

PADI AWARE Shark & Ray Discovery Challenge

Official Rules

Below are the terms and conditions which apply to the Challenge. Please read these terms carefully as they contain important information participants should know. These terms are final and binding, and recognition is contingent upon fulfilling all requirements.

Challenge Overview

Administrator(s)	PADI Worldwide Corp ("PADI") and the PADI AWARE Foundation, together the "Administrator."
Challenge title	PADI AWARE Shark & Ray Discovery Challenge (the "Challenge").
Challenge Period	Begins 2 August 2026 at 12:01am PST and continues until the first two hundred (200) eligible participants have completed the Challenge and been confirmed as Pioneers (the "Challenge Period"). The Administrator may extend, shorten, suspend, or close the Challenge in accordance with these rules.
Recognition	Participants are recognised on a rolling basis as their completion is confirmed. The first two hundred (200) eligible participants to complete the Challenge will be recognised as PADI AWARE Global Shark & Ray Census Pioneers ("Pioneers").
Prize	Each eligible Pioneer receives: the PADI AWARE Global Shark & Ray Census Pioneer title, a place on the public Challenge leaderboard, and a limited-edition physical PADI card featuring one of the participant's existing PADI certifications. Potential social spotlight opportunities across PADI and PADI AWARE channels may arise but are not guaranteed and do not form part of the awarded prize.
Prize Value	No retail value is assigned to the recognition card. It is a non-transferable recognition item of nominal value. It is not a certification.

How to Participate

1. **Create a Conservation Action Portal (CAP) account.** A CAP account is required to submit sightings. Participation in the Challenge is free.
2. **Submit your shark and ray sightings** to the PADI Global Shark & Ray Census through CAP. Sightings from new dives and from previous dives both count.
3. **Identify each sighting at scientific species level** (for example tiger shark, whitetip reef shark, manta ray, blue-spotted ribbontail ray). Sightings identified only at group level do not count.
4. **Sightings are reviewed and confirmed by James Cook University (JCU).** Only sightings confirmed by JCU count toward completion. Review is carried out manually and takes time.
5. **Reach twenty (20) different confirmed species.** Historical sightings count. Multiple species from the same dive each count once. Sightings from any country, dive site, or trip count. Each species counts once per participant.
6. **Be among the first 200 to complete.** The first two hundred (200) eligible participants to reach 20 confirmed species are recognised as Pioneers.

PARTICIPATION IN THE CHALLENGE IS FREE. NO PURCHASE IS NECESSARY. THIS IS A SKILL AND ACHIEVEMENT BASED CHALLENGE. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED BY LAW. ALL DETERMINATIONS MADE BY THE ADMINISTRATOR AND JCU ARE FINAL.

PARTICIPATION IN THE CHALLENGE CONSTITUTES ACCEPTANCE OF THESE OFFICIAL RULES. You must make any disclosures required by applicable law when submitting content to the Challenge.

How Completion and Ranking Are Determined

A participant completes the Challenge when twenty (20) different shark and ray species have been confirmed by JCU in the PADI Global Shark & Ray Census. **Ranking for the first 200 is determined by the date on which the participant's 20th qualifying species is confirmed by JCU.**

In the event of a tie, or of any discrepancy in confirmation timing, the earlier submission date of the deciding sighting will prevail. **The submission date governs any discrepancy.** All determinations by the Administrator and JCU regarding species identification, confirmation, completion, and ranking are final and binding.

The public leaderboard reflects confirmed species only. A submitted sighting is not a confirmed sighting. The Administrator makes no representation as to the time required for verification and does not guarantee any verification turnaround.

General Rules and Conditions

Who can participate?

The Challenge is open globally to residents of countries where such activities are allowed by the laws of those countries, and to anyone who is 18 years of age or the age of majority in their jurisdiction of residence, whichever is greater. The Challenge may be restricted or prohibited by laws or regulations in certain places, countries, or regions. Employees, officers, directors, and immediate family members of employees of the Administrator and their related and affiliated companies are not eligible.

The Challenge is void where restricted or otherwise prohibited by law. By participating, you accept sole responsibility for determining whether your participation is legal in any jurisdiction that applies to you.

Submitting sightings is open to any person with a CAP account. **Recognition as a Pioneer and receipt of the recognition card additionally require the participant to hold a valid PADI certification of any kind.** A participant who does not hold a PADI certification may take part and submit sightings but cannot be awarded the recognition card.

How do I participate?

Create a CAP account and submit your shark and ray sightings to the PADI Global Shark & Ray Census as described above. Submissions must meet the requirements of the Challenge to be eligible, including species-level identification and any other rules set out here. No purchase is necessary to participate.

Diving and personal responsibility

Participants must only dive within the limits of their training, certification, and experience, and in accordance with safe diving practices and all applicable local laws. Nothing in the Challenge should be read as encouragement to dive beyond those limits, to disturb marine life, or to enter any area where diving is restricted. Historical sightings and existing footage may be submitted without any new dive.

How are participants recognised, and how will I be contacted?

Pioneers are recognised on a rolling basis as JCU confirms completion. Winners will be contacted directly, using the contact details associated with their CAP account or their PADI account, to arrange their recognition. The Administrator will make reasonable efforts to locate and communicate with each Pioneer. If a Pioneer cannot be confirmed within three (3) months, or if any dispute arises, the Administrator may recognise the next eligible participant in order of completion.

Each Pioneer will be asked to confirm which of their existing PADI certifications they would like featured on their recognition card. Cards are produced and shipped in accordance with PADI's replacement card protocol. Processing and delivery cadence depend on uptake.

What do I receive?

Eligible Pioneers receive the recognition set out in the Challenge Overview: the Pioneer title, a place on the public leaderboard, and the limited-edition physical PADI card featuring one of their existing PADI certifications.

The recognition card is not a certification. It is a limited-edition recognition item linked to a PADI certification the participant already holds, and confers no new training, qualification, or credential. **No cash alternative is available, the recognition is non-transferable, and no substitution is permitted.**

Participants are solely responsible for any applicable taxes or reporting obligations arising from any recognition received. The Administrator will not be responsible for any loss which is: (a) unreasonable or unforeseeable; (b) not caused by a breach of its duty or its negligence; (c) caused by factors outside of its reasonable control; or (d) caused by the participant's own negligence.

Content Rights

All content and privacy rights relating to submissions, including sightings, photographs, and video, are governed by the Content and Privacy terms of the Conservation Action Portal (CAP), through which all submissions are made. By participating in the Challenge, participants agree to those terms, which are available at action.padiaware.org/pdf_viewer and are incorporated into these Official Rules by reference.

Other Rules Related to the Challenge

Assumption of Risk

BY PARTICIPATING, THE PARTICIPANT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THEY PARTICIPATE AT THEIR OWN RISK AND THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY PHYSICAL HARM OR DEATH THAT MAY BEFALL ANY PARTICIPANT AS A RESULT OF PARTICIPATION IN THIS CHALLENGE, INCLUDING ANY DIVING ACTIVITY. PARTICIPANTS SHOULD NOT EXPOSE THEMSELVES OR OTHERS TO ANY DANGEROUS, HARMFUL, OR ILLEGAL BEHAVIOUR OR ACTIVITY AT ANY TIME DURING THIS CHALLENGE, AND MUST DIVE ONLY WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THEIR TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION. PARTICIPANTS AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL APPLICABLE LAWS.

Waiver of Liability

Participants, by taking part in this Challenge, further agree to waive, release, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Administrator and its parent, affiliated companies and subsidiaries, and their directors, officers, employees, sponsors, partners, and agents, including advertising and promotion agencies, and assigns, and any other organizations related to the Challenge (together, the "Released Parties"), from and against any claims, injuries (including death), loss, expenses, damages, and/or liabilities of any nature that in any way arise in whole or in part from the acceptance, possession, use, or enjoyment of any recognition or parts thereof, participation in the Challenge, or in any related activity, including, without limitation, any (i) condition caused by events beyond the Administrator's control that may cause the Challenge to be disrupted or corrupted; (ii) injuries, losses, or damages of any kind arising in connection with or as a result of the recognition, or acceptance, possession, or use of the recognition, or from participation in the Challenge; (iii) printing or typographical errors in any materials associated with the Challenge; (iv) electronic, network, or computer failures or malfunctions, or other hardware, software, or technical errors of any kind, including undeliverable messages, lost, late, delayed, inaccurate, incomplete, or misdirected messages, or any injury or damage related to or resulting from participation in the Challenge.

IN NO EVENT WILL THE ADMINISTRATOR BE LIABLE TO PARTICIPANTS FOR ANY DIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, EXEMPLARY, PUNITIVE, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING LOSS OF USE, DATA, BUSINESS, OR PROFITS) ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH PARTICIPANTS' PARTICIPATION IN THE CHALLENGE, WHETHER SUCH LIABILITY ARISES FROM ANY CLAIM BASED UPON CONTRACT, WARRANTY, TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE), STRICT LIABILITY, OR OTHERWISE, AND WHETHER OR NOT THE ADMINISTRATOR HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH LOSS OR DAMAGE.

THE RELEASED PARTIES ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE IF ANY RECOGNITION CANNOT BE AWARDED DUE TO CANCELLATIONS, DELAYS, OR INTERRUPTIONS DUE TO ACTS OF GOD, ACTS OF WAR, NATURAL DISASTERS, WEATHER, TERRORISM, OR PANDEMICS. FOR RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM: THIS RELEASE DOES NOT APPLY TO CLAIMS FOR PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR. FOR RESIDENTS OF GERMANY: THIS RELEASE DOES NOT APPLY TO CLAIMS AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATOR, ITS REPRESENTATIVES, AND ITS VICARIOUS AGENTS FOR DAMAGES BECAUSE OF PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH, AND TO CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES IN CASE OF INTENT OR GROSS NEGLIGENCE BY THE ADMINISTRATOR, ITS REPRESENTATIVES, OR VICARIOUS AGENTS.

Data Protection

By participating in the Challenge, participants acknowledge and agree that personal data and submissions provided in connection with the Challenge are collected, processed, and used in accordance with the Content and Privacy terms of the Conservation Action Portal (CAP), through which all submissions are made.

Disputes

Except where prohibited by law, participants agree that: (1) any and all disputes, claims, and causes of action arising out of or connected with this Challenge or any recognition awarded shall be governed by and construed exclusively in accordance with the laws of the State of California, without regard to its rules on conflicts of laws, and shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action; (2) any action at law or in equity arising out of or relating to the Challenge shall be filed only in the competent courts of the State of California, and participants consent and submit to the personal jurisdiction of such courts; (3) any and all claims, judgments, and awards shall be limited to actual out-of-pocket costs incurred, but in no event attorneys' fees; and (4) under no circumstances will a participant be permitted to obtain awards for, and each participant hereby waives all rights to claim, indirect, punitive, incidental, and consequential damages, and any and all rights to have damages multiplied or otherwise increased.

Copy of Rules

For a copy of these Official Rules, send a legal-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to PADI Marketing, 30151 Tomas, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688, USA. Vermont residents may omit return postage.

Binding Rules

By participating in the Challenge, participants agree to be bound by these Official Rules. These Official Rules are drafted in English. In the event of any discrepancy, inconsistency, or conflict between the English version and any translated version, the English version shall prevail and govern to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Modification to Rules

The Administrator may alter the rules of the Challenge only in extraordinary and unforeseen circumstances, or as required to administer the Challenge fairly, or as required by law.

Administrator's Address

PADI Marketing, 30151 Tomas, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688, USA.

Dive safe, and submit your sightings.