

**ENJOYING SHARKS  
A FRONT ROW SEAT:  
A Divers Opinion.**

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# My first shark encounter dive

- I got to go on my first shark encounter dive in the Bahamas back in 2012.
- Our group was on the bottom at 40 feet near our own rock in a circle.
- The "feeder" was in a shark suit and was holding out pieces of fish to attract sharks for the feeding.
- The sharks would circle in a calm manner as the feeder would only feed one shark at a time. The sharks would continue swimming around in front of us in a circle and wait for a snack.
- This was an amazing first-hand view of wild sharks for me. They did brush up against me and other divers as they swam past. Incredible to say the least.

# Another shark encounter dive

- I dove in 2022 on another shark dive with a group of divers out of the Jupiter inlet.
- This shark feeder wore a regular wetsuit and our group all went down to 80 plus feet together.
- The feeder stayed in front of us with the bucket of chum and we all were at the bottom and stayed below and behind her in an amphitheater effect.
- These sharks were fed one at a time also. There would be about 5 sharks at once.
- The sharks were farther away from us, but so beautiful as we could really see them swim in at all angles to be fed.
- Because we were below them you got perfect views of the swimming and being fed.

# Should we humans feed wild sharks?

- First, the sharks are never forced, they come in to feed on their own accord.
- Second, the sharks are fed the same diet of wild caught fish that they normally would eat. The only difference is the sharks are not catching the fish themselves.
- Third, these feedings would never be enough for these large animals. It is a snack at best.
- Yes, the controversy exists as these sharks do become used to being fed a treat and will be waiting if the feedings are done at the same time each day. A small price to pay if this helps keep people interested in their survival.
- As for my experiences with these magnificent animals, feeding right in front of me was a life changing experience.

# Man vs. Shark

- About 100 million sharks are killed per year by man
  - Shark Finning (~75%)
  - Bycatch
  - Targeted fishing
- About 6-8 humans are killed by sharks every year.
- If you never saw a shark or any wild creature in its natural environment you may not care that it even exists.



*“People generally want to save what they love” - Jacques Cousteau*

# Bird Feeding

- One of the first things I thought of on my first shark feed dive.
- The love of nature started as a child for me and continues to this day.



# What do you think?

- Feeding wild sharks is certainly a controversial topic but, for me it created awareness of the existence of them at a close view.
- If doing this for more people creates some awareness of these wonderful animals and possibly saving some from total extinction I am all for it.