



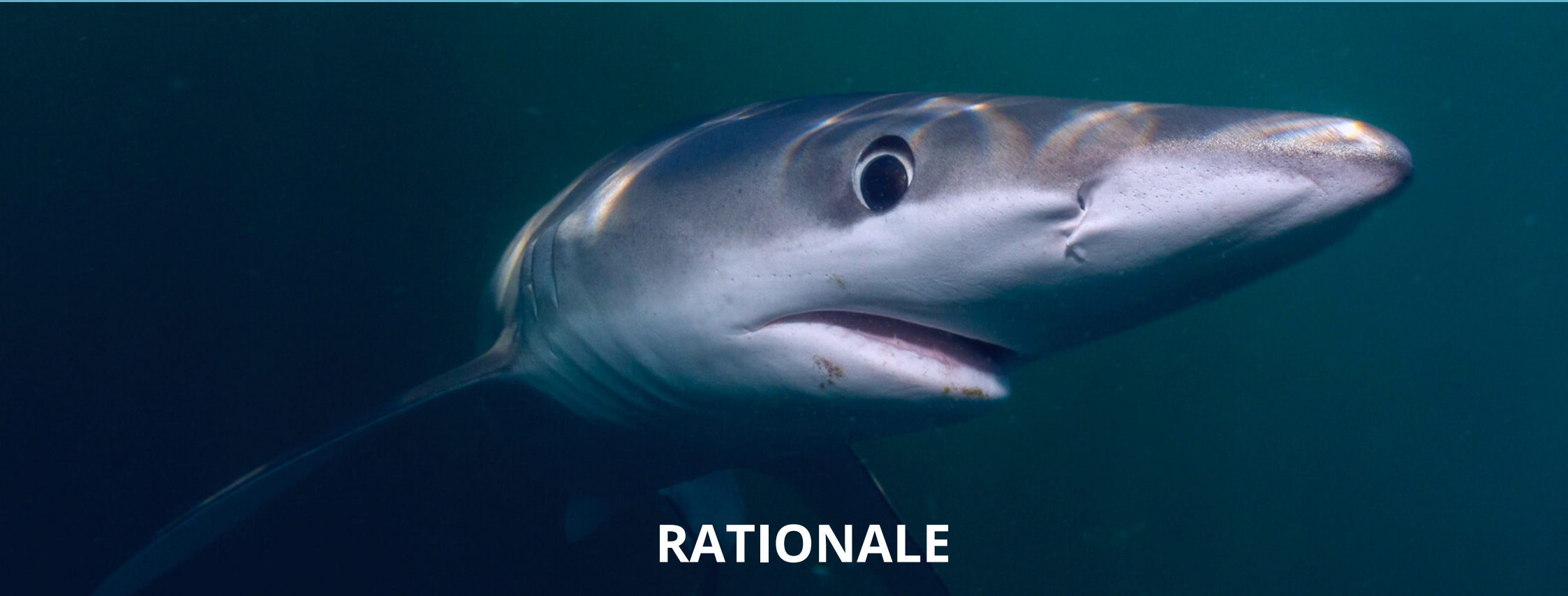
MAR
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Blue shark *Prionace glauca* swim-with Code of Conduct



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RATIONALE

Nature-based tourism can connect people with nature, improve mental health, promote environmental appreciation, raise awareness and bring economic and social incentives to those directly involved in the activities. In order to continue these positive outcomes and sustain a successful wildlife tourist industry, we need to manage our interactions with marine species, such as blue sharks in the UK. This Code of Conduct aims to maximise tourist, shark and operator safety - always remembering these are wild animals in a foreign environment to us. These guidelines are based on best practices and were created in partnership with blue shark tourism operators in the UK.

Best practices should be part of a thorough briefing given to you by your tour operator, including biology, ecology, conservation of the species you might see at sea, as well as safety on the boat, at sea, and during in-water interactions.

BEST PRACTICES FOR SWIMMERS



KIT LIST

- Wear dark exposure suits (5 mm+ thickness is recommended for your protection) and dark fins.
- Wear dark exposure neoprene gloves, boots and hood.
- No fluorescent or bright colours.
- No jewellery or shiny metal objects (camera D-rings/silver buttons).
- Logos and weight-belt buckles should be taped up using black tape/painted over.
- Go-pro type cameras should be kept on a pole to create distance between you and the sharks.
- Your operator will decide the guest-to-guide ratio based on the group's experience and conditions (recommended max. 4 guests per guide).





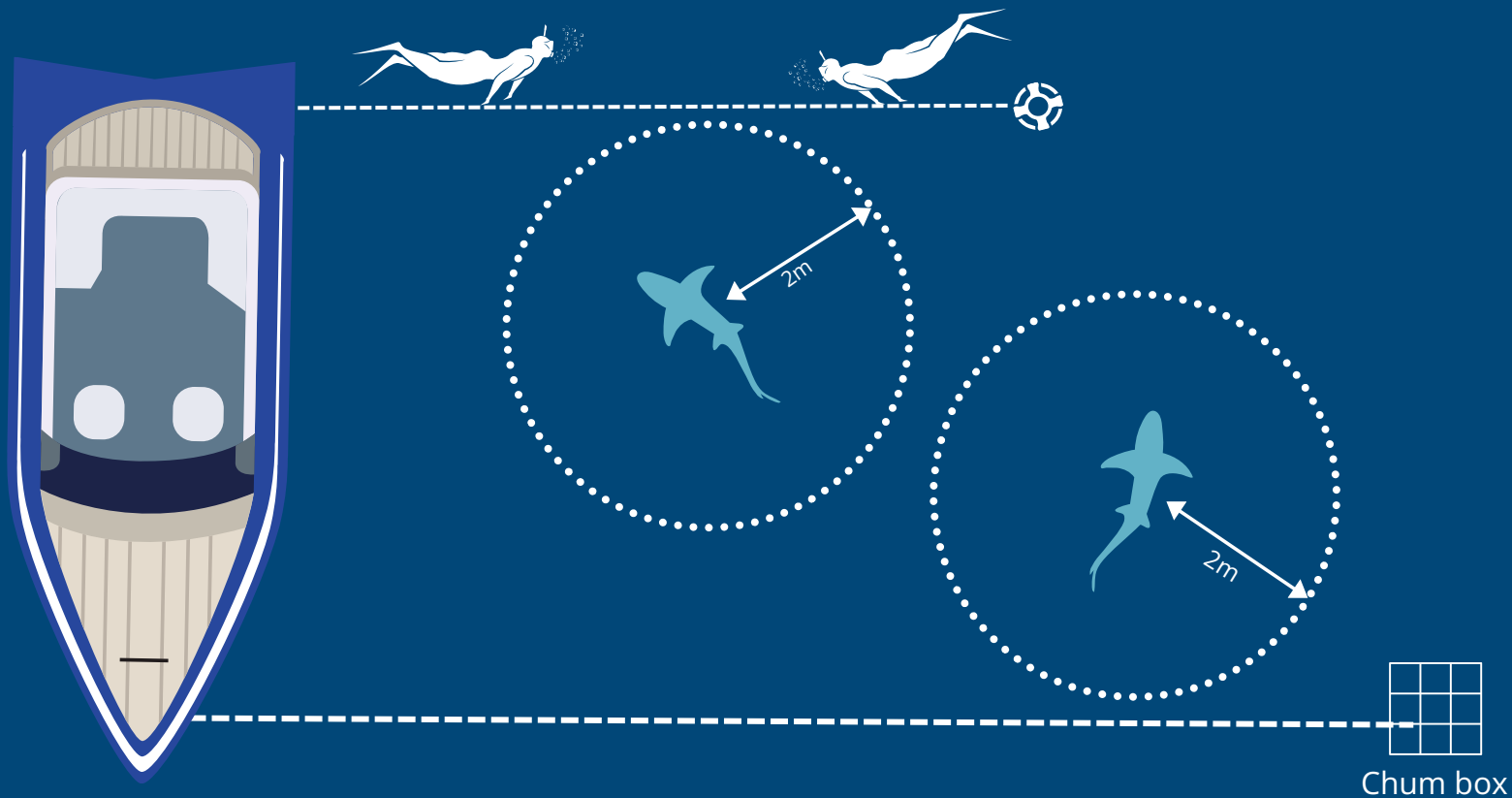
BEST PRACTICES FOR SWIMMERS



BEHAVIOUR

- Do not touch or chase the sharks, they will come to you.
- Try to keep a safe distance from the sharks - at least 2m or about one shark's body length.
- If a shark swims towards you, keep your eyes on them and do not swim away.
- Do not crowd the sharks or block their path.
- Keep your eyes in the water and on the sharks.
- Keep checking around you.
- No splashing or erratic movements.
- Stay up current of the 'chum' box.
- No underwater scooters permitted.
- Listen out for the guide's instructions and adhere to them.

BLUE SHARK INTERACTION GUIDELINES



Recommended max.
4 guests per guide*
subject to conditions



No touching sharks



Try to stay at least
2m from the shark



Wear dark, full
exposure gear
including hood and
gloves



Minimise splashing
and erratic
movement



Adhere to the rules:
zero tolerance



Photography allowed



Stay alert and aware
of sharks, swimmers
and boat position

Sustainable tips for your trip



Avoid single-use plastics onboard (sachets, stirrers, straws, bottles)



Use ocean friendly sunscreen (non-toxic, bio-base)



Shop local and support local businesses



Eat seasonal, sustainable produce



Support marine conservation groups/charities/initiatives

Disclaimer

This Code of Conduct was developed by Marine Research and Conservation Foundation ("MARECO") as a guide for blue shark swim-with tourism operators ("Operators") and their guests, with the overall goal of ensuring safe and enjoyable experiences. While we strive to offer the most up-to-date and comprehensive guidance, this Code does not guarantee complete safety for the Operators or their guests when swimming with blue sharks. The activity involves inherent risks which are beyond our control.

The Code of Conduct is not an exhaustive list of every potential hazard or safety measure related to swimming with blue sharks at the surface (i.e. not caged, hand-fed or under other conditions). Therefore, it is the Operators' responsibility to stay informed about the latest safety practices and regulations, comply with all applicable laws and regulations, and ensure the safety and welfare of their guests. We do not provide legal advice, and Operators should seek independent legal counsel to understand and comply with all legal obligations.

MARECO accepts no liability or responsibility for any loss, injury, or damage of any kind that may occur as a result of the application or non-application of the guidance contained in this Code of Conduct. Operators and guests who choose to swim with sharks do so at their own risk. We encourage everyone involved to take necessary precautions and prioritise safety above all else.



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In collaboration with our blue shark tourism partners and The Shark Trust.