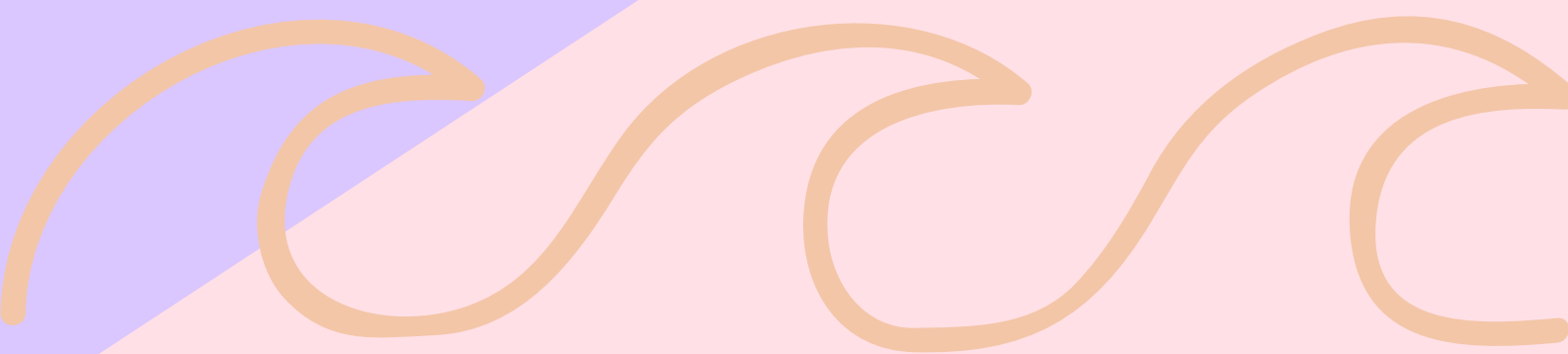


SHARK SAFETY

For Local Governments and Surf Life Savers

Shark and human interactions happen. It is a rare but unavoidable part of enjoying our beautiful ocean. However, there are things ocean goers should know to significantly reduce their chances of an adverse interaction and this information should be shared by Local Governments and Surf Life Saving Clubs.

The following page contains eight key tips for ocean goers to be aware of. We encourage you to distribute this information across your local area to ensure your local community is informed and can make educated decisions on where and when to enjoy the ocean.



Tips to reduce your (already unlikely) chance of a shark interaction...

1

Stay away from bait balls. Bait balls attract sharks, and other predatory marine life. You don't want to get caught up in their feeding. Flocks of diving sea birds are a good indicator that there is a bait ball in that area.

Avoid river mouths after rainfall. After rainfall, nutrients run into the ocean via rivers which attract small animals to feed. This increase in activity also attracts sharks. Low visibility around river mouths created after rainfall is also an ideal condition for sharks to hunt.

2

3

Avoid underwater drop-offs. Large sharks like to hunt near drop-offs, in-between sandbanks and on the edge of kelp forests where they wait to surprise seals, fish or turtles swimming by.

Take note of the water temperature, and changes in temperature as you move through the water. Cold-water upwellings carry nutrients that encourage large sharks to travel further inshore than they usually would.

4

5

Look around for animal remains. Whale carcasses and other animal remains are an obvious reason for sharks to be present. The smell of the decaying animal will travel through the water, more strongly in the direction of the current, and cover a large area.

Dusk and dawn are higher risk times. The position of the light is an advantage to hunting sharks as they can't be spotted as easily. This is also the case during overcast days.

6

7

Swim between the flags. No - the sharks don't know where the flags are but the lifesavers are more likely to see you quickly if something does happen.

Don't swim or surf near fishers. Sharks are attracted to the low-frequency pulse given off by stressed and injured animals, like fish.

8

