

# Basking Shark Code of Conduct



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

## Swimmers and 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.

## 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

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

**Basking sharks are Protected in Ireland.**

Report wildlife crime to

[WildlifeEnforcement@npws.gov.ie](mailto:WildlifeEnforcement@npws.gov.ie)

Visit [www.npws.ie/wildlife-crime](http://www.npws.ie/wildlife-crime)  
for more information

## Photography

Drones, GoPros and other filming equipment

- **A license is needed to film or photograph** the courting/breeding areas of basking sharks & other protected species.
- **Avoid** flash-photography.
- **Do not fly** drones below 12 m
- **Follow** IAA regulations for drones.
- **Use the UAS Geographic Zone** maps for location restrictions on drone usage.
- **Consider** environmental regulations.

## 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.