

## TOOL 1: HOW DO YOU PERFORM?

This tool helps assess the quality, performance and safety of a shark and ray tourism operation against best practice. Use this tool to see how you perform, or to determine what kind of operator you want to be, and then use the flowchart to provide guidance for how to address any issues. Go through each criteria and determine which box best represents you. Make a note of your score and then add them up at the end to determine what sort of operator you are on the flowchart.<sup>76</sup>

CRITERIA	POOR SCORE = 1	FAIR SCORE = 2	GOOD SCORE = 3	EXCELLENT SCORE = 4	SELF ASSESSMENT TOTAL SCORE
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Operator provides little, if any, information on the dive/swim and animals.  No guidelines provided on animal interactions.  No information given about the sharks, rays and their ecosystems.	Brief overview of diving/swimming conditions and animals.  No guidelines provided on animal interactions.  No information given about the sharks, rays and their ecosystems.	Basic briefing of diving/swimming conditions, animals, diver/swimmer safety.  Basic information provided on animal interactions.  Basic information given about sharks, rays and their ecosystems.  Some signage provided.	Comprehensive briefing on diving/swimming conditions and diver safety with an emphasis on animal behavior.  Detailed guidelines and related signage on animal interactions.  In-depth information about sharks, rays and their ecosystems provided.	
<b>IN-WATER SAFETY</b>	A free-for-all with no organization.  Operators make no effort to lead/communicate underwater/in the water.	Loose organization between divers/swimmers and operators.  Operators remain relatively distant from divers/swimmers.	Good organization and communication between operator and divers/swimmers.  Operators stay relatively close to divers/swimmers.	Effective strategy with strong organization and frequent communication with divers/swimmers.  Entry and exit protocol enforced.	
<b>ANIMAL TREATMENT</b>	Operator frequently handles and manipulates animals and permits divers/swimmers to handle and touch animals.	Operator sometimes handles and manipulates animals; touching by divers/swimmers prohibited but is not enforced.	Operator rarely handles or manipulates animals; touching by divers/swimmers is prohibited and enforced.	Operator never handles or manipulates animals; touching by divers/swimmers is strictly prohibited and enforced.	
<b>PARTICIPATING IN RESEARCH AND OUTREACH</b>	Operator does not participate in research efforts.	Operator provides space on board vessel for researchers.	Operator provides space on board vessels for researchers and actively participates through collecting data and communicating results to passengers.	Operator provides space on board vessels for researchers and actively participates through collecting data and communicating results to passengers; collaborates with researchers on projects.	



## TOOL 1: HOW DO YOU PERFORM? cont.

CRITERIA	POOR SCORE = 1	FAIR SCORE = 2	GOOD SCORE = 3	EXCELLENT SCORE = 4	SELF ASSESSMENT TOTAL SCORE
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY</b>	<p>Operator makes no effort to use local or species appropriate food or lures.</p> <p>Gear used is high impact.</p> <p>Vessel is not fuel efficient.</p> <p>Green technology (eg, solar panels) is not incorporated into operations.</p> <p>Engine boat maintenance (avoiding oil spills etc.) rarely undertaken.</p> <p>No effort to reduce carbon footprint and improve waste management.</p> <p>Note - High impact is defined as: Coarse material that, if colliding with animals or people, can cause significant damage or injury. Metal and chain, as well as plastic and zip ties that can be ingested are all considered high impact.</p>	<p>Operator rarely uses local or species-appropriate food or lures.</p> <p>Gear used has moderate impact.</p> <p>Vessel is moderately fuel efficient.</p> <p>Some attempts to incorporate green technology into operations.</p> <p>Engine and boat maintenance (avoiding oil spills etc.) occasionally undertaken.</p> <p>Some effort to reduce carbon footprint and improve waste management (plastic use reduction, recycling and collection &amp; disposal).</p>	<p>Operator does not provision; or operator uses local and species-appropriate food or lures.</p> <p>Gear used has moderate to low impact.</p> <p>Vessel is fuel efficient.</p> <p>Green technology incorporated into operations where possible.</p> <p>Engine and boat maintenance (avoiding oil spills etc.) regularly undertaken.</p> <p>Good effort to reduce carbon footprint and improve waste management (plastic use reduction, recycling and collection &amp; disposal).</p>	<p>Operator does not provision, or does so under a responsible provisioning plan.</p> <p>Gear is specifically designed to be low impact.</p> <p>Vessel is certified fuel efficient and low emissions.</p> <p>Operator has obtained ecotourism accreditation.</p> <p>Green technology incorporated into operations.</p> <p>Engine and boat maintenance (avoiding oil spills, etc.) regularly undertaken.</p> <p>Extensive effort to reduce carbon footprint and improve waste management (plastic use reduction, recycling and collection &amp; disposal).</p>	
<b>SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<p>Operation is not designed to benefit the conservation of resources or local communities and waters.</p> <p>No engagement with local community.</p>	<p>Operation shows some awareness of conservation of resources, animals, communities and waters.</p> <p>Minimal engagement with local community.</p>	<p>Operation demonstrates a conservation-based approach to resources, animals, communities and waters.</p> <p>Operator is engaged with local community.</p>	<p>Operation strongly demonstrates a clear conservation-based approach to resources, animals, communities and waters.</p> <p>Operator is engaged with local community and involves them in operations, e.g. through jobs, promoting local related businesses to customers.</p>	



# TOOL 1: HOW DO YOU PERFORM? cont.

