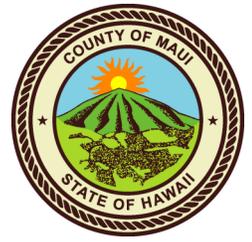




“Swim Safe” Shark Tips



Safety tips for swimmers, snorkelers, surfers, standup paddlers, divers and spearfishers

Anyone who enters the ocean leaves behind the rules of dry land and crosses into a marine environment governed by a completely different set of rules. Respect for the ocean and a heightened awareness can help keep us safe in the water. The following Do's and Don'ts may help decrease the risk of encountering sharks while enjoying the ocean.

DO:

- Swim at lifeguard-monitored beaches, and follow their advice and any posted warning signs.
- Swim/surf/dive with a buddy or in a group.
- Stay close to shore if you are inexperienced or unfamiliar with the area.
- Leave the water if fish or turtles start to behave erratically, and avoid swimming near dolphins as they are prey for some large sharks.
- Remove any speared fish from the water or tow the fish a safe distance behind you to avoid the presence of blood near you in the water.
- Leave the water quickly and calmly if a shark is sighted; if you see a shark, alert lifeguards or other swimmers immediately.
- Keep pets out of the water as their erratic movement can attract sharks.
- Be aware that using bait to lure fish may also attract sharks.

DON'T:

- Don't enter the water if you have any open wounds or are bleeding in any way, including females on their monthly period. Sharks can detect blood and body fluids in extremely small concentrations.
- Don't enter the water if it is murky, cloudy, polluted from run-off or has poor visibility for any reason. Sharks can easily mistake humans as prey when conditions are bad.
- Don't enter the water at dawn, dusk and at night, when some species of sharks may move closer to land to feed. However, keep in mind that sharks, especially tiger sharks, have been known to bite people at any time of day or night.
- Don't swim/surf/dive near harbor entrances, river mouths and channels, especially after heavy rains. These types of waters are known to be frequented by sharks.
- Don't wear high-contrast swimwear or shiny jewelry. Sharks can see contrast well.
- Don't splash or splash excessively.
- Don't swim near people fishing or spear fishing.
- Don't provoke or harass a shark, even a small one.

More info: HawaiiSharks.org
and OceanSafety.soest.Hawaii.edu/

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NOTE: These safety tips were jointly produced by the County of Maui and the State Dept. of Land & Natural Resources in the interest of public safety and cannot guarantee or warrant your safety in the ocean. Everyone enters the water at their own risk. Neither the County of Maui nor the Department of Land & Natural Resources accept responsibility, express or implied, for the use or misuse of the information contained in this educational brochure.