

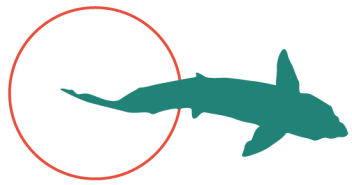


Guidelines to help water-users reduce the risk of injuring or harassing Basking Sharks.

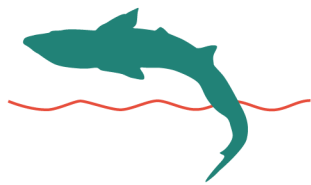
GENERAL ADVICE

Do not approach within 100m.

If you encounter Basking Sharks be aware:



- ✓ 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**.



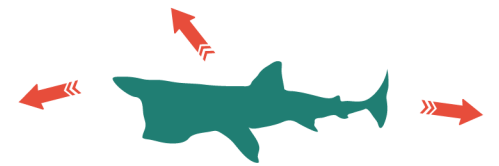
- ✓ Avoid pairs or **large numbers** of sharks following each other closely. This may be courting behaviour and they should not be disturbed. Maintain a distance of at least 500m.

REMEMBER!

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

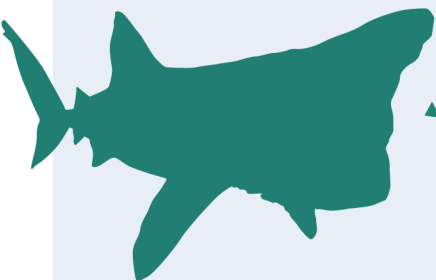
DID YOU KNOW?

Basking Sharks are legally protected in the UK. It's illegal to intentionally kill, injure, recklessly disturb or harass Basking Sharks in British waters. Any person committing such an offence could face up to 6 months in prison and a large fine.



- ✓ **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:

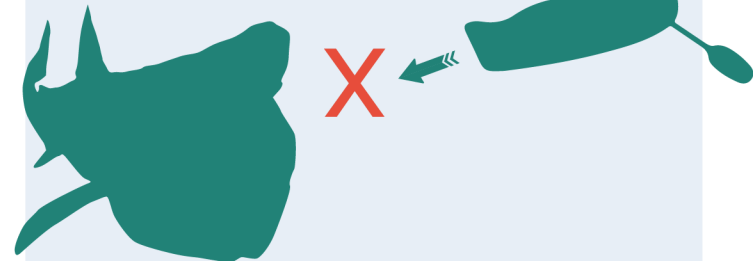


4m

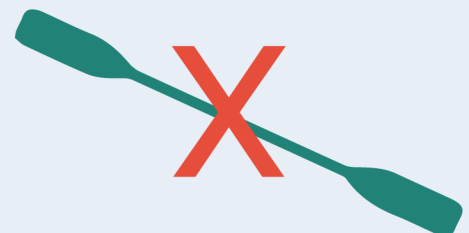


- Maintain a distance of at least 4m and be wary of the tail
- Do not touch the sharks
- Do not swim towards them if they are near you
- Ideally, swimmers should remain on the surface – stay in a group, rather than spreading out around the sharks
- No more than 4 people in the water within 100m of a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

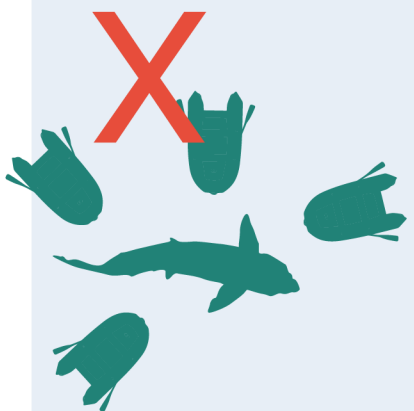
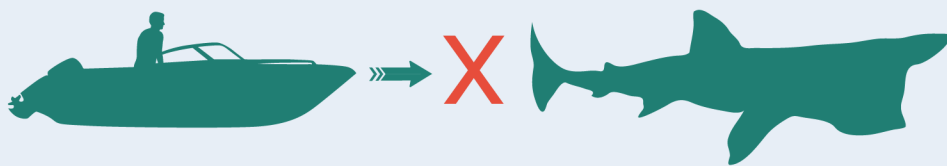
KAYAKS & SUP'S:



- 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 of the fins for the Photo-ID Project and record your sighting.

