

Basking Shark Code of Conduct



The following guidelines are designed to protect both basking sharks and people by preventing harmful interactions with wildlife.

Swimmers/Divers

- **Maintain your distance.** Stay at least 4 m from any given shark.
- **DO NOT try to touch sharks.** If a shark approaches, remain still and do not interact with it.
- **Groups of swimmers should try to remain together and at the surface.** There are likely other sharks below the surface.
- **Limit the number of people** in the water if sharks are in the area.
- **Avoid flash-photography** if taking pictures. These can startle the sharks.




Watercraft handlers

Operators of:
kayaks, paddleboards, power boats, etc.



- **Reduce speed** when in areas of shark activity (to 6 knots or less).
- **Avoid sudden changes in direction.** Do not deliberately move in front of sharks as they are swimming.
- **Powered vessels switch engine to neutral** within 50 m of any shark.
- **DO NOT approach sharks.** Be still and allow them to approach the vessel.

Report your sightings

Each time a basking shark is sighted, you have the unique opportunity to contribute important information about these animals. Simply follow these steps:

-  Record the **location and time** of shark encounter.
-  Take **photographs or videos** if possible according to the guidelines defined above.
-  Submit this information to www.baskingshark.ie.

Remember:

-  For every one shark you see at the surface, there are likely several others underneath.
-  Signs of disturbance include sharks closing their mouths or swimming away.