

# **UNH Dive Program Information for Diving around Sharks**

Sharks are known to be part of our diving environment. It is important to be aware of the type of sharks near your dive sites, and the inherent hazards associated with those sharks. Recently the Gulf of Maine has seen an uptick in Great white sightings. And although diving issues with sharks are extremely rare divers should be aware if a great white has been seen in the dive area. If so dives should be suspended for the rest of the day, and all divers including the DSO/DC and or DCB members should be informed of any great white sightings to follow up on dive plans.

Each diver shall assess the various risks for every dive and make their own decision to dive or not.

The diver may refuse to dive for any reason without fear of penalty.

No diver should feel peer, advisory or administrative pressure to commence or complete a dive.

Being uncomfortable or stressed before the dive will not lead to a productive safe dive environment and should be avoided.

**When diving in areas where sharks may be use common sense and follow as many of the suggestions listed below as possible:**

- Maintain effective communication between dive buddies and surface support personnel
- Divers should stay close to their buddies at all times especially on the surface
- A diver recall system should be used and understood by all divers
- Decrease surface swims by anchoring boats close to dive sites
- Ascend along the anchor or mooring line-not in open water
- Be able to navigate underwater back to the boat or shore
- Avoid diving in poor visibility
- Do NOT dive in areas where “chumming” or fishing with bait is being dumped into the water