

TOOL 5: SELECTING A SITE

The following checklist highlights important aspects for you to consider when selecting a site. The higher the number of yes answers, the more likely it is the site will be a suitable location.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS	YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
SPECIES-RELATED CONDITIONS			
ARE THE TARGET SHARKS AND/OR RAYS PRESENT REGULARLY AND PREDICTABLY?			
ARE THE SPECIES CONSISTENTLY SEEN IN CONSECUTIVE SEASONS OR YEARS?			
IS THE SITE IN AN AREA THAT IS NOT A MATING, PUPPING OR SHARK NURSERY GROUND? IT'S IMPORTANT TO TRY TO AVOID THESE AREAS SO AS NOT TO DISTURB THE ANIMALS.			
ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS			
IS THERE EASY ACCESS TO THE DIVE SITE BY BOAT OR FROM LAND?			
IS THE WATER CLEAR ENOUGH TO ALLOW GOOD VIEWING OF THE ANIMALS?			
CAN THE HABITAT WITHSTAND IMPACT FROM THE OPERATION? FOR EXAMPLE, IS IT POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE DIVERS OR CREATE A FEEDING ARENA WITH MINIMAL DAMAGE TO CORAL COVER?			
IS THE SITE RELATIVELY SHELTERED FROM BAD WEATHER OR STRONG CURRENTS THAT MAY IMPACT ON SAFETY AND ACCESS FOR CUSTOMERS?			

TOOL 5: SELECTING A SITE cont.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS	YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS			
IS THERE EASY ACCESS TO THE OPERATOR LOCATION FOR CUSTOMERS?			
ARE LOCAL FACILITIES (E.G., TRANSPORT, RESTAURANTS, HOTELS) AVAILABLE?			
ARE THERE OTHER TOURIST ACTIVITIES NEARBY? IF PROVISIONING PREDATORY SHARKS, ARE OPERATIONS WELL AWAY FROM POPULATION AND TOURISM CENTERS?			
IS THERE EASY EVACUATION AVAILABLE IF THERE ARE PROBLEMS (MEDICAL CARE, DECOMPRESSION CHAMBER ETC.)?			
ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS TO ENGAGE IN SHARK AND RAY-BASED TOURISM?			
IS THERE A LOCAL DESIRE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY TO CONSERVE MARINE RESOURCES?			
ARE OPERATIONS COMPATIBLE WITH LEVELS OF FISHING IN THE AREA?			
ARE TOURISTS IN THIS AREA WILLING TO PAY FOR DIVING/SNORKELING? CAN LOCAL TOURISTS AFFORD THE SAME AS INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS?			
IS THERE A LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK PROTECTING TARGET SPECIES?			
IS IT PRACTICAL TO ENFORCE REGULATIONS OR A CODE OF CONDUCT? IS SUCH ENFORCEMENT OCCURRING?			

