

spot
the
difference

CALLING ALL DIVE CENTERS
& DIVERS
WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!
JOIN US AND TURN YOUR DIVES INTO RESEARCH
DATA IN AID OF WHALE SHARK RESEARCH!

VISIT SHARKWATCH ARABIA TO FIND OUT MORE
WWW.SHARKWATCHARABIA.COM

SharkWatch Arabia is looking for dive centers, divers, dive professionals and underwater photographers to be involved. We are looking for enthusiastic individuals who dive regularly to register and help to collect much needed data on whale sharks in the region.

DIVE CENTRES - Register interested Dive Masters or Dive Instructors on-line at
WWW.SHARKWATCHARABIA.COM...



Picture Courtesy of Warren Sawentock / www.verifiedglobal.com

Code of Conduct for Whale Shark encounters by divers

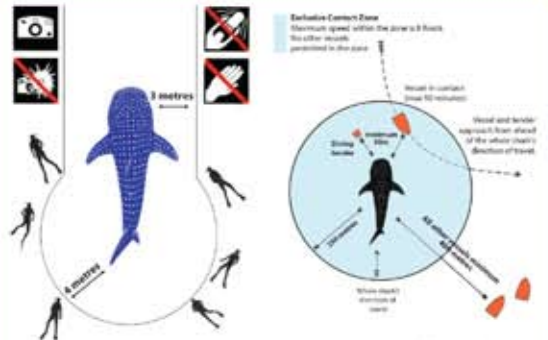


Image courtesy of www.environment.gov.au

FOR TOUR GUIDES AND DIVE OPERATORS:

- All supervisors should be familiar with the Code of Conduct themselves and capable of providing a full briefing to clients on appropriate behaviour.
- All boats should have observers watching for marine wildlife while in motion, preferably equipped with polarized sunglasses.
- A maximum of 8-10 swimmers in the water at one time.
- All boats should approach whale sharks at a speed producing no visible wake.
- Swimmers should be discharged at a minimum distance of 30 m away from the shark.
- Boats should never block the shark's path, and should generally approach no closer than 50m from the shark.
- Avoid situations where multiple boatloads are interacting with the same shark. In these situations a maximum time limit (e.g. 20 minutes, or as agreed) for in-water encounters should be adhered to by each boat. After 20 minutes the guide from the 'in-contact' boat should pick up clients from the water and signal to the other boat that their interaction can begin.

FOR SNORKELLERS AND DIVERS:

- Ensure you receive a whale shark interaction briefing from your tour guide or dive supervisor. Ask questions if points are unclear or confusing.
- Remain at least 3m away from the body of the shark at all times and 4m from the tail.
- Do not block the path of the shark.
- If duck-diving, maintain 3m distance. Avoid the under-surface of the shark as many whale sharks will 'bank' (turn onto their sides) as a negative behavioural response to approach from the sides or underneath.
- DO relax many whale sharks are extremely curious and will readily approach swimmers if they feel unthreatened.

