

# ANGEL SHARK CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCUBA AND SNORKEL



## If the Angelshark is buried in the sand:

- Keep a minimum distance of 1.5m between you and the Angelshark



- Do not touch them
- Do not remove the sand or sediment covering them
- Do not try and feed them

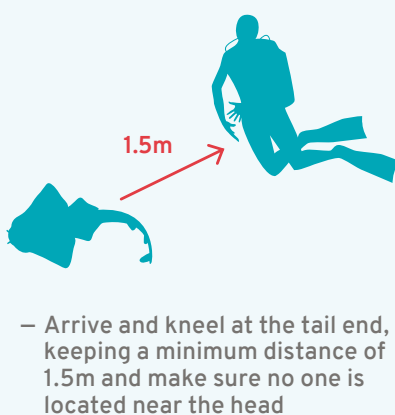
## If the Angelshark is swimming:

- Do not swim after them



## If multiple people see the Angelshark:

- Do not crowd around the Angelshark



- Arrive and kneel at the tail end, keeping a minimum distance of 1.5m and make sure no one is located near the head



- Do not block the Angelsharks swimming direction

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## How are Angelsharks protected in Wales?

It is Prohibited to intentionally disturb, target, injure or kill Angelsharks within 12nm of Welsh and English coastlines (Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981). If you do spot an Angelshark when diving or snorkelling, follow the Dive For Angels Code of Conduct to ensure minimal disturbance.

## Report your sighting

If you're lucky enough to see an Angelshark when diving or snorkelling, report your sighting to: [angelsharknetwork.com/#map](https://angelsharknetwork.com/#map) or email [angelsharks@zsl.org](mailto:angelsharks@zsl.org). This data is vital to better understand and conserve the species.

## How do you find an Angelshark?

Angelsharks bury themselves into sand or other sediment to ambush unsuspecting prey, this means they are very camouflaged and difficult to spot underwater. Key things to search for:

**Spiracles** – these are often the only thing protruding from the sand when an Angelshark is fully buried. The small crescent-shaped spiracles pump water over the Angelsharks gills, enabling them to remain still and wait for prey.

Be sure to check out areas of sand or silt close to rocky reefs – Angelsharks are waiting to ambush prey so may be close to where preferred prey species (fish, cuttlefish, squid) aggregate.

**End of a tail** – it is difficult for the Angelshark to cover the end of the tail and dorsal fins with sediment, so sometimes these are exposed.

**Outline of an Angelshark** – sometimes you can see a faint outline around the Angelshark if sediment has been swept off it's body with the current.