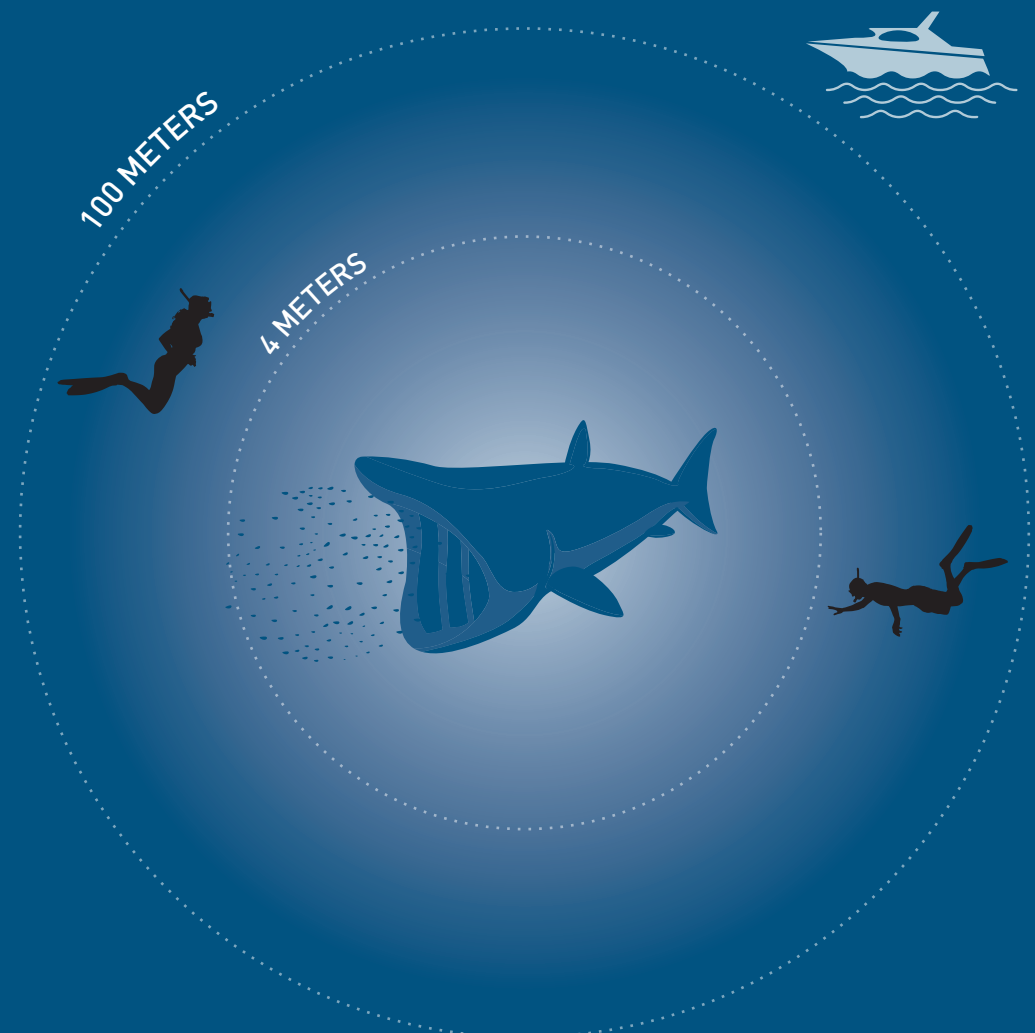
TIME IN PROXIMITY

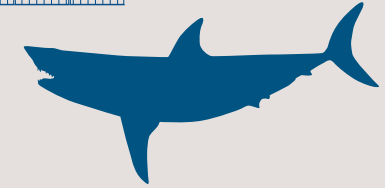
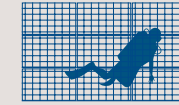


NO TOUCHING OR RIDING



PHOTOGRAPHY





TOOL 6: SHARK CAGE DIVING example code of conduct

SHARK CAGE DIVING

The following code of conduct is based on existing codes of conduct for commercial great white shark cage diving in New Zealand, as well as the latest research ⁷⁹

BOAT/VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS		PROVISIONING		DIVE OPERATORS	
DISTANCE	> 400m from all other vessels.	CHUMMING, LURES, ATTRACTANTS AND FEEDING	Lures and attractants must not be allowed to drift or be pulled by operators. No mammalian-based products. Lures, attractants and feed should be local and the natural food of the sharks. Burley must be minced finely enough to not provide food. Ropes in water for lures and attractants must be made of natural biodegradable material. Sacks of burley must not be hung from side of vessel or cage – it must be stored on board. Minimal use when shark has been attracted. Shark must not be fed or allowed to take a throw lure. Sharks should be given days off from provisioning.	INTRODUCTORY BRIEF	Inform all divers of the biology of and threats to great white sharks. Clearly explain code of conduct and reasons for rules. Inform all divers of risks of injury to diver and shark.
SPEED	< 6 knots when approaching area.				
TIME IN PROXIMITY	Maximum 90 minutes.				
EXCLUSIVE CONTACT	One vessel and one cage per shark.				
OTHER ACTIVITIES	No fishing before, during or after diving.				
CAGE RESTRICTIONS		HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTION		SIGNAGE	Provide signs and infographics in dive shops and on boats.
DESIGN	No sharp or protruding edges.	TOUCHING/RIDING	Do not touch sharks at any point or induce 'tonic immobility*'. Customers must remain completely in cage at all times.		
VIEWING WINDOW	Height of window < 30cm.	SHARK BEHAVIOR	Dive supervisors must terminate the dive if the shark shows signs of being distressed or alarmed.		
ATTACHMENT	Securely attached to boat by an arm, ramp or chain.	ACCESSORIES	Do not wear or use any apparatus that produces noise or that could disturb the sharks (e.g. electronic shark-repelling devices).		
DECOYS	No use of decoys or provoking sharks – potentially harmful or physiologically costly behaviors like breaching or biting the cage should not be encouraged.	SUNSCREEN	Suntan lotion may cause irritation to the animals and damage some habitats. See marinesafe.org for information on non-marine-toxic products.	CODE OF CONDUCT	Display code of conduct in dive shops and on boats.
				ENFORCEMENT	Dive supervisors must terminate the dive if any divers harass the shark.

*Tonic immobility refers to natural state of paralysis or immobility which some shark species enter when physically inverted or handled in specific ways. It makes sharks and rays unresponsive. It can cause excessive stress to the animal. ⁸⁰



SHARK CAGE DIVING INTERACTION GUIDELINES

The following code of conduct is based on existing codes of conduct for commercial great white shark cage diving in New Zealand, as well as the latest research^{79,80}



CODE OF CONDUCT



DISPLAY SIGNAGE



INTRODUCTORY BRIEF



ENFORCEMENT



NO TOUCHING OR RIDING



SCUBA



NO FISHING



NO ACCESSORIES



SPEED



LURES AND ATTRACTANTS



NO SWIMMING



NO SUNSCREEN



TIME IN PROXIMITY



CAGE RESTRICTIONS



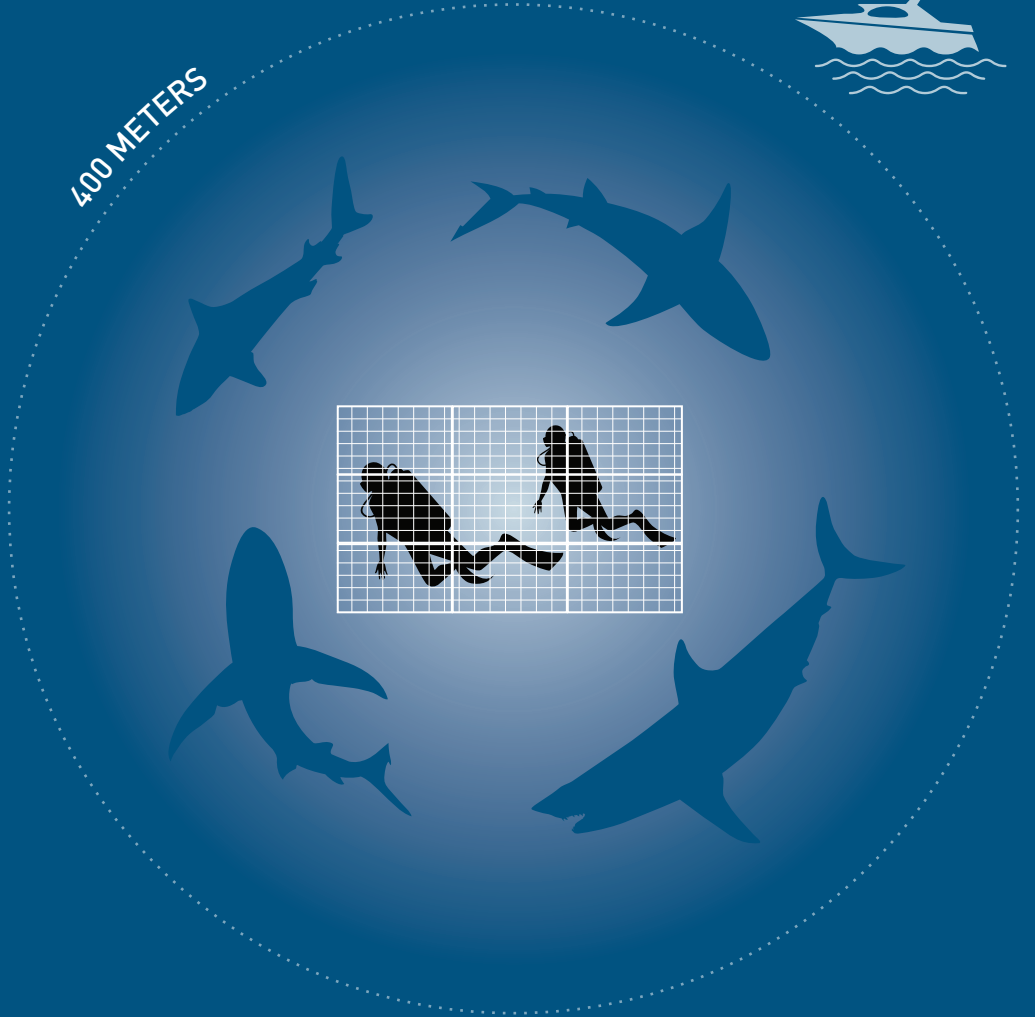
SHARK BEHAVIOR



NO DECOYS



400 METERS





TOOL 6: REEF AND PELAGIC SHARKS example code of conduct

REEF AND PELAGIC SHARKS

The following Code of Conduct is based on an existing codes of conduct for interacting with Grey Nurse Sharks off the eastern coast of Australia and research studies ⁸¹







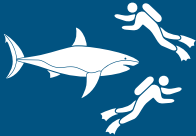









BOAT/VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS		HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTION		DIVE OPERATORS	
DISTANCE	N/A	GROUP SIZE	Maximum 10 people, including guide and videographer/photographer.	INTRODUCTORY BRIEF	Inform all divers at the beginning of the biology and threats to reef and pelagic sharks, particularly critical habitat of threatened sharks in the region. Convey code of conduct clearly. Inform all divers of risks of injury to diver and shark.
		DISTANCE	> 3m and remain as close to the bottom as possible.		
SPEED	N/A	TOUCHING/RIDING	Do not touch, ride or induce 'tonic immobility'*		
		TOWING	N/A		
TIME IN PROXIMITY	Maximum 90 minutes.	FEEDING	Do not feed unless authorised provisioning activity.	SIGNAGE	Provide signs and info-graphics in dive shops and on boats for foreign tourists.
		SWIMMING	Do not chase, harass, interrupt swimming path or attempt to trap.		
		SCUBA	Yes but no night dives in sites identified as critical habitat (i.e. for Thresher shark and Grey Nurse Sharks). Do not block the entrance of or enter caves where sharks rest.	CODE OF CONDUCT	Display Code of Conduct in dive shops and on boats.
EXCLUSIVE CONTACT	N/A	ACCESSORIES	Do not wear or use of mechanical apparatus or any apparatus that produces noise or that could disturb the sharks (i.e. electronic shark-repelling devices), scooters and horns.		
		SUNSCREEN	Suntan lotion may cause irritation to the animals and damage some habitats. See marinesafe.org for information on non-marine-toxic products.		

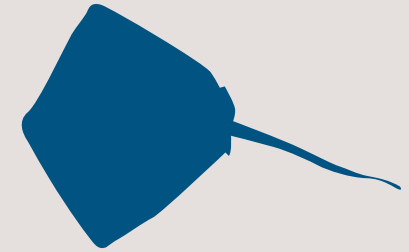
*Tonic immobility refers to natural state of paralysis or immobility which some shark species enter when physically inverted or handled in specific ways. It makes sharks and rays unresponsive. It can cause excessive stress to the animal.⁸²



REEF AND PELAGIC SHARKS INTERACTION GUIDELINES

The following Code of Conduct is based on an existing Codes of Conduct for interacting with Grey Nurse Sharks off the eastern coast of Australia and research studies ⁸¹

			
CODE OF CONDUCT	DISPLAY SIGNAGE	INTRODUCTORY BRIEF	ENFORCEMENT
			
NUMBER OF VESSELS	NO ACCESSORIES	EXCLUSIVE CONTACT	NO ACCESSORIES
			
NO HARASSING OR CHASING	SCUBA	NO UNDERWATER SCOOTER	NO SUNSCREEN
			
TIME IN PROXIMITY	NO TOUCHING OR RIDING	NO FEEDING	MAX GROUP SIZE 10



TOOL 6: STINGRAYS example code of conduct

STINGRAYS

The following code of conduct is based on data and studies of wild stingray populations and how to best minimize tourist-related impacts⁸³

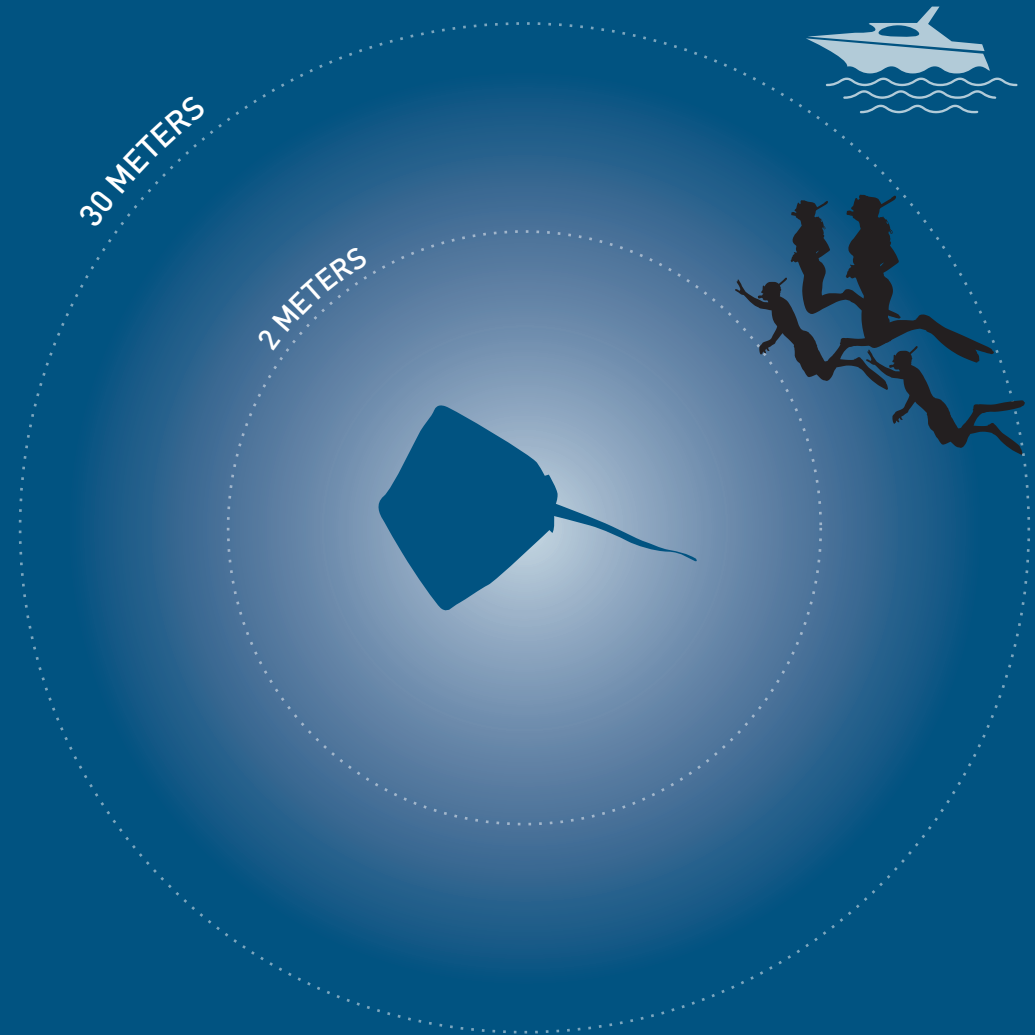
BOAT/VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS		HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTION		DIVE OPERATORS		
DISTANCE	> 30m from the ray aggregation.	GROUP SIZE	Maximum 10 people, including the guide and videographer/photographer.	INTRODUCTORY BRIEF	Inform all customers of the biology of and threats to rays. Clearly explain code of conduct and reasons for rules. Inform all snorkelers of risks of injury to person and ray.	
	SPEED	< 6 knots when approaching area.	DISTANCE			> 2m
			TOUCHING/RIDING			Do not touch or stand on the rays.
TIME IN PROXIMITY	Maximum 90 minutes.	FEEDING	Do not feed unless authorized provisioning activity.	SIGNAGE	Provide signs and infographics at dive shops, on boats and at locations where tourists visit groups of rays.	
		SWIMMING	Do not chase, harass, interrupt swimming path or attempt to trap.			
		PHOTOGRAPHY	No flash photography. No selfies			
EXCLUSIVE CONTACT	1 vessel only per ray aggregation.	SCUBA	No scuba.	CODE OF CONDUCT	Display code of conduct in dive shops, on boats and at tourist locations.	
		ACCESSORIES	Do not wear sharp pieces of equipment including snorkels or jewelry. Do not wear or use any apparatus that produces noise or that could disturb the rays.			
		SUNSCREEN	Suntan lotion may cause irritation to the animals and damage some habitats. See marinesafe.org for information on non-marine-toxic products.			
				ENFORCEMENT	Ranger or staff to educate visitors about the rays at known feeding sites to control amount of feeding and monitor tourist interaction, especially in peak season. Inform customers that non-compliance will not be tolerated. Use a two-strike system: one warning followed by a swimming ban. Have a member of staff on board to monitor compliance.	



STINGRAY INTERACTION GUIDELINES

The following code of conduct is based on data and studies of wild stingray populations and how to best minimize tourist-related impacts⁸³

- **CODE OF CONDUCT**
- **DISPLAY SIGNAGE**
- **INTRODUCTORY BRIEF**
- **ENFORCEMENT**
- **NUMBER OF VESSELS**
- **NO SCUBA**
- **EXCLUSIVE CONTACT**
- **NO ACCESSORIES**
- **SPEED**
- **NO FEEDING**
- **NO TOUCHING OR RIDING**
- **NO SUNSCREEN**
- **TIME IN PROXIMITY**
- **NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY**
- **NO SELFIES WITH ANIMALS**





TOOL 6: MOBULID RAYS example code of conduct

MOBULID RAYS (MANTA AND DEVIL RAYS)

The following code of conduct is based on the Manta Interaction Guidelines by the Manta Trust. It also reflects recent research studies ⁸⁴

BOAT/VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS		HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTION		DIVE OPERATORS		
DISTANCE	> 10m at all times.	GROUP SIZE	Maximum 10 people, including guide and videographer/photographer.	INTRODUCTORY BRIEF	Inform all customers of the biology of and threats to rays. Clearly explain code of conduct and reasons for rules. Inform all snorkelers/divers of risks of injury to person and ray.	
		DISTANCE	> 3m			
		TOUCHING/RIDING	Do not touch or ride the rays.			
SPEED	< 8 knots within 100m, < 5 knots within 30m.	TOWING	No boats driving over manta cleaning stations/aggregation sites. No towing swimmers through manta aggregation sites.	SIGNAGE	Provide signs and infographics at dive shops, on boats and at locations where tourists visit groups of rays.	
		FEEDING	Do not feed.			
		SWIMMING	Do not chase, harass, interrupt swimming path or attempt to trap. Do not swim over cleaning station*. Approach mantas slowly from their side allowing the animal to see you while it can maintain a clear path of travel ahead.			
TIME IN PROXIMITY	Maximum 90 minutes.	SCUBA	Preferably divers should position themselves to the side, near to the seabed. Divers should not stand on coral reefs or other substrate that can easily be damaged, such as sponge gardens etc. If at a cleaning station, keep at a distance and remain still so as to not disrupt cleaning. Keeping to the side at a distance will also ensure that you don't create a curtain of bubbles near the feeding aggregation that may displace plankton. Snorkellers among a group of feeding manta rays should remain still.	CODE OF CONDUCT	Display code of conduct in dive shops, on boats and at tourist locations.	
			ACCESSORIES			Do not wear sharp pieces of equipment including snorkels or jewelry.
			SUNSCREEN			Suntan lotion may cause irritation to the animals and damage some habitats. See marinesafe.org for information on non-marine-toxic products.
EXCLUSIVE CONTACT	Depends on the site and what mantas are doing, (ie cleaning or feeding).			ENFORCEMENT	Ranger or staff to educate visitors about the rays at known feeding sites to control and monitor tourist interaction, especially in peak season. Inform snorkelers/divers that non-compliance will not be tolerated. Use a two-strike system: one warning followed by a swimming ban. Have a member of staff on board to monitor compliance.	

*Cleaning station refers to a section of a coral reef where cleaner fish, such as wrasses or gobies, remove parasites from large fish, sharks or rays



MOBULID RAYS (MANTA AND DEVIL RAYS) INTERACTION GUIDELINES

The following code of conduct is based on the Manta Interaction Guidelines by the Manta Trust. It also reflects recent research studies⁸⁴



CODE OF CONDUCT



DISPLAY SIGNAGE



INTRODUCTORY BRIEF



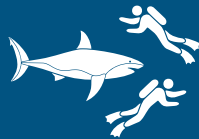
ENFORCEMENT



NUMBER OF VESSELS



NO SCUBA



EXCLUSIVE CONTACT



NO ACCESSORIES



SPEED



SPEED



NO TOWING



NO SUNSCREEN



TIME IN PROXIMITY



NO TOUCHING OR RIDING



NO FEEDING



MAX GROUP SIZE 10

