



Save Philippine Seas
Because our seas save us.

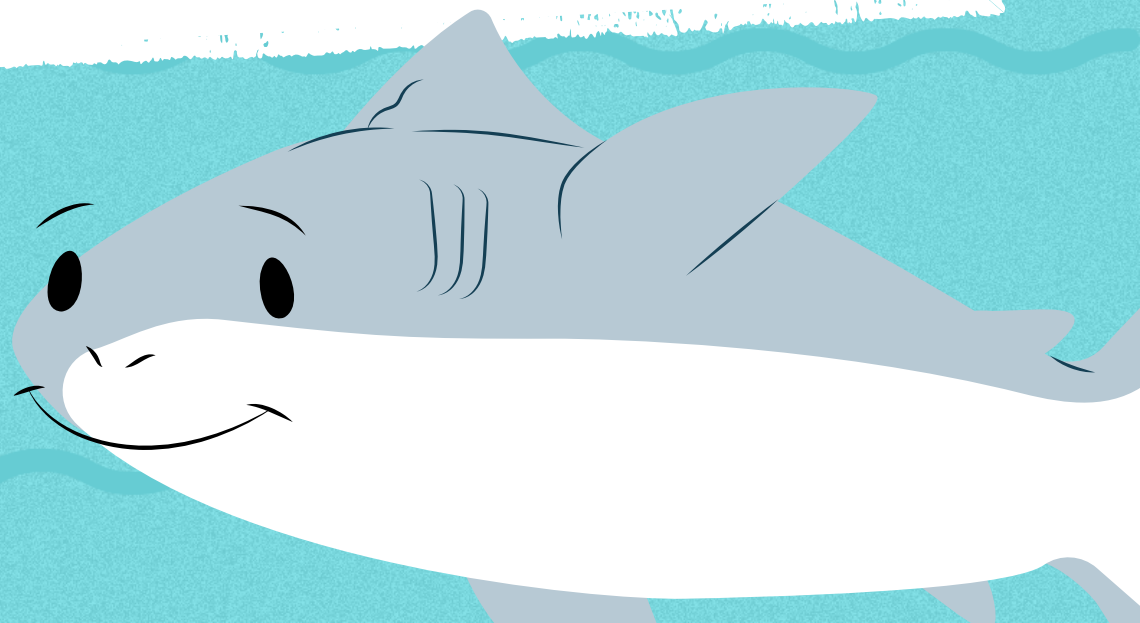


**MARINE
WILDLIFE
WATCH
OF THE
PHILIPPINES**

Shark Terms to Avoid

The do's and don'ts when talking
about sharks

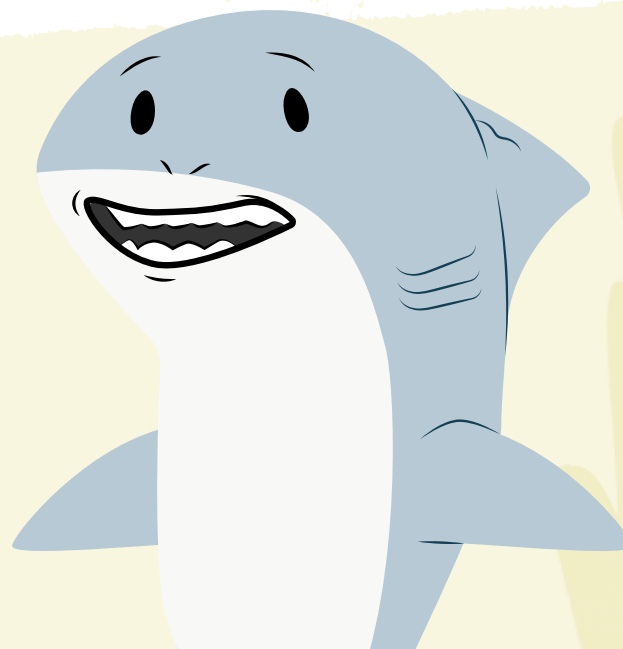
Source: Wildlife Conservation Society's "5 Shark Terms to Avoid"



Sharks continue to have a bad reputation.

If we stop using certain terms and references, it could help shift attitudes towards sharks into a more positive one. This could also lead to positive impacts on shark conservation efforts.

**Remember:
The words we use create
the world we choose!**



SHARK TERMS TO **AVOID**

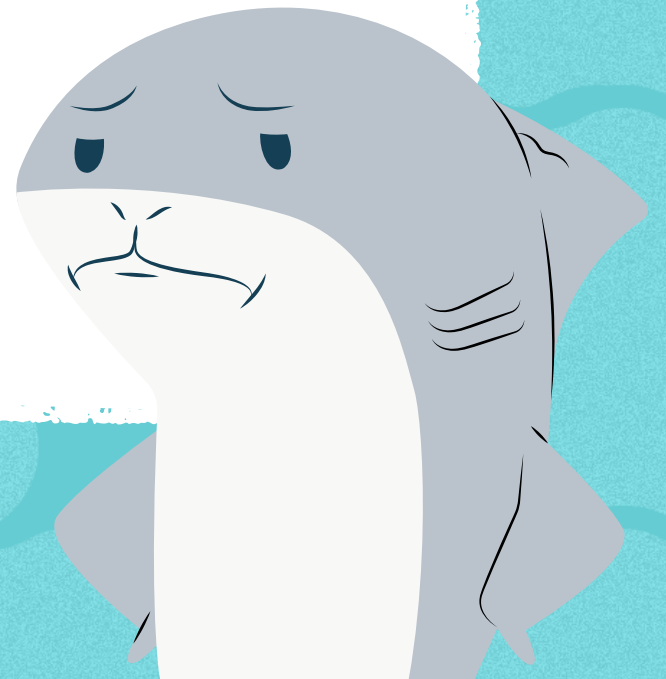
shark | SHärk |

adjective

ORIGIN: From people's perception that sharks are aggressive and prey on people

Frequently used as a derogatory term for a cunning or scheming person. Often associated with gamblers, entrepreneurs, lawyers, and politicians:
That Mayor is such a shark.

Let's not insult sharks by comparing them to our politicians. Please.



SHARK TERMS TO **AVOID**

shark bait | SHärk bāt |

adjective

ORIGIN: From fish bait being vulnerable to attack

Frequently used as a derogatory term to describe a person who is naïve and likely to fall for a scam or schemes: *Tanong mo kung gusto niya mag-coffee. Mukha siyang shark bait eh.*

Preying on people is never okay anyway.

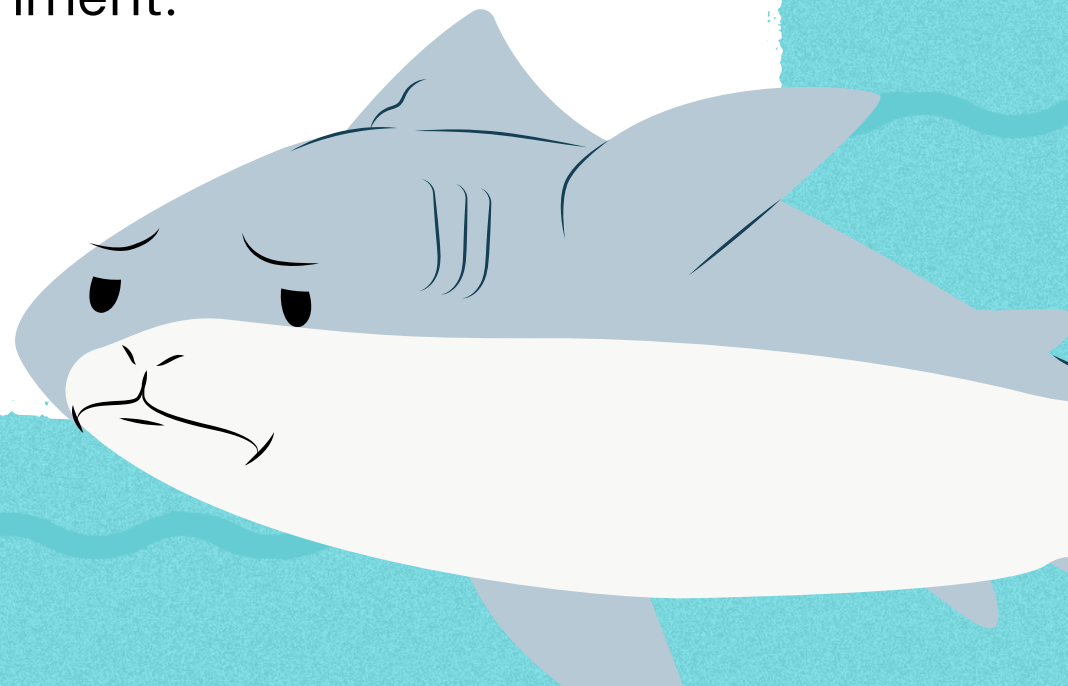


Swimming with sharks

idiom

To operate among dangerous people: *If you agree to join, you'll be swimming with sharks.*

Swimming with sharks is a great opportunity to learn about them! There are several responsible tourism sites in the Philippines where you can interact with sharks in their natural environment.



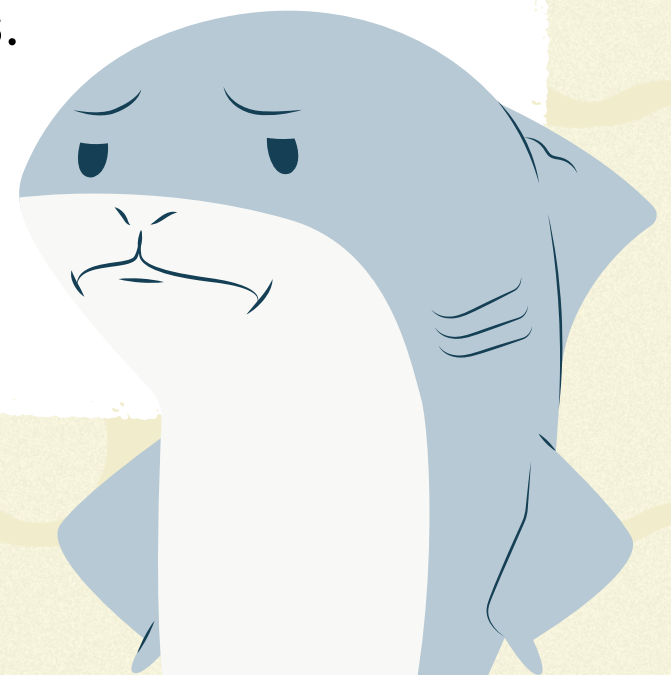
Man-eater | 'mæni:tər |

adjective

ORIGIN: Myth that humans are part of a shark's diet

Perpetuates fake news and fear:
All sharks are man-eaters.

Sharks prefer fish and invertebrates over humans. The term is also archaic based on proper gender equality guidelines.



SHARK TERMS TO **AVOID**

shark-infested | ʃɑ:kɪn'fɛstɪd |

adjective

a body of water known to contain a high number of sharks, and are therefore considered to be dangerous:
The shark-infested waters of Tubbataha Reefs.

The water is their home. In areas where food is more abundant, there will naturally be higher numbers of sharks. A body of water with sharks is a *good* thing.



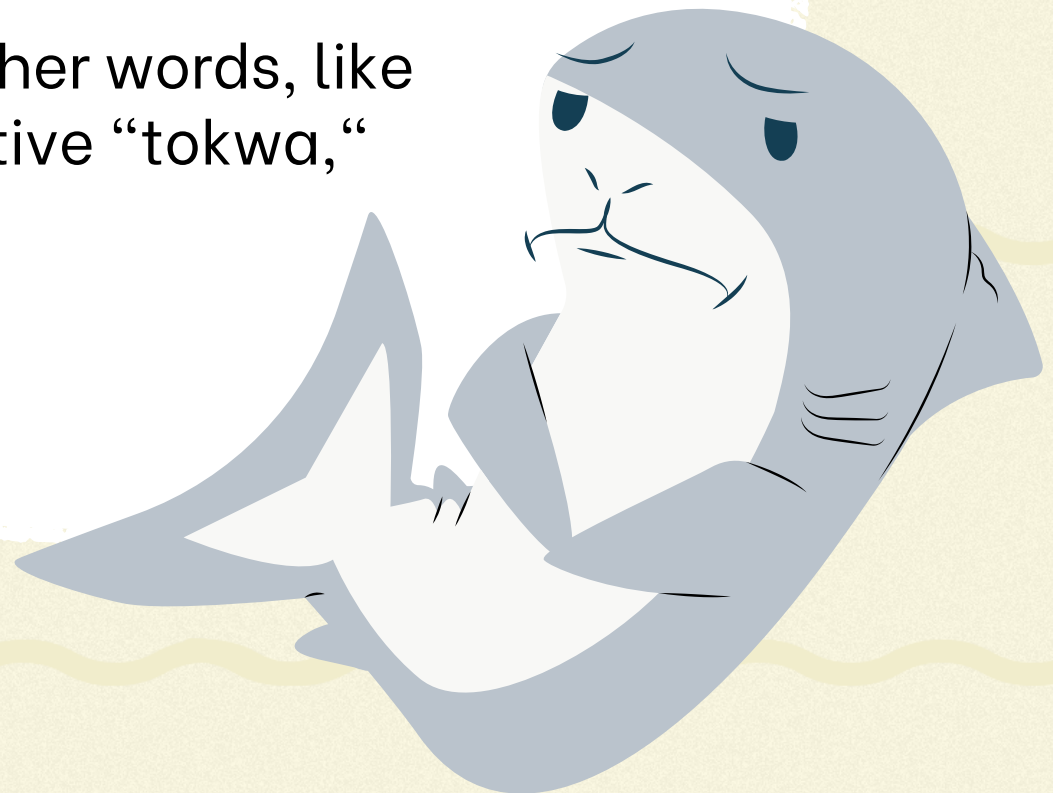
caution: sharks

anak ng pating

adjective

A Filipino expression to convey annoyance:
*Lockdown na naman?!
Anak ng pating naman o!*

Replace “pating” with other words, like the plant-based alternative “tokwa,” i.e., “Anak ng tokwa!”



Any reference to Jaws **(including the soundtrack!)**

Although *Jaws* is a classic film, it cemented the image of sharks as mindless man-eaters.

(Treasure by Bruno Mars would be more fitting.)

