



Potentially Dangerous Marine Animals Prevention, Sightings, Interactions, Response

1. General Prevention

- A. Beach-goers should be aware of the inherent risks of dangerous marine life in both the ocean and the bay, and that despite the lifeguard's best efforts at detection, prevention and early warning, that potentially dangerous marine animal interactions can happen unexpectedly and without warning.
- B. Beach-goers are hereby advised that the closer to shore a swimmer is, the quicker and more efficient the lifeguard response will be and the sooner that the swimmer can be extricated from the water, and the sooner that medical response can be alerted and commenced if necessary.
- C. Given the presence of potentially dangerous marine animals in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean off of Fire Island during the Lifeguard-season, "Dangerous Marine Life" signs should be posted at all Lifeguard-beach locations.
- D. Lifeguards will make their best efforts to recognize potentially dangerous marine animals behavior that may be considered threatening, and to coordinate with other area lifeguard jurisdictions and agencies to be made aware of possible threatening potentially dangerous marine animals activity in the general area.

2. Prevention in Response to Identified Potentially Dangerous Marine Animals Activity

- A. When behavior of a potentially dangerous marine animals appears to present an unusual hazard to swimmers, it is appropriate to require persons to leave the water at the discretion of the lifeguard.
- B. If notification that a lifeguarded beach in any jurisdiction between Robert Moses State Park and Ocean Beach has closed its beaches due to observation of potentially dangerous marine animals in their area(s), Saltaire Lifeguards are advised to maintain heightened vigilance at their locations.

- C. If notification that a lifeguarded beach in any jurisdiction between Robert Moses State Park and Ocean Beach has closed its beaches due to a potentially dangerous marine animal bite, Saltaire Lifeguards may at their discretion require swimmers to leave the waters until an assessment can be made by the Supervising Lifeguard that a threat-beyond-normal-circumstances does not exist and it is appropriate to reopen the water to aquatic activity.
- D. If multiple sightings and interactions of potentially dangerous marine animals occurs within a short period of time, or if a bite by a potentially dangerous marine animal occurs on a Lifeguard beach location within Saltaire, Saltaire Lifeguards may require swimmers to leave the waters until an assessment can be made by the Supervising Lifeguard in conjunction with Village Administration that an immediate threat-beyond-normal-circumstances does not exist and it is appropriate to reopen the water to aquatic activity.
- E. In the case of a potentially dangerous marine animal(s) attack, wherein the potentially dangerous marine animal(s) repeatedly bite or pursues a human, Saltaire Lifeguards shall require swimmers to leave the waters until an assessment can be made by the Supervising Lifeguard in conjunction with Village Administration that threat-beyond-normal-circumstances does not exist and it is appropriate to reopen the water to aquatic activity. That assessment may include a request of a drone survey of the water from the Suffolk County Marine Division or the State Park Division.

3. Lifeguard Response to Potentially Dangerous Marine Animals Attack

- A. If a lifeguard observes a potentially dangerous marine animals bite in progress, the lifeguard should immediately notify other lifeguards and determine the most appropriate course of action. This should follow the agency's overall emergency response plans and any specific plans that may exist for potentially dangerous marine animals bites.
- B. The United States Lifesaving Association cannot issue a blanket recommendation that a lifeguard without protective equipment attempt to intervene during a potentially dangerous marine animals bite incident, due to the potential danger. International Shark Attack File statistics however, suggest that danger to the lifeguard in an attempt to intervene is extremely limited. Moreover, in the vast majority of cases, the potentially dangerous marine animal will affect a bite, then leave the victim. A properly trained and certified Lifeguard's access to a motorized rescue boat or Jet ski to assist a swimmer during a shark or other sea animal attack may increase the likelihood and effectiveness of Lifeguard intervention during the attack.

- C. Once injury has been inflicted to the victim, heavy bleeding is likely, so rescue from the water and immediate medical aid may be essential to victim survival. If a rescue boat is not available, and the potentially dangerous marine animals bite appears to be a typical single hit and run incident, and if the lifeguard considers it safe and within agency guidelines to enter the water, the lifeguard should perform a rescue and treat the wounds of the victim.

- D. Once the victim has been evacuated to shore or to a rescue boat, appropriate emergency medical assistance should be provided, in accordance with the lifeguard's training. In addition to normal emergency medical priorities, particular attention should be paid to stopping bleeding and treating for shock.